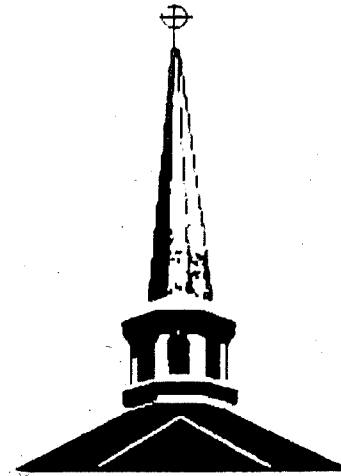


Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007

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## STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

### Potomac Presbyterian Church

February

2004

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

### 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 March 7, 14, and 21. 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 28<sup>th</sup>, and then be recognized as new members during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Please contact Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or  
Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007, with any questions.

### KERRY ON...

Being a spiritual friend is being the physician of a wounded soul. And what does a physician do when someone comes with a bleeding wound?

Three things: He or she cleanses the wound, aligns the sundered parts, and gives it rest. He or she provides an *environment* for the dominant natural process or healing to take its course...an environment for the birthing and nourishing of a whole soul. Tilden H. Edwards

Perhaps this is something like what God calls us to be and do as members of a Christian congregation. The Stephen Ministry theme is that we are the care givers and God is the cure giver. Think about worship, fellowship time, and serving together as the environment where healing can take place. Who can ever estimate the power of a kind word offered to the person who is sitting next to you in worship? What might come of a thoughtful and honest answer to a child's question about faith? Will we ever know the lasting significance of physically helping a family to have a home of their own (Habitat project)? Praying for one another builds an environment for God's presence and power.

I give thanks for our congregation and all the ways that what God enables us to do is filled with eternal significance.

THANKS!!!!

We offer our special thanks to Margie Bedingfield who has served as Steeple to People Editor for the past four and one half years. Margie retired with the December issue and we wish her well. Anyone interested in serving as editor please contact Pastor Stoltzfus.

## Marilyn's Message

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

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

So, wrapped in God's unchanging, unfailing promise, we can have confidence and hope in the future. With that as our anchor, we have nothing to fear. We can enter the New Year with boldness, willing to take some risks for our faith, and in love of our neighbor. May God bless each one of us as we enter an exciting new year!

---

### THE VBS OF CHAMPIONS 2004 – SonGames – July 12 to July 16

Kids love being part of a team! That's why every activity at SonGames 2004 is full of action and camaraderie. Children will cheer each other on as they play outdoor sports just like the Olympians. They'll build team spirit as they design team flags and trade pins with new friends. Through global games, international snacks and gold-winning crafts, kids will learn about Olympic games past and present. They'll also be fascinated to meet one of God's most valuable players, Paul, who lived during the days of the ancient Olympics. Each day at SonGames, children will come to understand through Paul's example, what it means to be on God's team. Kids will remember the "5 daily symbols" they'll learn for each lesson: Join In! \* Team Up! \* Get Strong! \* Keep On! \* Celebrate! Anyone interested in helping please call Judi or Joel Miller at 301-949-6865.



### SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SUB SANDWICH SALE

It's that time of year again – time for the Super Bowl, and that means SUB SANDWICHES! The workcampers will be selling sub sandwiches again this year to help raise funds for our summer trip to Canton, Ohio, to repair the homes of people who can't do it themselves. Please support our youth by purchasing delicious subs for \$5 apiece. Each sandwich comes with a generous portion of meat, cheese, and lettuce, and you may also take packets of tomatoes, onions, peppers, pickles, and mayonnaise to suit your taste. Order forms are available and subs will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship on February 1. Order lots – they're yummy!

## DEACON'S CORNER

The PPC Deacons ventured out in single-digit temperatures on Saturday January 10 to attend their annual retreat at the church. And what a worthwhile event this was—superbly led by Rev. Anne Benefield of Geneva Presbyterian Church. It gave us all—“new” and “old” deacons alike—a chance to reflect on our roles and responsibilities in the Church: not just serving coffee, but also giving other church families, including new members, a chance to help during the Fellowship Hour and meet others in the congregation; not just phoning our parish groups to let them know of snow delays and other notices, but also being attentive to their needs and concerns. Indeed, this message of being attentive—through our eyes, ears, hearts, and prayers—was the key theme of the retreat in defining what it means to be a deacon. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to share in the life and work of the Church.

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### Remember those in Need in 2004

The **Mission Committee** is looking for volunteers to prepare meals for **Sophia House** in Rockville. Sophia House is a congregation- and community-supported shelter and program of rehabilitative services for homeless women in our community. PPC provides dinner for 30 women the first Sunday of each month. (When we deliver the dinner, we also drop off cereal, milk, etc. for the next morning's breakfast.) We're looking for individuals, families, Girl Scout troops, your groups, book clubs, and anyone who is interested to pick a date and sign up at the kiosk during fellowship. Financial support is available.

If you have question, contact Tracy Spencer at 301-251-9340.

### ~ Dine with Nine in 2004 ~

*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. All new members are especially invited to this one time event to be scheduled on Saturday, February 21, or Saturday, March 20. Sign up sheets are found in the Sunday bulletin or call Janet Swisher for more information (301) 977-2650. Once groups are formed, the hostess will contact you on time and place.*

*Deadline is Sunday, February 1, 2004.*

### New Adult Education Class

A four-week class began January 18 on Basic Presbyterianism and is being held in the Parlor of the church at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. This class will explore Presbyterian distinctives, the differences between Presbyterians and other Christian denominations, and some current issues in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The class is designed for new members, and for those who want a refresher course. Please join us for some or all of the classes, which will be led by Marilyn Johns.



This is the time of year when the staff and committee chairpersons write summary reports for the year 2003. The due date for these reports is the same as the date for the submission of this STP article. One report looks at the year ended and the other the year ahead. In the music department, these are definitely related. Do you think anyone would notice if I wrote just one article? It is tempting, but I had better abide by the rules and write two.

In reference to 2003, let me say how much I personally appreciate the large number of you who helped plan and present the musical events that occurred during Advent and culminated on Christmas Eve. From the handbell sounds at the Williamsburg breakfast to the choral and string sounds of the Bach cantata, from the children's voices calling costumed shepherds and kings in the pageant to the carols resounding from the Jesus birthday band and vocal choruses, from the youngest voices singing "gloria" to the sweet sound of instruments playing "Gesu Bambino" during Christmas Eve communion, music played a vital role in our celebration. This could only have happened in a congregation as active and cooperative as you are.

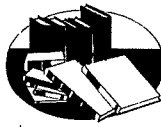
In 2004 our choirs will aspire to bring some spring into the winter of our calendar before Lent begins. The Children's Choir, in particular, will be busily and steadily preparing anthems that they will be singing in a large massed choir at the Choristers Guild Children's Choir Festival to be held at Woodside United Methodist Church in Silver Spring, March 7<sup>th</sup>. As anthems are learned, the children will share them in our own worship services.

I wish to renew the invitation to all of you to join any of our choirs. A new year that includes singing and/or ringing could be the happiest you've ever had. Call me at 301-926-7015 if you have questions about rehearsal times or membership.

Cindy

### Adult Education Class... Schedule for February 2004

- Feb. 1 - Dr. Dewey Wallace - Erasmus and Christian Humanism (week three)
- Feb. 8 - Dr. Dewey Wallace - Erasmus and Christian Humanism (conclusion)
- Feb. 15 - Tina McKendree, Director of Stepping Stones
- Feb. 22 - Joseph Reardon, Executive Director, Por Cristo



An update on Por Cristo's week in Ecuador

- Feb. 29 - Robert Drumheller, Adult Education class member - is finally going to talk to the class about the work he does in foreign lands.

**Women of Faith** will be at the MCI Center August 6 & 7, 2004. Olivia Mabeus will be organizing a group to go. We need 10 people to get the group discount on tickets. If you are interested in going, or would like more information about *Women of Faith*, please contact Olivia. Group ticket orders will go in April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### NEW ADDRESSES / PHONE NUMBERS:

- Ed and Janet Clark, 512 Goodland Place, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-315-0512
- Joel, Judi, Molly, Lucy, Jackson Miller, 11103 Stillwater Ave, Kensington, MD 20895, 301-949-6865
- Walter W. Stewart, 13800 Lone Rider Trail, Austin, Texas 78738-6430, 512-420-9522



## Praying for the Children

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

Hunter Casten, Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Stephen Kirchner, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Amanda Lee, Brenna Means, Molly Miller, Connor Mills, Chasen Mindnich, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srour, John Arnold, Julianna Bond, Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Samantha Bretscher, Alexandra Broseker, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Angelica Klein, Blake Kline, Katherine Ling, Mackenzie Philipps, Meili Sohl.

## In the Church Family



### We rejoice in the births of...

Maxwell May, grandson of Chan and Eun Hee Chung, on November 19, 2003.  
Grateful parents are Jenny and Michael May.

Jack McCartney Swisher, son of Rob and Janet Swisher, on November 25, 2003.

Hannah Mary Watanabe, granddaughter of Jim and Mary Reichley, on November 30, 2003.  
Grateful parents are Susan and Kaz Watanabe.

Aiden Nicholson Propps, grandson of Walter and Nettie Propps, on December 7, 2003.  
Grateful parents are Nick and Melanie Propps.

Aden Joshua McMahon, newly adopted grandson of Bob and Kathy McMahon, born on December 2.  
Grateful parents are Kevin and Susan McMahon, and brother Daniel.

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

Lauren Jennifer and Bryan Kenneth Eng, children of Corey and Patricia Eng, on November 20, 2003.  
Jaclyn Brook Jacobs, daughter of Parker Jacobs and Carol Doctor Jacobs, on December 21, 2003.

### Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Kara Karch and Rob Trenkamp who were married on January 11, 2004.

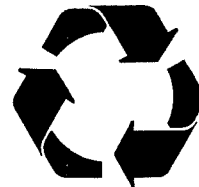
### Our prayers are with...

The family of Miriam Sass, who died in December; Tom Hougen, whose mother, Alma Hougen, died in December; Carolyn Ewels, whose father, Jack Ewels, died in December; Bob Hazard at home; Dawn Thompson at home; Nelda Colligan's nephew, Stuart Wilf, PFC, who is in Baghdad.

Jim Jochum, traveling to Pachacutec, Peru to work with a construction/evangelism team from Kettering First Baptist Church of Kettering, Ohio, Jan. 23 through Feb. 4. The team will help construct a new church in Pachacutec, an extremely poor community with a population of close to 200,000 people.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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# February 2004



### Recycling Opportunity

Did you know that the church has an aluminum can recycling program? Bring your empty aluminum cans to the container by the Coke machine (off the Fellowship Hall), and Lew Chapin will take them to the recycling center. The proceeds from this aluminum are given to the workcamp fund. So bring those cans (but no plastic, please) to church and help the workcampers to help others. Thank you!

<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship Super Bowl Sub Sale  <i>Youth groups will not meet</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>4</b> 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	<b>5</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Trip to Washington National Cathedral
<b>8</b> 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  <b>Shelter Week</b> ⇒	<b>9</b> 12:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee (2nd Mon.)  7:30 p.m. Committees	<b>10</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>11</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>12</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Reformed Theology Class
<b>15 Steeple to People Deadline</b> 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	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>18</b> 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 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>19</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat.)
<b>22 YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 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	<b>23</b> 7:30 p.m. Session  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>24</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	<b>25</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Ash Wed. Service	<b>26</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class: (Snow day - only if needed) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



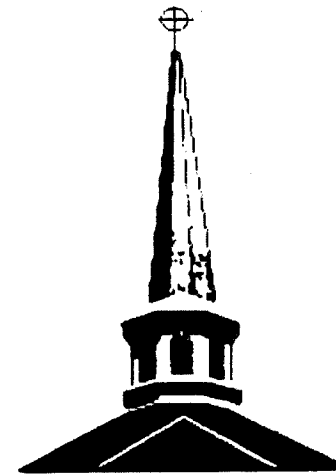
...Beginning the First Sunday in Lent, February 29, a new ministry will be available to all. Prayer request cards, which will be available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. The Prayer Team is ready to pray for your needs and concerns and all prayer requests are strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding this ministry or becoming a part of the Prayer Team, call Roberta Meredith at 301-461-0933.

*"Pray in the Spirit all the time. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere."*

Ephesians 6:18

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

March 2004

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

## 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 March 7, 14, and 21. 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 28<sup>th</sup>, and then be recognized as new members during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Please contact Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or  
Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007 with any questions.

## Adult Education Class

March 7, 14, 21, 28: Founding of American Presbyterianism  
Dr. Bruce Douglass – Georgetown University

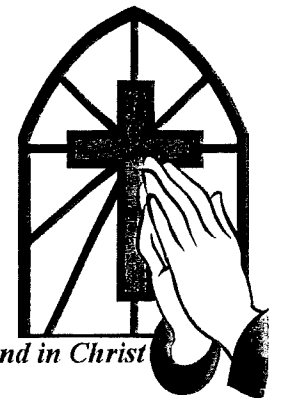
## KERRY ON...

### Lenten Sermon Series

“Credo” – What We Give Our Hearts To

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 29 | <i>What Jesus Does: Atonement</i> - II Corinthians 5:16-21        |
| March 7     | <i>Listening to God: Scripture</i> - II Timothy 3:14-17           |
| March 14    | <i>Chosen for a Purpose: Church</i> - I Peter 2:9-10              |
| March 21    | <i>Making Progress: Sanctification</i> - I Thessalonians 5:12-24  |
| March 28    | <i>Last Things: Eschatology</i> - Luke 21:25-28 and Matthew 28:20 |

The First Sunday in Lent, February 29, a prayer ministry will begin for the individual needs and concerns of our church family. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. The Prayer Team is ready to pray for you. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. To join the Team, or ask questions about this ministry, call Roberta Meredith at 301-461-0933(cell) or 301-963-8666(home).



*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus."*  
Philippians 4:6-7

## Marilyn's Message

Every month, the Christian Educators in National Capital Presbytery meet for a morning for conversation, a program, and lunch. This month, the topic was accessibility issues for churches. It was thought-provoking to learn of some of the things we forget about in our routine as a church. Some of the issues for all churches were:

- How can a person with an allergy to wheat or eggs participate in the Lord's Supper?
- How can someone in a wheelchair teach or participate in our Sunday School program?
- Would a blind or deaf person be welcome and able to participate here?
- Are we doing enough to ensure that elderly people can enter and exit our church safely?

There are lots of other things we take for granted, and should think about as a church. We have a reputation for being welcoming and friendly, but it never hurts to take inventory and try to think of ways we can improve our hospitality. If you have any personal issues with the accessibility of our church, or think of things to improve our hospitality, please tell a session member or a staff member. And get involved in helping to address the problem!

*"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* 1 Peter 4:9-10

### SPECIAL CLASS FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS

On Sunday, March 14, during the Sunday School hour at 9:45, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to participate in a one-time class on worship and what it entails. At this time, participants will also decorate and fill "'worship bags.'" These bags will contain a Picture Bible, paper and pencil, an activity, a Bible storybook and other items things intended to provide a more enriching worship experience for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Following the class, led by Marilyn Johns and Julie McMahon, worship bags will be available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who plan to stay for the entire worship service that Sunday. Bags are to be returned to the shelf at the top of the Sunday School steps after the service. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn with your children, and to help them fully participate in worship.

### WINTER CLOTHING NEEDED

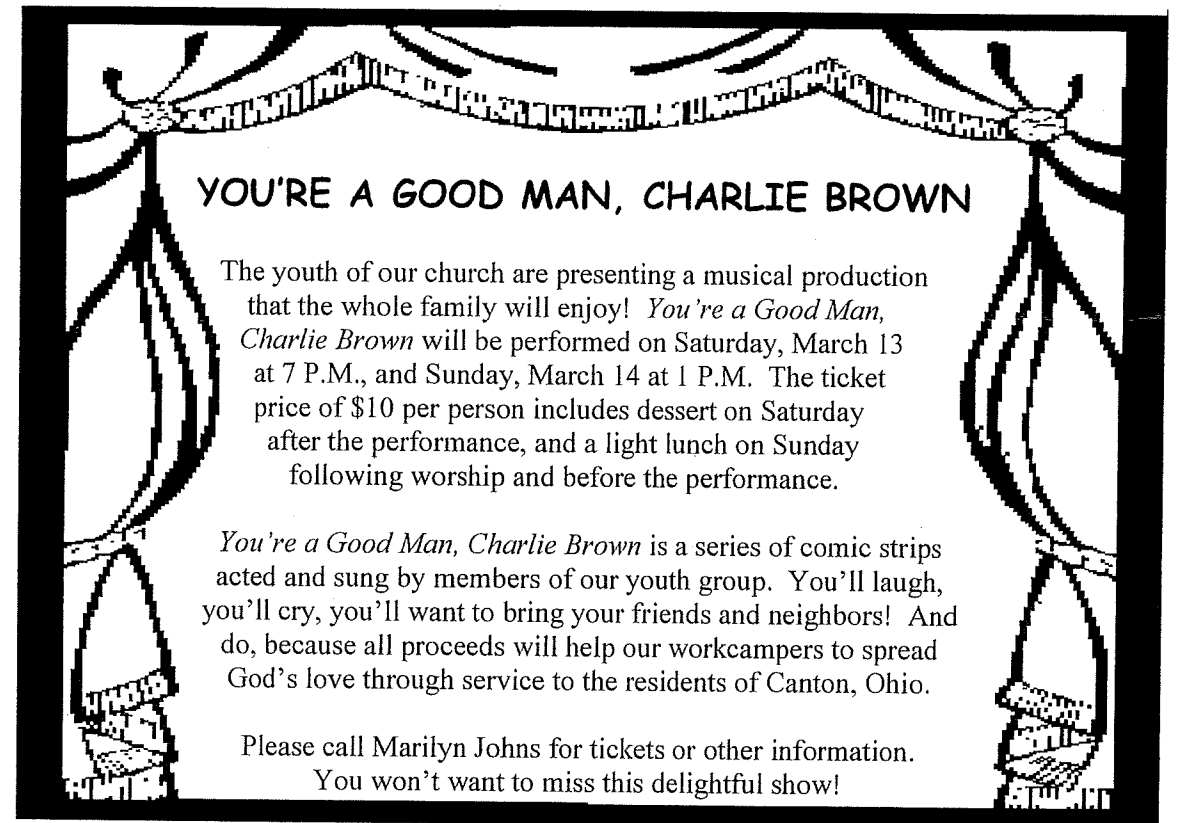
Tina McKendree, Executive Director of Stepping Stones, spoke to the Adult Education Class on Sunday, February 15, and afterward indicated what the shelter's needs are. The shelter's top priority is winter clothing, especially for boys size 6 and up, and for adult men. Please donate items to the Church office as soon as possible. NOTE: only winter clothing can be accommodated at this time.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

The combined Potomac Presbyterian-Geneva Presbyterian Stephen Ministry class has begun the second half of their initial training sessions. Students have learned how to supplement face-to-face care with telephone ministry and have absorbed the importance of keeping every aspect of their caring relationships confidential.

During the annual Stephen Ministry retreat in February, past and present Stephen Ministers joined with our training class, as Pastor Anne Benefield addressed spirituality issues. We had a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship with each other once again.

Please pray for our Care Receivers and Stephen Ministers, as well as our newest trainees, as they prepare for their commissioning on March 14.



**YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN**

The youth of our church are presenting a musical production that the whole family will enjoy! *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be performed on Saturday, March 13 at 7 P.M., and Sunday, March 14 at 1 P.M. The ticket price of \$10 per person includes dessert on Saturday after the performance, and a light lunch on Sunday following worship and before the performance.

*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* is a series of comic strips acted and sung by members of our youth group. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll want to bring your friends and neighbors! And do, because all proceeds will help our workcampers to spread God's love through service to the residents of Canton, Ohio.

Please call Marilyn Johns for tickets or other information.  
You won't want to miss this delightful show!

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

*Our committee's camaraderie is infectious! Come join the fun of sharing with others as we plan and serve the meals at our wonderful congregational gatherings, like the Maundy Thursday supper coming up. Please call Nettie Props at 301-365-0367 for this very special fellowship opportunity.*



## The Wright Note

The first Sunday in Lent was a musical blessing with flutists Vanita Jones and Carolyn Oh joining our choirs and congregation in the celebration of Holy Communion. Music will continue to complement our Lenten journey.

I would like to mention two very special March events that you will not want to miss:

**March 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Children's Choir Festival Worship Service**  
Woodside United Methodist Church  
8900 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

Our PPC Children's Choir is one of twenty church choirs participating. This event is sponsored by Choristers Guild. Children's choirs from many Christian denominations will be singing together as one massed chorus. Our choir will spend the entire afternoon rehearsing with guest conductor, Judy Henneberger. Please plan to come to this memorable service of anthems and scripture – presented entirely by children, grades three through six.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 3:00 p.m. Princeton Seminary Touring Choir Concert**  
Potomac Presbyterian Church

We have waited two years to be included in the busy touring schedule of this noted choral group of eighteen students from Princeton Theological Seminary. The group, directed by Dr. Martin Tel, will present a concert that will include congregational singing of hymns, some well-known and some from the global church. A reception will follow to allow us to greet the students and hear about their ministry. This will be an enlightening and inspiring afternoon of music. Please plan to attend. *Cindy*

*Women of Faith* will be at the MCI Center August 6 & 7, 2004. Olivia Mabeus will be organizing a group to go. We need 10 people to get the group discount on tickets. If you are interested in going, or would like more information about *Women of Faith*, please contact Olivia. Group tickets will go in on April 18<sup>th</sup>.



## In the Church Family

*Our prayers are with...*

Sandy MacFarlan and her family: Sandy's father, Les Galambos, died in February. Bridget Newton and her family: Bridget's mother, Barbara Donnell died in January. Bob Hazard, at home. Dawn Thompson, at home. Nelda Colligan's nephew, Stuart Wilf, PFC, who is in Baghdad.



## 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. These forty days constitute 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. During this solemn time we prepare our hearts for the Resurrection marked by Easter. At Potomac Presbyterian the Worship Committee asks you to consider the following dates as times to deepen your spiritual lives:

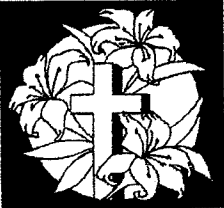

- February 25 Ash Wednesday Communion Service at 7:30 P.M.
- March 3 Home Communion sponsored by the Deacons
- March 16 Home Communion sponsored by the Deacons
- March 28 Youth Evening Communion sponsored by the Deacons
- April 4 Palm Sunday service at 11:00 A.M.
- April 8 Maundy Thursday:  
7:00 P.M. light supper provided by Fellowship Committee  
8:00 P.M. Communion Service
- April 11 Easter Sunday services at 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
- Daily Lenten Meditations will be available in the narthex



## Praying for the Children

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

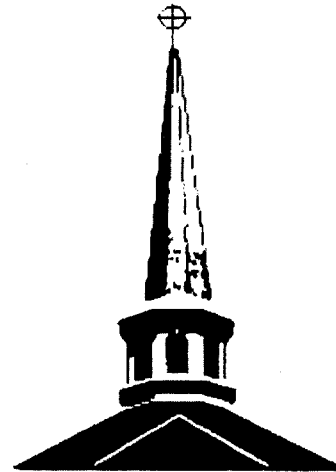
Kathleen Arnold, Dixon Drumheller, Brett Kirchner, Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee, Baihly Underhill, Kevin Wyatt, Daniel Bond, Jenny Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kendall Forward, Kathryn Haynes, William Hewson, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Britten Mindnich, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<p><b>Attention Girl Scouts of PPC!</b> Join with your sister Girl Scouts across the nation who will celebrate Girl Scout Sunday on March 7 at their places of worship. The Girl Scout Promise includes our commitment to serve God and country. PPC encourages all Scouts within the Congregation to proudly wear their uniform for the Worship Service on this day to be recognized and to honor scouting and its active role in our community. See you on <b>Girl Scout Sunday, March 7!</b></p>					
		<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 12:30 p.m. Youth work on musical 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 4:45 p.m. Children's Choir Festival Practice</p>	<p><b>4</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>  12:30 p.m. Youth work on musical</p>
<p><b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. NO 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 4:00 p.m. Youth work on musical 7:00 p.m. Children's Choir Festival/</p>	<p><b>8</b> 12:30 p.m. CE Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon.)  7:30 p.m. Committees (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon.)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir</p>	<p><b>11</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Reformed Theology Class  7:00 p.m. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" performance and dessert</p>	
<p><b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 11:00 a.m. Worship/Stephen Ministry Commissioning 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Light lunch and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" performance</p>	<p><b>15</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon.)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues.)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir  7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>19</b>  6:00 p.m. Christian Living Retreat</p>	<p><b>20</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living Retreat  9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)</p>	
<p><b>21</b> 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 3:00 p.m. Princeton Seminary Touring Choir</p>	<p><b>22</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4<sup>th</sup> Mon.)</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  6:00 p.m. Presbytery (Nat'l)</p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir</p>	<p><b>25</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	
<p><b>28</b> 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 Received 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>  7:00 p.m. Christian Living Group trip to Washington National Cathedral</p>	<p><b>31</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir</p>	<p><b>Our spring outdoor cleanup this year is scheduled for 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon Saturday, March 27 (rain date: Saturday, April 3). Participants have a great time and many hands make light work! Please bring your favorite garden tools for raking, edging, mulching and/or pruning. Let's keep our church property beautiful!</b></p>			



Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2004

**KERRY ON...**

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

#### Changes of Address:

Klara Rozner: Springhouse at Westwood, 5101 Ridgefield Rd., Apt. 305, Bethesda, MD 20816.  
(301)-657-4321  
Naomi Ulmer: 3131 Symphony St., Geneva East 323, Evanston, IL 60201.  
(847)-670-3372 nulmer@msn.com

### Adult Education Class

**April 4** Palm Sunday: Dr. Craig Hill, Wesley Theological Seminary  
**April 11** Easter Sunday: No class  
**April 18** Dr. Susan McCarter - Dr. Kyle McCarter, Johns Hopkins University  
**April 25** Dr. Ben C. Mathes: Presbyterian minister and President of Rivers of the World (R.O.W.)

Clarence Jordan founded Koinonia Farm near Americus, Georgia, in 1942. It was an experiment in communal Christian living. He believed that the most vital need in the South was the reconciliation of blacks and whites. The farm was subjected to shootings, bombings and vandalism. One couple, Linda and Millard Fuller, visited Koinonia some years later and Habitat for Humanity was formed. Clarence was a dirt farmer with a Ph.D. in New Testament Greek.

He worked tirelessly to connect the Gospel from the first century to everyday life in the twentieth century. He translated the Gospels into what he called "The Cotton Patch Version." The story is told that once he was being given a tour of a big church in a major city and the minister said to him as he pointed to the cross on top of the steeple, "That cross alone cost us ten thousand dollars." "You got cheated," said Jordan, "Times were when Christians could get them for free."

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter we would do well to remember something Clarence Jordan wrote:

The resurrection places Jesus on this side of the grave, here and now, in the midst of life. The good news of the resurrection is not only that we shall die and go home with him but that he is risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick prisoner brothers with him.

---

#### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES – APRIL 11, 2004

9:00 A.M. Worship

11:00 Worship

10:00 A.M. Fellowship

12:00 Fellowship

10:25 A.M. Easter Egg Hunt for Children



## MARILYN'S MESSAGE

### WHAT I LEARNED FROM "CHARLIE BROWN"

☆ *There are about a million details involved in putting on a musical production.*

But, there are plenty of people willing and able to help with those millions of details. When we needed money, it was donated. When we needed backdrops painted and sets built, they were made. When we asked for help with refreshments, it was done cheerfully and well.

When we needed signs put up around the community, they went up.

☆ *Teenagers are willing to act silly and make themselves vulnerable.*

One of the most important things for actors is to follow direction, even if it makes them look "un-cool." A high school senior prances around adoringly with his security blanket, a high school junior dressed in a dog suit bounds around the stage, another senior guy sits on a bench with a paper bag over his head – these things take a healthy self-esteem and a willingness to put oneself "out there" for a good cause. Not only that, they invited their friends to come and see them!

☆ *The music never seems to stop running around in your head.*

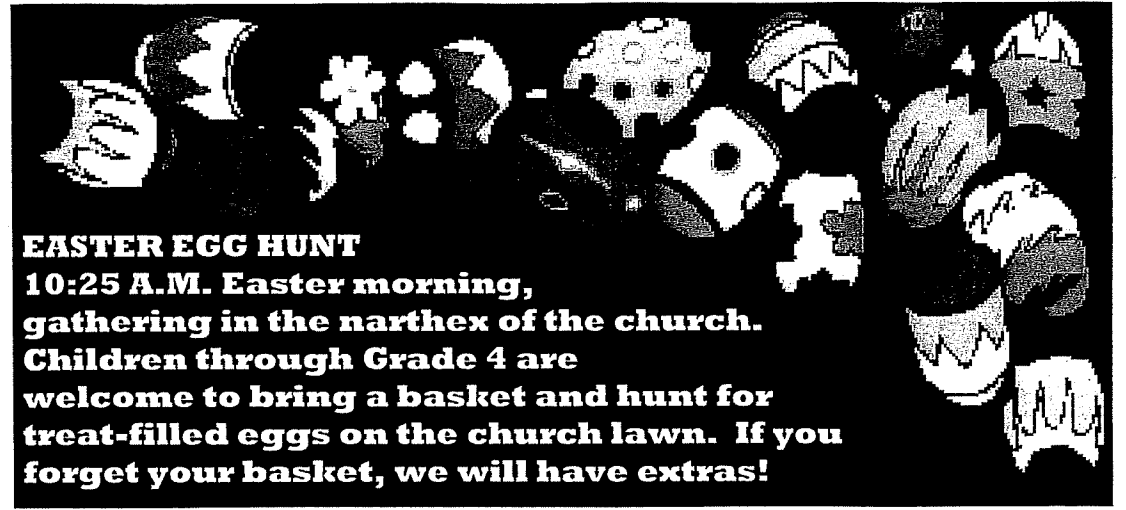
Early on in the process, I made rehearsal tapes for each of the singers. I don't think I've had a coherent thought since!

☆ *Directors never sleep.*

Debbie McKune was an amazing director for this production. We had some challenges with this show, particularly in finding a pianist. She never lost her cool, at least not that I witnessed. She was always respectful to the kids and adults involved in the show, even when they were sometimes pretty annoying. She also worked very hard at making this a positive experience, particularly for the youth. She has been involved in several productions, and we have as well, where the director became a tyrant as the performance drew closer. Debbie was determined that the show could be done with a Christian perspective. There was prayer at every rehearsal. Appropriate behavior was always modeled. People drew closer as a result of this endeavor.

☆ *The people of this church constantly outdo themselves in generosity.*

The costs of a production like this are significant. It was a step in faith to send off the check for the use of the materials, not knowing if it could be done. The pre-show sales of tickets, particularly for Saturday night, were light. As we waited on Saturday evening for people to arrive, there was a real fear in the pit of my stomach that there would be 20 people there, and the performers would be playing to a very small group. But we almost packed the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, and Sunday was even better. After all of our expenses, we netted over \$1700 for our Workcamp mission. Amazing! On behalf of all of the workcampers, thank you so much!!!



### EASTER EGG HUNT

**10:25 A.M. Easter morning,  
gathering in the narthex of the church.  
Children through Grade 4 are  
welcome to bring a basket and hunt for  
treat-filled eggs on the church lawn. If you  
forget your basket, we will have extras!**

## DEACON'S CORNER

As a new deacon in the class of 2006, I will take this opportunity to introduce myself especially to the Kentsdale parish group. I was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. My brother, sister, their children and grandchildren are still in the Chicago area. While attending Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, I met my husband Steve on a blind date. (FYI--Ripon is the birthplace of the Republican Party). We were married in 1974 and I came to this area. Steve grew up in Chevy Chase and graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS. From then until the birth of our oldest daughter, Melissa, in 1980, I worked as an insurance administrator. My company was experiencing financial troubles in 1980 so I didn't return to work. Never did I expect that twenty-three years, three daughters, Catherine (21), Carolyn (16), Stephanie (12) and one son-in-law, Pete later, would I still be home. In reality, I'm not home very much! Much of my time is filled with our children's activities, volunteering in their schools and holding various PTA positions. Steve is a soccer coach and has served on the two neighborhood boards in River Falls. Since coming to the DC area, I've been a member of a women's club that does civic, charitable and social activities. In 1988, during the silver anniversary, we joined PPC. I've had the pleasure of teaching Sunday School and being a member of the Fellowship Committee. Now I'm looking forward to being a deacon, serving this congregation and serving the One that makes it all possible.

*Vicki Dorman*



## *The Wright Note*

In March we celebrated God's love in a variety of musical ways. Nine of our children's choir singers sang in the Choristers Guild Children's Choir Festival with one hundred thirty-five choristers from other churches around the beltway. Our youth group warmed our hearts with songs and humorous dialog from "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown". The Princeton Seminary Touring Choir shared their talent and Christian conviction in a meaningful concert and hymn service. All these events occurred in addition to the faithful musical contributions of the Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Choir and Primary Choir during our regularly scheduled worship services and rehearsals.

We look forward to further musical inspiration as we experience the hosannas of Palm Sunday, the haunting denial of Maundy Thursday and the joyful hallelujahs of Easter. I thank all the faithful musicians who give so willingly of their time to prepare appropriate music for these services. *Cindy*

---

## *In the Church Family*



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

Jack McCartney Swisher on February 29.

### *Our congratulations and God's blessings on...*

Katie Shamel Dean and Mark Rougeux who were married by Pastor Stoltzfus on Saturday, February 28.

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

the family of Jean Blice, wife of former pastor Dick Blice, whose grandson died recently; Wilma Boddiger, at home; Nelda Colligan's nephew, Stuart Wilf, PFC, who is in Baghdad; Jackie Cronin, whose father Jacque is recovering from surgery; Bob Hazard, at home; Dawn Thompson, at home; Cal Reid, whose mother, Bernice, died recently.

### *We remember with thanksgiving...*

the life of Wanda Sherfy, who died on March 15. She was a member of PPC since 1981. Our prayers are with her family.



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

On Maundy Thursday, April 8, church members and their families are invited to attend a meal prepared by the Fellowship Committee. The meal will be followed by a Communion Service in the Sanctuary. The Service will present readings created for the twelve disciples, as well as traditional and original music. Please join us as we remember this solemn time on the day of Christ's Last Supper. Sign up in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, March 21, or e-mail Nettie Propps at: [nettiepropps@yahoo.com](mailto:nettiepropps@yahoo.com). There will be a nominal fee of \$3.00/adult and \$1.00/child for the meal. Child care will be provided.

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Flowers adorning the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday will continue the Easter Flower Fund tradition sponsored by the Worship Committee. These flowers will be in honor of loved ones who have influenced our lives in special ways and their names will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Easter Flower Fund donation envelopes are provided in the pews. Names should be entered exactly as you wish them to be printed. Please place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church on or before Palm Sunday, April 4. Surplus funds will be donated to Montgomery Hospice.



## **PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN**

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our Eighth Graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too. 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 McMahan, Teman Mebane, Curtis Mills, Thomas Niskanen, Connor Phillips, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, Hannah Self, Thomas Underhill.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

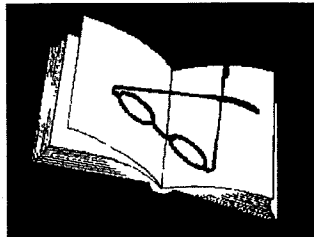
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# April 2004

# Hallelujah! He is Risen!



**MEN'S BOOK GROUP**

The Men's Book Group will meet on Tuesday, April 20, at 10:30 A.M. in the church parlor to discuss Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy.

**WOMEN OF FAITH**

Will be at the MCI Center Aug. 6 and 7. Please contact Olivia Mabeus before April 18 if you are interested.

1

12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  
3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

2

3

Grounds Cleanup  
(Rain date)

**4 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  
No Youth Groups

5

6

1:00 p.m. Lord's Table  
(1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)  
  
7:30 p.m. Compassionate  
Friends (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)

7

No Bible Study  
  
No Primary Choir

**8 Maundy Thursday**

12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  
  
7:00 p.m. Supper  
8:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

**9 Good Friday**

10

**11 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  
No Youth Groups

12

12:30 p.m. CE Committee  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Mon.)  
  
7:30 p.m. Committees  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Mon.)

13

9:30 a.m. Christian Living  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.)

14

9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
  
3:00 p.m. Collingswood  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.)  
4:00 p.m. Primary Choir  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

**15 Steeple to People Deadline**

12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  
3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

16

Confirmation Retreat

17

Confirmation Retreat

18

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
3:00 p.m. Manor Care  
4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth  
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth

19

7:30 p.m. Session  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Mon.)

20

10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  
  
7:30 p.m. Christian Living  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tues.)

21

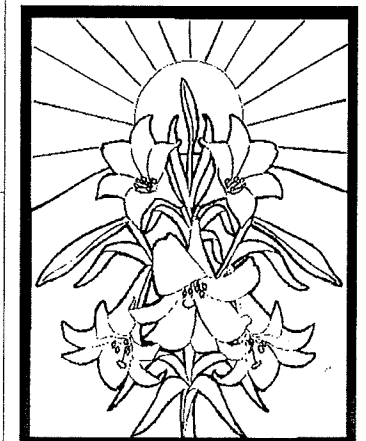
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
  
4:00 p.m. Primary Choir  
  
7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological  
Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)

22

12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  
  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
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  
4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth  
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth

26

7:30 p.m. Deacons  
(4<sup>th</sup> Mon.)

27

28

9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
  
4:00 p.m. Primary Choir  
  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

29

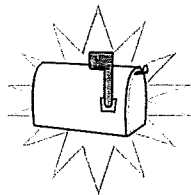
12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  
  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

30

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Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*



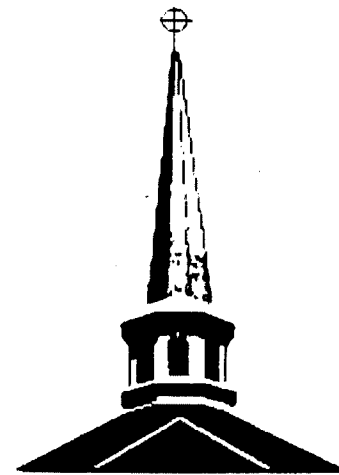
**Telephone and address changes:**

Naomi Ulmer: 3131 Simpson St. GE 323, Evanston, IL 60201  
Phone: 847-570-3372 E-mail: [nulmer@msn.com](mailto:nulmer@msn.com)  
(Note: Change from Naomi's info in last month's newsletter)  
Bruce and Charlene Brumbaugh: 212 Barkay Crossing, Lititz, PA 17543  
Phone: 717-626-8885  
Debbie and Megan McKune: 7922 Hope Valley Ct., Adamstown, MD 21710  
Phone: 301-831-8685  
Frank and Maggie McKenna: Phone: 301-963-0127

**Adult Education Class**

*Matthew 6:33 – "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."*

**May 2** Dr. Kyle McCarter, Johns Hopkins University      **May 23** Tom Miles - review  
**May 9** Mother's Day – Marilyn Johns      **May 30** Tom Miles - review  
**May 16** Jim Reichley – Art and the Reformed Tradition



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
May 2004

## KERRY ON...

The Session has established a new staff position for our congregation, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. This person will work with our Parish Associate, Tom Miles, and me in ministry to our members and will also be a guide and facilitator of lay pastoral care through our Deacons and Stephen Ministers. A special focus will be the assimilation of new members and their families. The Associate Pastor will have regular worship leadership opportunities including preaching. I believe that this is the right time for us to expand and enhance this vital part of our ministry and I look forward to working with the person that God will call to serve in our congregation. We envision this call to be a half time position.

On Sunday, May 16, following the worship service, the Session has called a special congregational meeting to elect an Associate Pastor Search Committee. Our denominational handbook for calling a minister reminds us that election to this committee is a sacred trust. Those who are asked to serve should consider this to be a significant commitment of time, energy and very best wisdom. This is a task of spiritual discernment and listening for God's guidance. A slate of names will be presented to the congregation by our Nominating Committee.

## Special Dates to Remember:

**Special Meeting of the Congregation**  
**Sunday, May 16 - Following worship**

**Komen National Race for the Cure**  
**5K Run/Walk to Benefit Breast**  
**Cancer Research – Saturday, June 5**



## The Wright Note

As I write this article on April 13<sup>th</sup>, I am preparing to take guests to the National Cathedral for a rainy day outing. When we enter this magnificent edifice, we will probably imagine how this cathedral looked and sounded on Easter morning. No doubt the architecture, windows and flowers provided a breath-taking atmosphere for the resurrection celebration that took place in word and music.

Our own celebration of Easter at Potomac Presbyterian was as beautiful and meaningful as in any cathedral. The flowers gave us a sense of the natural beauty of a garden in rebirth. The inspiring words of the scripture, sermon and prayers renewed the message that Christ is risen, **indeed!** The musical part of the worship equation is, of course, dear to my heart. I hope you felt the sparkle of the handbells surrounding you as you sang the Easter hymns. As the choir sang "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-place", did you not feel the serenity and true beauty of heaven that Johannes Brahms so skillfully set to music? When Laurie Lane Hay soared on the high, clear sixteenth note passages of "Let the Bright Seraphim" by G. F. Handel, did you not sense the excitement and true joy of the resurrection? Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" at the end of our service allowed us all to lift our voices in exuberant praise. It was gratifying to hear members of the congregation singing along with the choir from the loft.

I say a personal Amen to all of you who faithfully prepared the music for Easter and the special services that filled Lent with anticipation and reverence. Our small choir loft was filled to capacity with quality, quantity and enthusiasm. Thanks be to God!

Cindy

## Communion Help Needed!

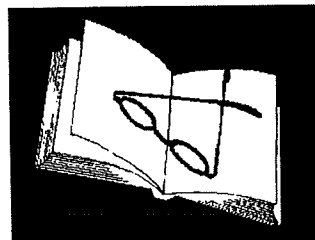
We need volunteers to help with setting up the communion table before the service and cleaning up afterwards on those Sundays we will be receiving communion. For anyone new to this job I am happy to walk them through it. If you're interested in serving our church in this way, please contact me!

Molly Singerling (703) 329-9561 mollys@cmaa.org

## Men's Book Group

May 17, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
Sept 21, 2004

Richard Burton: A Life by Melvyn Bragg  
No meeting  
Theodore Rex by Edmund Norris



## Praying for the Children



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

Carole Dempsey, David Hewson, Christa Sohl, Walker Dempsey, Carolyn Dorman, Geoff Johnson, Elizabeth Kent, Brittney Bernstein, Lauren Branning, Ashley Burnett, Kimi Cissel, Jennifer Dart, Damon Dowd, Michael Griswold, Katherine King, JoJo Kovacs, Beth MacFarlan, Katie MacFarlan, Jeff Machlin, Jenny Machlin, Timmy McKenna, Jacqueline McMahon, Haddon Mindnich, Kyle Newton, David Wescott.

## In the Church Family



### Our prayers are with...

Nelda Colligan's nephew, Stuart Wilf, PFC, who is in Baghdad; James Hewson, whose mother, Louise Hewson, died recently; Cal Reid, whose mother, Bernice, died recently; Sue Toerge, whose brother, Bill Tresky, died recently after a long illness; Bob Hazard, at home; Dawn Thompson, at home; and Bob Garcia at home.

### Our congratulations and God's blessings on...

Judith and Jim McKelvey on the birth of their granddaughter, Juliet Goldberg, on April 5. Grateful parents are Elizabeth and Eric Goldberg.

## Please Welcome Our New Members!

Paul Schoenhard  
1006 Playford Lane  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901  
(301) 593-1844

Paul is a native of Chicago and moved to the Washington area after graduation from law school. He is married to Amy Ligler Schoenhard, a member of PPC and daughter of members George and Fran Ligler.

Paul and Lorna Young  
13112 Moran Court  
North Potomac, Maryland 20878  
(301) 330-2505

Paul and Lorna recently moved from York, Pennsylvania to be near family residing in the area. The couple was active in the St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in York where they served in many capacities during their more than 50 years as members. They look forward to the fellowship and activities as members of PPC.

## DEACON'S CORNER

I'm a new deacon this year in the class of 2006 serving the Potomac-North parish group. I thought I'd take this opportunity to talk about the Habitat for Humanity project in Poolesville. My husband, Robert, and I have been working nearly every third Saturday (PPC has a crew on site every third Saturday of the month) since the ground breaking in September. While it has been a lot of work - we've cleared brush, put in joist supports, put up interior stud walls and hung vinyl siding - it's also been a great way to meet other members of our PPC church family. Most importantly, it's been a great way to put my faith into action. Each time we're working right alongside Jose and Maria who will live in the house. Last time, their son Chris, who is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, helped us hang siding. While I've never been colder than when I left the site in Jan. and am often bone tired when I get home, mentally I always feel better. Like most, I give money to various charities, but physically participating to help others is important, too. I'd encourage you to consider helping with some of PPC's "active participation"

missions, if you don't already. We can always use more hands at the Poolesville home site, whether it's bringing lunches, leading a devotional or swinging a hammer, so come on out!

*Susan Mitchell*



### MAKING OUR CHURCH A MORE CARING PLACE

On Sunday, March 14, our church commissioned eight new Stephen Ministers. We are delighted to welcome Diane Chapin, Joan Cole, Janet Dunlop, Claude Gordon, Jean Granum, Maggie McKenna, Pat Stow, and Karen Wise to this caring ministry.

Each Stephen Minister has participated in the first fifty hours of training. They will continue to develop their skills as they take part in continuing education while working with Care Receivers during the next two years. Stephen Ministers are compassionate, trustworthy, skilled, full of faith, and centered on Jesus Christ. And everything is kept strictly confidential! Please contact Pastor Kerry if you or anyone you know might benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister.

**NOTE: April 28: Stephen Ministry will be hosting Simmons Gardner who will be speaking on "Ministering to the Hospitalized". Rev. Gardner is the chaplain of Suburban Hospital. We will be meeting in the library at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome!**

#### THANK YOU SPRING CLEANUP CREW FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

On two Saturday mornings, a hard working group gathered to rake, weed, prune, and mulch our church grounds to beautify it for Easter. Well done and thank you to John and Carol Clouse, Beth Dart, Gail Yates, Marcia Boogard, Gary Niskanen, Tom Hougen, Dave Thomas, Joel and Lucy Miller, Bob Mecklenburg, Pearl Marks, Nancy and Charles Miller, and Maitland MacFarlan. Also, special thanks to Gail Cannon and Dave Moquin. Gail removed the old paint cans from various closets, while Dave cleaned, painted and reorganized the janitor closets and repaired and cleaned up the outdoor shed.

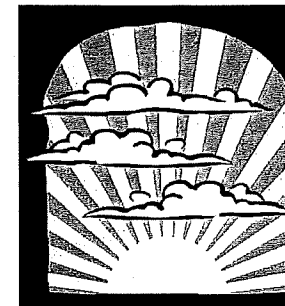
## Marilyn's Message

Change...depending on your personality, that word can evoke feelings of either terror or excitement. It is the natural tendency of human beings to be resistant to change. Change involves risk, uncertainty, vulnerability, and imagination. It's often just easier to leave things as they are. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your viewpoint, change is inevitable. The world changes. Our society changes. Our lifestyles change. Our needs change. If you believe in the very Calvinist notion of total depravity, you believe that just by our human nature we will never be perfect on this earth. With imperfection comes change.

Two things come to mind to help us not only deal with change, but embrace it and enjoy the ride. The first is that change usually represents progress. The institution of the church is in a period of reexamining itself and trying to figure out how it fits into 21st century society. The fact that we at PPC have been engaged in that process as a church is a sign of health. We have decided to seek an Associate Pastor to help with the care of the congregation. This is something new for this church. If we stubbornly dug our heels into the ground and insisted on doing things the way they had always been done, we would probably die as a church. Looking at ourselves and being willing to try new things says that we want to stay alive and healthy to help others and spread the gospel to our community and to the world.

The second thing to remember about change is that we must have faith in God's plan for this church and for us as Christians. God is in charge. We are imperfect human beings who must constantly seek God's will for ourselves and this church. With prayer, openness to the leading of the Spirit, and a willingness to step out in faith a little, God's plan will be worked out.

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



**Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2004**, who will meet with the Session on Sunday, May 23, to read the faith statements they write and be received as full members of the church. Special thanks to Frank Bond, Diane Chapin, and Olivia Mabeus, who helped Kerry and Marilyn to teach the five-month class. Members of the Confirmation Class of 2004 are:

Eric Bernstein  
Colin Dowd  
Chris Kent  
Donald McMahon  
Hannah Self

Meredith Bond  
Nicole Glass  
Stephen Kent  
Robbie Rosecrans

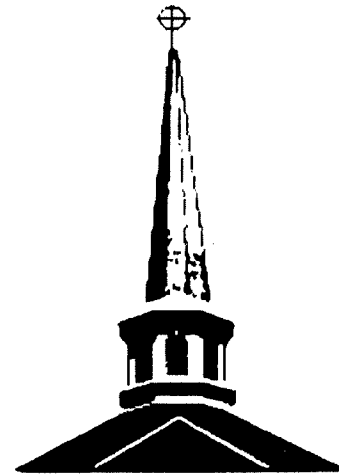
Kyle Cissel  
Eric Jeffers  
Steve Kovacs  
Elizabeth Rust

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2004</h1>		Kerry is turning 60! Join us in the Fellowship Hall after church on May 9 to celebrate! <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> </div>				1 9:30 a.m. Reformed Institute Board Meeting
<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Faith & Work 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	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	<b>6</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship No Youth Groups	<b>10</b> 12:30 p.m. CE Committee (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>13</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Presbytery Educator's Group 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline  9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat
<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:00 a.m. Youth Worship 9:30 a.m. Workcamp Car Wash 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 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	<b>17</b> 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>18</b> 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>20</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  4:00 p.m. Wedding (Stump/Steensland)
<b>23</b> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Confirmation/ 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	<b>24</b> 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (Nat'l)	<b>26</b> 12:30 a.m. Bible Study Luncheon  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>27</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>Pentecost</i> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Movie 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	<b>31</b> <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i> ~ Office Closed ~	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: left;"> <b>Car Wash!</b> </div> <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>Spring CAR WASH and BAKE SALE! Don't wash that pollen off of your car! Our workcampers are sponsoring a FREE car wash and bake sale on Sunday, May 16. Simply drop off your keys before Sunday School or worship, and when you are ready to leave, your car will be shiny and clean! The car wash is free, but you may choose to make a donation. All proceeds go to help our workcampers to pay for their trip to Canton, Ohio, to repair homes of those who can't do it themselves. Thank you for your continued generous support!</b> </p>				



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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

JUNE 2004

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. LEITCH!** Our Organizing Pastor, Dr. James Leitch, will be 103 on June 6. We give thanks for his ministry in Potomac and his life of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Please celebrate the day by sending cards to:  
**Dr. James K. Leitch, c/o Mary Martsof, 3541 NW 29<sup>th</sup> Pl. Gainesville, FL 32605.**

### “CURE AUTISM NOW” JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> RACE

Runners and walkers of all ages, please participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cure Autism Now 5K race and one mile fun walk! Join us on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. at the Potomac Library and help raise money for the national non-profit organization. Cure Autism Now funds research, outreach, and awareness of autism. Your help in previous years has made this event a success. For more information, to volunteer, or register on-line, go to [www.canrun.org](http://www.canrun.org) or contact Susan Pereles at 301-299-4133.

**CURE AUTISM NOW – ONE STRIDE AT A TIME**

### KERRY ON...

The gruesome and horrible images of prison abuse and execution of an American civilian in Iraq are almost beyond our comprehension. There is no escaping the daily reminders of evil in a world torn by hatred and strife. Yet there are countless persons of good will on both sides of the conflict who do their jobs with integrity, and sacrifice to make the world a better place. There are many others who are caught in the crossfire of conflict. We need not look as far as Iraq, but watch the evening news and see bloodshed on the streets of our cities as well as the suburbs.

I have saved a quote from Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who spent long years in the Soviet Gulag before coming to America. In those days we talked of an evil empire, but he spoke with wisdom when he said as a Christian, “Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes, not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart and through all human hearts.” Let us continue to pray for a time when in the words of the Psalmist,

“Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.”

(Psalm 85:10)

**OUR PRAYER TEAM** invites you to share your needs and concerns. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding this ministry or becoming a part of the Prayer Team, call Roberta Meredith at 301-461-0933.

# MARILYN'S MESSAGE

It is with a deep sense of both joy and sadness that I say goodbye to our graduating high school seniors. This is the class that began youth group in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the first year I was on staff at PPC, so we have been together throughout their teen years. I have witnessed extraordinary growth in them spiritually, emotionally, and physically. (Boy, do I feel short around the senior guys!). For some of these young people, 2004 will be their 5<sup>th</sup> Workcamp experience, which changes them in different ways every time they go. Three of our seniors are deacons, many of them are honor students, and several have excelled at various sports and activities in school. Mostly, they are all kind-hearted, caring Christians who take their faith seriously and think carefully about their choices and their attitudes.

I am humbled by, and proud of, our seniors, and pray God-speed as they begin the next chapter of their lives. I also pray that they will always know where home is.

## WE'RE OFF TO THE HALL OF FAME!

Our Workcamp group of 30 youth and 6 adult advisors are ready to head off to Canton, Ohio, for a week of service to God and God's people. We will repair homes by replacing roofs, building wheelchair ramps and decks, painting, more painting, and hanging drywall. We will meet new people, working with a crew of strangers all week, and we will see a resident's life transformed in seeing young people using their time over summer vacation to work for them. Please pray for all of our Workcampers as we travel to Ohio on June 27 and return on July 3. **You may email your greetings to them by going to [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com), or if you'd like to send a card or package, please put them in the mail by Wednesday, June 30 to:**

**Souers Middle School, 2800 13<sup>th</sup> St. S.W., Canton, OH 44710.**

### 2004 Workcampers

Brittney Bernstein	Eric Bernstein	Carolyn Brown	Kimi Cissel
Kyle Cissel	Jennifer Dart	Carole Dempsey	Walker Dempsey
Carolyn Dorman	Chris Dowd	Colin Dowd	Damon Dowd
Brian Dunlop	Janet Dunlop	Anna Ferrara	David Hewson
Rachel Johns	Geoff Johnson	Sherry Johnson	Trevor Johnson
Chris Kent	Liz Kent	Stephen Kent	Beth MacFarlan
Katie MacFarlan	Katherine McPherson	Tom McPherson	Donald McMahan
Jackie McMahan	Peter Rosecrans	Peter Russo	Hannah Self
Christa Sohl	John Sohl	David Wescott	Rob Wescott

**Volunteers: Joe Curry and Marilyn Johns**

## DEACON'S CORNER

One of the programs I most appreciate at PPC is the Adult Education Class. Not only do we have coffee, doughnuts and fellowship to begin our Sunday mornings, but the class is always a stimulating learning experience and a chance to explore many different areas of Christian thought, history, and outreach. Under the faithful leadership of Mary Reichley, we enjoy a varied program featuring scholars from universities and theological seminaries in our area. This year we had classes given by Alice Bellis from Howard University, John Yieh and Judy Fentriss-Williams from Virginia Theological Seminary, Dewy Wallace from G. W., Bruce Douglas from Georgetown University, and Susan and Kyle McCarter from Johns Hopkins. We also have speakers from our own congregation. We heard from Rich McPherson, Robert Drumheller, and Jim Reichley discussing their work and studies, from John Sohl and Bert Klein on their travels in China, and from Marilyn and Tom, who are frequent contributors. I urge all PPC members to participate in this unique experience. We do not meet during the summer, but another exciting schedule is planned for the Fall. See you in September!

*Kay Norwell*

## In the Church Family

***We rejoice in the births of...*** Margaret Scott Koonce, born to Scott and Courtney Koonce on April 15. Proud grandparents are Calvin and Janet Koonce. Also, Robert Karch Trenkamp, born to Kara and Rob Trenkamp, on May 9. Proud grandparents are Bob and Karen Karch.



***We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*** Aiden Nicholson Propps, son of Nick and Melanie Propps, and grandson of Nettie and Walter Propps.

***Congratulations and God's blessings on...*** George Dick and June Chi who were married on May 22 in Frederick, MD by Pastor Stoltzfus. Shana Stump and Brian Steensland who were married on May 22 at PPC by the Rev. Peter Moon, Shana's uncle.

***Our prayers are with...*** Pat McMillen, whose mother Vivian Ellingsworth died recently from lung cancer, and Jim Gregg, whose mother also died recently. In addition, we pray for Wilma Boddiger, at Wilson Healthcare Center; Bob Garcia, Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, Dawn Thompson, and Paul Young, all at home; and, Nelda Colligan's nephew, Stuart Wilf, PFC, who is in Baghdad.



**WE'RE SO PROUD OF OUR  
COLLEGE, HIGH SCHOOL, AND  
CONFIRMATION CLASS  
GRADUATES!!**

**College:**

Trevor Bond – Miami University of Ohio    Elizabeth Johns – Virginia Tech  
Jonathan King – Syracuse University    Rich McPherson – Pepperdine University  
John Paul Norvell – Vanderbilt University Medical School

**High School:**

Paige Appleby	Churchill	Indiana University
Kelli Cissel	Churchill	Miami University of Ohio
Brian Dunlop	Churchill	University of California, Berkeley
Anna Ferrara	Churchill	Savannah College of Art & Design
Rachel Johns	Damascus	St. Mary's College of Maryland
Trevor Johnson	Churchill	University of Virginia
Jeremy Knighton	St. Andrews	Gettysburg College
Megan McKune	Urbana	Undecided
Katherine McPherson	Churchill	Pepperdine University
Pete Rosecrans	Wootton	Elon College
Meggie Rudnic	Quince Orchard	Florida State University
Peter Russo	Montgomery Blair	University of Maryland

**Confirmation Class:**

Our confirmands just completed 16 weeks of rigorous classes, which will help them in professing their faith and confirming the vows of their baptisms. Special thanks also to the elder sponsors, and elders who helped teach the class. The class members are:

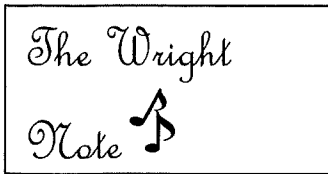
Eric Bernstein	Meredith Bond	Kyle Cissel	Colin Dowd
Nicole Glass	Eric Jeffers	Christopher Kent	Stephen Kent
Steve Kovacs	Donald McMahon	Robbie Rosecrans	Elizabeth Rust
Hannah Self			



**ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Thank you to the following people, who were elected at the Congregational Meeting on May 16, and agreed to serve on this committee:

Gail Cannon	John Hummon	Kenny Kent
Cyndy Mamalian	Tom McPherson	Susan Pereles
Mark Shalaby	Mary Margaret Smith	Bob Tietjen
Gail Yates		



It was early June, 1992. I had just joined the staff as director of music on May 24. The Sanctuary Choir was coming off active duty after singing faithfully since September. My challenge was to provide meaningful summer music for our worship services. Since the first official summer Sunday that year was Father's Day, I thought, "How about a Father's Day Chorus?"

I bravely put up a poster announcement and persuaded Pastor Kerry to be my first sign-up participant. My husband agreed to be the second. Gradually more names appeared. Looking back on my notes, the list read as follows: Kerry Stoltzfus, Lynn Wright, John and David Simpson, Pete Fisler, Bill King (the taller one), Bill King (the shorter one), Del and Derek Smith, Barry Barthelman, Ed Rudnic, Bill Rohrbaugh, Jim Spivey, Ralph Mitchel, Dan Dowd, Marvin Summers, John Summers, John Hummon, Chan Chung and Alan Beck.

My plan then and now was to invite the men of the church to come together in an atmosphere of fun on one Sunday to practice and then remain to sing in the worship service. Music reading was not a prerequisite. I wrote the hymn arrangements myself to accommodate varying vocal ranges and skill levels. In 1992 those nineteen men surprised themselves and the congregation with a beautiful multi-part arrangement of "This Is My Father's World" and "Amazing Grace."

A Father's Day tradition at PPC was born. Now we even have spin-off men's choruses at Christmas time. Those choruses have been directed by John Hummon and Joel Miller. They even have had regular rehearsals in advance to prepare! The Father's Day Chorus is still the happy ad hoc gathering of men who put up with my 9:00 A.M. musical antics to wake them up and my devious harmonies to convince them that they can sing three-part a cappella with confidence. I look forward to this special time every year.

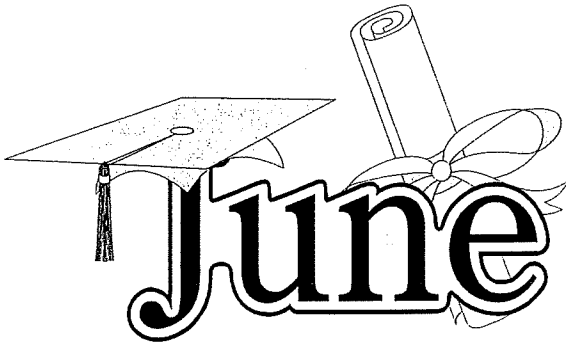

June 20, 2004, will be our 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive chorus. I invite you to come join me at 9:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall for coffee and rehearsal. We will sing in the 10:00 a.m. worship service which follows. A sign-up poster will be posted in the narthex.

Cindy

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, July 12 to July 16, 2004, "SonGames"**

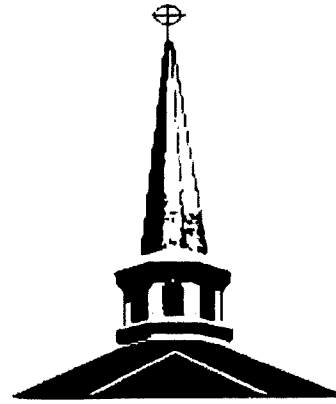
Be a part of God's team! Meet one of God's most valuable players, Paul, who lived during the days of the ancient Olympics. Follow Paul's Christian example. Learn about God, Paul, and the Olympics while cheering your friends on in outdoor sports, designing team flags and trading pins with new friends. Through global games, international snacks and crafts, kids will "Join In! \* Team Up! \* Get Strong! \* Keep On! \* Celebrate!" Call Judi or Joel Miller at 301-949-6865 with questions, or if you're interested in helping. Registration forms will be mailed to your home the first week of June. Extra copies will be available in the church office.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<p><b>ATTENTION!</b> Summer schedule begins June 13! Come to Worship at 10 a.m. and stay afterwards for our annual church picnic! Good food will be accompanied by good fellowship and fun activities. All proceeds from the picnic will be used for youth Workcamp.</p>					<p><b>PICNIC! WORKCAMP! FATHER'S DAY!</b></p>
		<p>1 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>6 <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:30 p.m. CE Committee</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Committees</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	
<p>13 <b>SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Church Picnic</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Christian Living Luncheon</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)</p>	<p>17 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat</p>	
<p>20 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Father's Day Chorus Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Presbytery (Nat'l)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26  General Assembly convenes Richmond, VA</p>	
<p>27 <b>WORKCAMP BEGINS</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Deacons (4<sup>th</sup> Mon.)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>2004</b></p>	<p><b>SERVICES AT MANOR CARE</b> Every third Sunday at 3:00 P.M., the Fellowship Committee conducts a short service at Manor Care in Potomac. John Hummon plays an introduction, Pastor Kerry gives a message, Nettie Propps sings a solo, and the residents, who like the interaction with PPC visitors, join in the singing of hymns. Any PPC members are welcome to attend.</p>			

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

**Potomac Presbyterian Church**  
**SUMMER 2004**

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## **KERRY ON...**

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

“If you have not read Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*, you’re in a shrinking group. More than 7 million hardback copies of the novel are in print, and it has by the publisher’s count been translated into more than forty languages. It has remained at or near the top of the best seller list since its appearance a year ago.”

Mark S. Burrows, “Gospel Fantasy: Dismantling *The Da Vinci Code*,”  
*Christian Century Magazine*, June 2004, p. 20.

Many of us have joined the readers of this, “conspiracy tract set in a fictional frame.” The men’s book group read and discussed it and I have received numerous questions about the novel. There is enough fact to lend some credibility and plenty of intrigue to hold your interest. Mark Burrows is a professor of history at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. He has written a very informative piece and I commend it to you.

I have wondered what it is that makes the book so popular. A pure mystery novel would not gain such interest. Elements of church history, mixed with abuse of power, corruption, and abuse, heighten the intrigue. Spirituality is in, and the more non-traditional, the better. Studying the Gospels seriously appears not to be nearly as interesting as a fast paced thriller and a grand conspiracy theory. Perhaps interest in such a book will send readers back to the Scripture and to the study of church history. Our own Adult Education Program offers a solid biblical and theological resource for this kind of study. The new Reformed Institute provides another opportunity for serious study and reflection. I invite you to participate in these offerings.

The Mark Burrows article, along with a good resource from “Presbyterians Today,” are available in the church office.

# MARILYN'S MESSAGE

## *Summertime, and the livin' is easy....*

Well, it may be for you, but I am hard at work this summer! While most of our education and youth programs go on hiatus for the summer, there is much to do to prepare for the coming year. We are entering our sixth year of using the Workshop Rotation Model of Sunday School, so I will be gathering and writing curriculum over the summer. After this year we can begin to recycle some of the curriculum we have developed over the past years. Curriculum for Creative Enrichment also has to be written and compiled.

The Christian Education Committee is trying to help me to find a large group of adults willing to help with youth group activities for next year. If you are the parent of a youth, or someone who thinks youth are pretty neat people (and they are!), and you'd be willing to give one Sunday evening every two or three months to the youth groups for a discussion or activity, please talk with me about that.

Workcamp is upon us, and 30 teenagers and seven other adults from our church will spend a hot (the school is *not* air conditioned), sweaty, wonderful week helping people in Canton, Ohio. Later in the summer I will attend another workcamp in Wyoming, Delaware as Director in Training, so that I can be a Director next summer.

Workcamp plans for next year begin as soon as we get home from this summer's workcamp. We will know where and when we are going because our 2004 workcampers decide that for the following year. We will have a few youth activities over the summer, including our annual trip to King's Dominion on July 21.

In addition to all of this, I will be working diligently on my paper to complete my Doctor of Ministry degree work. My goal is to get it written over the summer, then defended and done (!) by October.

And to top it all off, I will be helping Rachel to prepare for her first year of college, and Liz for her first year in veterinary school. I'm not sure, but there may be some emotions involved during these transitions.

But, with all the busyness and change this summer, it is all exciting and wonderful activity. I look forward to it. Maybe the song should be changed to say,

*Summertime, and the servin' is easy!*

## DEACON'S CORNER

It strikes me lately that in our society today we have lost something, and that is civility. We see examples of it with politicians engaged in divisive rhetoric, parents cursing or belittling a referee in their child's soccer game, and drivers cutting off people on the road--as if it were a sport. It seems to me that our society was somewhat more civil, let's say 20 years ago. Politicians may have disagreed on policies, but generally did so without the mean spiritedness that we see today on various occasions. Although parents might not have liked a referee's call in their child's soccer game, they generally vocalized their feelings without cursing or belittling the referee.

Although cutting off people on the road is certainly not new, it just did not seem so commonplace back then. Civility is one of our Christian principles. I think it would be worthwhile for all of us to consider making a conscious effort to be more civil ourselves, and to encourage others to do the same. We just might find ourselves living in a more pleasant world.

Steve Rudnic

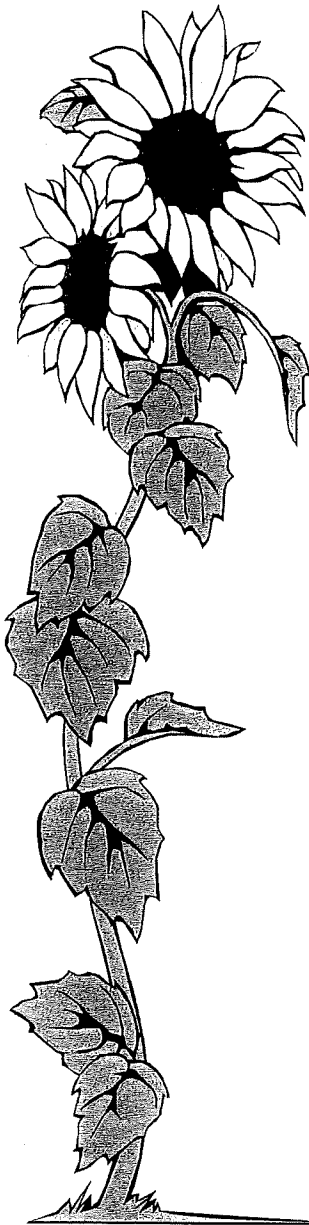
*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

*Ephesians 4: 1-6*



**Habitat for Humanity** of Montgomery County, MD, your local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is nearing the completion of its 19<sup>th</sup> home!

The dedication ceremony for the Caro home is scheduled for Sunday, August 15, 2:00 p.m., at 18716 Jerusalem Church Road, Poolesville, MD. We hope you will join us!




**SIGN UP TO GREET** on a Sunday morning in 2004. Sign-up chart is located in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

THE 2004 CONFIRMATION CLASS'S FAITH STATEMENTS have been compiled into a booklet which is available in the literature rack in the Narthex and on the table near the church office. Please help yourself to a copy, and enjoy reading the statements which were read to the Session on May 23.

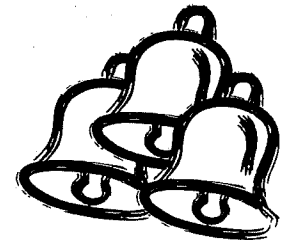
*Sunflowers and more* at the **Potomac Farmers Market!** Come visit the market, located in the church yard, on Thursdays between 1:30 and 4:30 P.M. all summer and fall. All sorts of farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, delicious baked goods, beautiful flowers, plants, and specialty items for sale!

SPRING~SUMMER DIRECTORIES are available and may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall on the Outreach table. If your address, phone number or e-mail address is incorrect, please call the church office with your new contact information.

The Wright  
Note 

## STEP INTO BELLS

by  
*Sonia Russo*



I was in my early forties when I discovered the joys of exercise in Step Classes at my gym. All it took, it seemed, was a bunch of energetic students, great music with a beat, an enthusiastic teacher, a firm stepstool, and pair of feet. I just loved it! How could these ordinary ingredients in such a defined space produce so many interesting, choreographic moves, be so fun, and work up such a sweat? I gradually learned all the step jargon and felt like an athlete. I was in the company of true athletes (I know this because they wore Spandex), and they were half my age and half my size, but I was holding my own. As my baggy, cotton T-shirt said, "Life is good," and I always wore it to Step Class.

I was even older when I discovered the unparalleled joys of ringing handbells. Although I came from a family of musicians, and was a student of piano as a child, as an adult I couldn't imagine having anything musical to offer. Just as I had known I was not a true athlete, neither was I a musician. But how I loved that music! One particular Sunday, the Handbell Choir rang as I had never heard them before. The worship hour had been transformed by their offering, and I wanted to be a part of it. My calling had come. I went to Cindy. Patiently and lovingly, she worked with me, decided she could use me, and soon I was a handbell ringer!

The ingredients for our Handbell Choir are simple, just as in my Step Class. You just bring together a bunch of dedicated people, an enthusiastic leader, inspired music, three octaves of bells, and a pair of hands for each bell. Most of us ring several bells. We read music and understand rhythmic notation, and with those basic tools we soar to places we had not imagined. The variations on a simple ring are amazing! You ring hard, you ring soft, you dampen, you let vibrate, you tower swing, you flex your wrist, you shake, you tap to the padded

table. It goes on and on and all the moves have names. The nuances are subtle or dramatic. The overall musical effect is for the congregation to appraise, but at a personal level, what is astonishing is the transforming joy which results as we nine ringers, from school age to "old," bond in our love for God through this experience.

Are you fit for this musical and spiritual challenge? If so, "Step into Bells"! Call Cindy! Believe me, many is the Sunday when I sweat it out while we are ringing, and many is the gym class when I hum and count beats while stepping, but I figure as long as I don't walk into Step Class with bells, or walk into Handbell Choir with a stepstool, I haven't lost it completely. Now I call myself an athlete AND a musician. I call myself deeply enriched. *Sonia*

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#### NEW ADDRESSES:

David and Judy-Ann Evans  
25019 Oak Drive  
Damascus, MD 20872  
301-253-1752

George and Wilma Boddiger  
3333 Russell Avenue, #201  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-216-5163

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#### A CLASS FOR 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCOUTS...

to earn the "God and Family" award will begin at PPC on August 3. Classes will meet from 1:00-2:30 every Tuesday, although we will try to be flexible for vacations. This class is for boys and girls, and scouts from other churches are welcome. Call Marilyn Johns for further details or to register.

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**OUR PRAYER TEAM** invites you to share your needs and concerns. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding this ministry or becoming a part of the Prayer Team, call Roberta Meredith at 301-461-0933.

## In the Church Family



#### *We rejoice in the births of...*

Lindsey Michelle Bedingfield, born to Kenneth and Linda Bedingfield, on June 14. Proud grandparents are Robert and Marjorie Bedingfield.

Grace Caroline Evans, born to Judy and David Evans, on May 20. Grace's grandparents are Jackie Evans and the late Harry Evans.

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

Josh Stoltzfus and Maria Gonzalez who were married in Coral Gables, Florida on June 5.

George and Wilma Boddiger, who celebrated their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary on May 23.

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

George and Wilma Boddiger, at Wilson Healthcare Center; Bob Garcia, Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, Dawn Thompson, all at home; Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff. Jim Jochum on a Mission trip to China July 21-August 3.

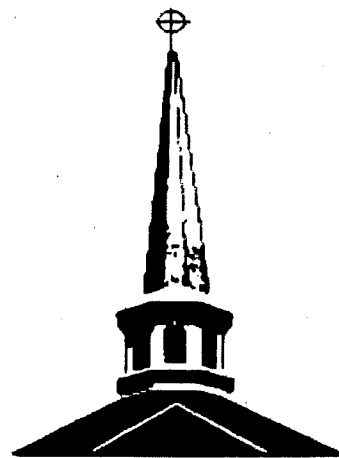
#### *We acknowledge with gratitude...*

A gift in memory of Alexander Rozner, from his mother, Klara. The Rozner Memorial Endowment provides a scholarship each year to a seminary student.



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

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## STEEPLE TO PEOPLE Potomac Presbyterian Church

September 2004

### KERRY ON...

We give thanks to God and rejoice with the Caro family; Jose and Maria and their children, Christopher, Kathy, Dehidania and Andrew. On Sunday August 15 their new Habitat house was dedicated in Poolesville. PPC joined hands with nine other churches and the Title Sponsor Darnestown Presbyterian to build this home. Our congregations contributed thousands of volunteer hours and over \$80,000 to make this dream possible. Jose and Maria gave far more than the 300 hours of sweat equity required. Working together in Jesus name has truly been a blessing for everyone who participated. I was glad to be able to work on most of our assigned Saturdays and I am proud of our congregation for putting faith into action in this special way.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

### *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 3, 10, and 17. The Sunday morning, 9:45 a.m. classes, held in the church parlor, are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, and then be recognized as new members during the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007, with any questions.

Montgomery Habitat for Humanity hopes to break ground in Clarksburg in the spring and we hope that our congregation will join in this new effort. The project will involve four townhouses and will build on the successful experience of the building that was completed in Silver Spring in 2003. Watch for news of the new project and think about signing up.

We are grateful for all our volunteers – please see their names on page 9. Thanks to all who made financial contributions through our mission giving, our endowment, and in memory of Randy Frazier.

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**FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12**

**9:45 Rally Day 11:00 Worship**



## The Wright Note

“WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED”

This summer we experienced an inspiring emphasis on hymn singing through Pastor Kerry’s sermon series. At the end of that series on singing our faith, we had fun picking hymns ourselves and singing them together with great enthusiasm. Now it is time to resume fall choir schedules and keep that spirit of music participation going!

I invite you to read the following choir descriptions and decide if you have the time and commitment to enjoy the Christian fellowship and musical ensemble these groups offer.

### PRIMARY CHOIR

This choir gives an opportunity for children in grades K-2 to come together on Wednesday afternoons to “find” their singing voices through musical games and songs. First rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

### CHILDREN’S CHOIR

This choir is for boys and girls in grades 3 – 6 who want to discover the joy of singing and reading music together in a Christian setting. This group will sing in worship every month. It meets in the robe room behind the choir loft at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. First rehearsal is Sunday, Sept. 19.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR

This vocal ensemble is made up of adults of any age who want to sing the great music of the church. They sing in our weekly worship services and extend an invitation to new members to join. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. starting on Sept. 9.

### HANDBELL CHOIR

This choir is open to any age individual who has an understanding of musical notation. Because we have three octaves of handbells, we need nine ringers to ring the anthems and hymn accompaniments that bring such joy to our worship. Contact Cindy Wright with questions about membership and skills involved. First rehearsal is Sept. 30.

I look forward to leading these wonderful choirs in the coming season. Please consider joining. You will discover firsthand the meaning of the hymn, “When in Our Music God is Glorified”.

*Cindy*

## In the Church Family



### Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard, at home; Dawn Thompson, at home; Bob Garcia, at home; Barbara Shamel, recovering from surgery at home; David Boyd and family whose mother, Patricia Boyd, died in July in Kansas City, MO; Jackie Cronin, whose grandmother died in August at the age of 106; Melissa Dorman’s husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff.

### Our congratulations and God’s blessings on...

Arianna Elizabeth Smith and Jason Scott McFeaters, who were married in August; Diane Hutchins, who was ordained in July as Minister of Word and Sacrament at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA.

### We remember with thanksgiving...

the life of Jennifer Russo, who died on August 25, and commend her to the loving care of our Lord. We affirm the words of our Baptismal hymn for Jennifer: “You are God’s child most dear.” Our prayers are with Sonia, Ray, and Peter, and we ask for God’s tender mercy and care for them.

## New Addresses

Richard and Marilyn Sebastian  
15107 Interlachen Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-2217

Ken and Linda Bedingfield  
8257 Buckspark Lane, West  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-365-8210

Kitty Albright  
1621 Bibury Lane  
Charlton House 14A  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
704-364-8815

Robert and Debra Drumheller  
7709 Hidden Meadow Terrace  
Potomac, MD 20854-1789  
301-983-8062

Tom and Joan Cole  
Jeremy and Heather Knighton  
12143 E. Lake Road  
Hammondsport, NY 14840  
607-292-3243

George and Wilma Boddiger  
3333 Russell Avenue, #201  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-216-5163

Ed and Beth Rudnic  
13517 Maidstone Lane  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-869-4622

## DEACON'S CORNER

A few years ago the youth of the church attended a movie called "Pay It Forward." If you are unfamiliar with the movie, the basic theme was a young boy's answer to a challenge set before him by his teacher. The teacher challenged each individual of his class to come up with a project that would have a meaningful impact on human life. The young boy's solution was to do "good deeds" for three different people. In turn, these people were to each help three others, and so on, and so on.

Acts of kindness can impact a life we don't even know. A person's bad day can be changed by an unexpected kindness by another. Loneliness can be shattered by a caring act. Every act is a gift. I have fond memories of times when others have taken the time to help me, a stranger, out. My favorite, the bus driver in Amsterdam who, after looking at my girlfriend and me (along with four children under the age of ten), didn't charge us for the drive.

One of my acts of kindness is what I call my "Tollbooth Ministry." How lonely it must be to stand all day in a box built for one, collecting change from strangers. So, along with taking the ticket or handing the money, at every tollbooth comes a cheery "Hello" or "Good Morning" and "Have a wonderful day!" Occasionally, I receive no response, but most of the time a smile comes across the face of this unknown person and an impersonal act becomes a warm exchange. It only takes a moment to impact another's life with kindness.

*"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*2 Peter 1:7-8*

*Roberta Meredith*

# Marilyn's Message

It's hard to believe that the summer is ending and the new school year is upon us! There are many, many interesting things happening in Christian Education beginning in the weeks ahead. Please take a few minutes to read through the Christian Education brochure which is included with this edition of Steeple to People, and find something you'd like to try this year. We are never too old to learn, and along with learning comes new relationships and spiritual growth.

In addition to the Bible studies, adult ed classes, the Christian Living Group, and the Men's Book Group, there are a number of other ways for adults of all ages to get involved. Why not bring your particular expertise to a youth group meeting to share it with the teens? Or you could sign up to fix dinner every couple of months for the youth groups. What about teaching a rotation (3 weeks) in children's Sunday School in an area you love, such as cooking or storytelling, drama or art, computers or music? If the brochure doesn't mention something you wish Potomac Presbyterian Church offered, why not think about starting it?

Our Christian Education year begins on Sunday, September 12 with Rally Day at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is for people of all ages, children, youth and adults. Following the morning festivities, we will emphasize Christian education in the worship service at 11 (please note change from summer hours on that date). We will give Bibles to our third grade children, a lovely tradition in our church and a big day for them. We will also dedicate our teaching staff to their tasks for the coming year. This is also our "homecoming" service, where our church family comes back together after many have been gone for the summer.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church, and you will be missed if you're not a part of it. You never know how your presence may be a blessing to another person.

### WORSHIP BAGS

Worship bags are available to children in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade who are learning to stay in the worship service for the whole hour. These bags contain picture Bibles, book marks to mark hymns and scriptures, a Children's Mission Yearbook, and other helps for children during the service. The bags are kept on the shelf at the top of the Sunday school hall stairs, and should be returned to the shelf before you leave.

# YOUTH KICKOFF! WORKCAMP!

This year we are having a combined youth kickoff and workcamp organizational meeting on Sunday, September 26, from 4-7 p.m. All youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come along with their parents. We will have fun, and of course, food, and will make some plans for the upcoming youth group year. Initial information will be given about Workcamp 2005, and we will decide on some fundraisers. This is an important time for parents and youth to share ideas as we begin our year. If you are interested in helping with youth groups or workcamp this year, please come to the kickoff too!

**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. **During the 2003-2004 school year, we earned close to \$600 in this way!**

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. After 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](mailto:karensuewise@hotmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Safeway Club Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ (11 digits)

Did I sign you up last year? Great! I saved your information from last year and will automatically renew you for this school year unless I hear differently from you by October 1. Questions? Call me at 301-299-2826. Thanks! Karen Wise.

## THANK YOU PPC HABITAT CREW!

Richard, Gail and Jennie Cannon, Ed Clark, John Clouse, Mary Deveikis, George Dick, David and Jackie Fowler, Dick Gimer, Susan Haynes, Tom Hougen, Carole Hudgings, Bob and Joyce Jenkins, Bill and Pat King, Bert Klein, Linda Knowles, Joe and JoJo Kovacs, Maitland and Sandy MacFarlan, Bob and Dennis McMahan, Rich McMahan, Tom McPherson, Roberta Meredith, Charlie and Nancy Miller, Robert and Susan Mitchell, John and Kay Norvell, Jim and Mary Reichley, Elsie Reid, Bill Rohrbaugh, John Sohl and Gayle Goff, Matt and Tracy Spencer, Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus, Ed Tennent, Bob and Nancy Tietjen, Rob and David Wescott, Karen Wise, Marnel Williams, Gail Yates.

Don't miss

# FUNdraiser 2004!

2:00 PM  
Sunday  
September 26, 2004

An afternoon of great  
musical entertainment!

for the  
**AMERICAN  
CANCER  
SOCIETY**



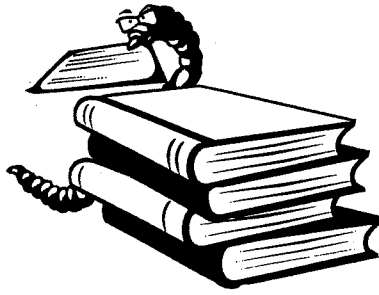
**No admission fee \$Free Will Donation\$ (bring your checkbook!)**

In Remembrance, in Honor of, and in Hope for friends and loved ones within our Church Family whose courage inspires us all. Join the Battle; Win the Fight!

Seven-piece Combo • Vocalists and Dancers • Dance floor  
Complimentary coffee/tea/other beverages available • Snacks  
OPUS 88 @ Hilton Vocalists McLean

7920 Jones Branch Drive McLean, VA • Call Ann Hazard for info 301/424 2827

## Church Library



Many new books have been added to the library over the summer. I hope you will stop by and take a look and maybe check a book out. To sign a book out, sign the book card with date the book is taken, your name and phone number and put the card in the gray box on the shelf near the reference books.

Of the many new books, I'll mention just a few.

**Into the Shadows: a Journey of Faith and Love into Alzheimers**, written by Robert DeHann, will be helpful to anyone caring for a loved one with this terrible disease. It is mostly a story of how their faith helped them through this ordeal. (362.196/DeH)

**Abraham Lincoln**, by Allen C. Guelzo is said to be "a thoughtful, engaging and provocative book that will enlighten both Civil War specialists and students of American history." (The Historian)(973.7/Gue)

It's not a new book, but C.S. Lewis's book, **Reflections on the Psalms**, (223.2//Lew) is one not to be missed.

Lewis Smedes has written many wonderful books and this latest, **My God and I: a Spiritual Memoir**, is very inspiring.

If you would like to purchase a book in remembrance of a loved one or to honor someone, please call me, Nancy Tietjen, 301-299-3272. I have a list from which to choose.



### ADULT EDUCATION

September 19, 2004 and September 26, 2004: The speaker will be the Reverend John Yieh of Virginia Theological Seminary.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We give thanks this month to those who have volunteered to help with our children and youth Sunday School programs. If your name is not here and you'd like to help, please contact Marilyn Johns at the church - we can always use more volunteers! Please take a moment this month to pray for these individuals and their important ministry:

### Sunday School Shepherds:

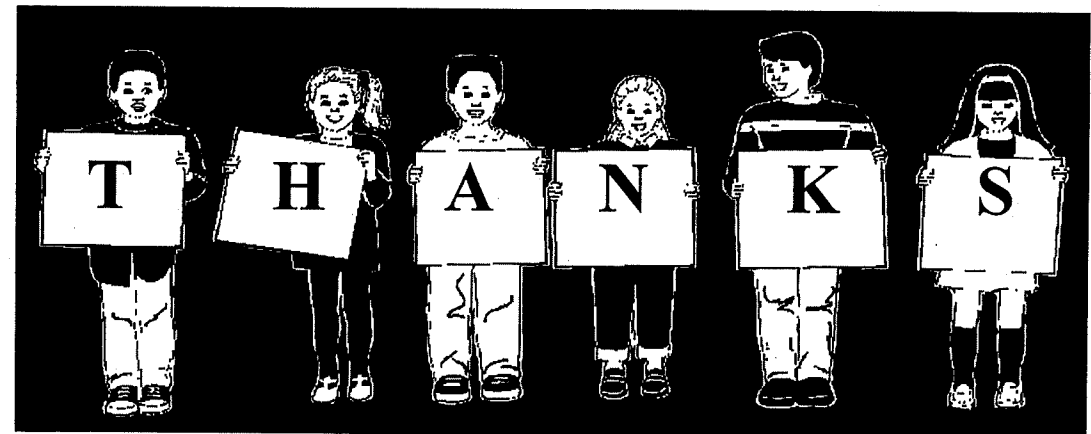
3-Kindergarten	Chris Cyrway/Pam Mazza, Vicki Dorman
1st/2nd Grade	Melanie Mason, Laurie Parr, Greta Van Brunt, Cathryn White
3rd/4th Grade	Gayle Goff, Wendy Kuhn
5th/6th Grade	Brad Broseker, Susan Haynes

### Rotation Leaders:

Computers	Emily Naegeli
Drama	Julie McMahon
Cooking	Jackie Cronin
Games	Olivia Mabeus
Music/Opening	Joel and Judi Miller
Art	Jackie Cronin, Mary Ling

### Youth Teachers:

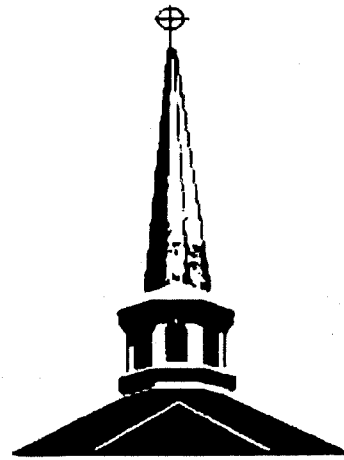
7th-8th Grade	Mary Margaret Smith, Rob Swisher
9th-12th Grade	Sherry Johnson, Rich McMahon, Vivian Teets



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2004</h1>						
			1 7:30 p.m. Teacher Meeting	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)	3	4
5 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	6 <b>LABOR DAY</b> ~ Office Closed ~	7 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11 10:00-11:30 p.m. Cancer Society Chorus Rehearsal
12 <b>RALLY DAY</b> 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremonies 11:00 a.m. Worship/Bibles for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	13 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18 10:00-11:30 p.m. Cancer Society Chorus Rehearsal
19 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	20 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir-1 <sup>st</sup> rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24	25 9:00 a.m.-noon Reformed Institute Leader Development 10:00-11:30 a.m. Cancer Society Chorus Rehearsal
26 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Cancer Fundraiser at McLean Hilton 4:00 p.m. Youth Group/Workcamp Meeting	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	28 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (Nat'l)	29 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir - (First Rehearsal) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		<b>Men's Book Group</b> September 21 - <b>Theodore Rex</b> by Edmund Norris October 19 - <b>Krakatoa</b>

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

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## STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

### Potomac Presbyterian Church

October 2004

#### **KERRY ON...**

John Buchanan writing in the Christian Century Magazine quotes Karl Barth,

Gratitude is the precise creaturely counterpart to the grace of God.

We may express gratitude in a simple whispered prayer when we wake up in the morning, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In times of sorrow and loss we are reminded how fragile life really is and how grateful we are for each new day. In the joyful faces of little children and grandchildren we are astounded by God's grace.

We may express gratitude by doing our work well and using the gifts that God has given us for the good of others. Sometimes our work is "after hours" as we build houses for Habitat or serve meals at Miriam's Kitchen. Other times our work is to study and learn more about God and God's good intention for the world. Play and leisure can be filled with gratitude as we delight in God's creation and good gifts.

We may express gratitude by sharing our financial resources, for we have been truly blessed. Gifts to the ministry of this congregation are tangible ways to express our gratitude and respond to God's grace in Jesus Christ. We rejoice that our gifts will be used in ministry of worship and mission, education and caring. May God guide you and your families as you seek God's will in making your pledge this fall.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

#### *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 3, 10, and 17. The Sunday morning, 9:45 a.m. classes, held in the church parlor, are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, and then be recognized as new members during the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007, with any questions.



## The Wright Note

When we gather for worship, I am above and behind you ready to lead you through the musical portions of the service. When you hear the organist play the prelude, you meditate and prepare yourselves for worship. When you hear the introduction to the hymns, you open your hymnals, stand and begin to sing meaningful words of praise and prayer. When you hear the strong introductory chords to the Gloria Patri or the Doxology, you sound forth with great voices of affirmation. You hear the organ accompany the Sanctuary Choir as they sing anthems. The organ also supports solo singers and instrumentalists. During the offertory, the sounds of the organ resound as you give your gifts.

But do you realize that you hear the organ more clearly than I or the members of the choir? That is due to the fact that the main speakers to the organ are located in the rear of the sanctuary in an enclosed box behind the organ bench. The sound is directed to you, not the choir. Thus, it is difficult for those of us in the loft to attain a balance between accompaniment and singers or soloists. We simply cannot hear the organ when the organ and singers are making music at the same time. Of course, if I were to play loud enough for the singers to adequately hear the organ, then you in the congregation might think I was playing too loudly.

To hopefully correct this problem, auxiliary speakers are being installed in the loft. From the organ console, I will be able to control which speakers function. When I accompany the choir, I will activate only the auxiliary speakers. When I am playing for congregational singing or playing preludes or offertories, I will activate the main speakers that face out into the congregation.

I would like to thank Bill Malone and his committee for investigating this organ speaker situation. They have spent many months considering the most appropriate options. I feel that a reasonable solution has been reached. You will not hear new organ sounds, but you will hear sounds appropriately balanced when the organ is used to accompany singers or soloists in the choir loft.

*Cindy*

## In the Church Family



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

Bob Hazard, at home; Dawn Thompson, at home; Bob Garcia, at home; Barbara Shamel, at home; Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff; Janet Koonce, whose mother, Helen Bell, died in September.

### ***Our congratulations and God's blessings on...***

Rich McPherson and Janet Lowry who were married on September 4<sup>th</sup> in West Lake Village, CA. Pastor Stoltzfus officiated at the service.

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

Lindsey Michelle Bedingfield, daughter of Kenneth and Linda Bedingfield and granddaughter of Margie and Bob Bedingfield, on September 19, 2004.

With Gratitude, from the Russo Family

We have been astonished and nearly overwhelmed by the depth, variety, and faithfulness of the love and support of our church family following the death of our beloved Jennifer. Our loss has been so great we have yet to comprehend it. However, we have no difficulty comprehending how blessed we are to have you in our lives, in our community of faith. Thank you, from the depths of our hearts. God bless you all.

*Sonia, Ray, and Peter*

## New Addresses

Fran Cox  
3100 N. Leisure World Blvd., #72  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-8393

Nicole Glass  
9950 Unvie Place  
Dulles, VA 20189-9950

Arianna & Jason McFeaters  
566 Helene Street  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-785-6600

George & June Dick  
16943 Horn Point Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

George & Wilma Boddiger  
333 Russell Ave. #201  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Rich & Janet McPherson  
Apt. 203  
65 Willow Springs Lane  
Goleta, CA 93117

James & Marillyn Hewson  
10 Arnold Palmer  
San Antonio, TX 78257

Brad Broseker & Laurie Lane Hay  
23404 Clarksridge Road  
Clarksburg, MD 20871  
301-528-8817



## DEACON'S CORNER

Last month, my little brother got married. Some years ago, when Cyndy and I were first married and we'd attend friends' weddings, I would always think back to our wedding day and remember the joy and excitement of that day. At my brother's wedding, however, as I saw Alexandra walking down the aisle being the perfect little flower girl and Matthew running around in his oh-so-cute tuxedo, all I could think about was that, one day, I'd have to let them go to be on their own.

While I suspect I'm not the first person to have had this revelation, the thought of letting our kids go into today's world seems to be even more frightening than ever. We live in fear of terror within our borders, in fear of losing another young man or woman in combat and in fear of random violence in our cities and neighborhoods.

We each deal with the fear differently. Some of us have decided to just ignore fear. We have stopped watching the news or reading the paper. Others among us have let fear become all-consuming. We follow every news alert, regard every stranger with suspicion and allow terror to alter our lives. In our reactions, we seem to be either fearless or fearful.

As I worry about the future for our children, I also realize that we can learn from them. Our son, Matthew, is 15 months old and, like many children his age, is fearless. He'll climb bookshelves without considering what will happen if he falls. Our daughter, Alexandra, is 3 years old and is fearful of monsters that may be lying in wait in her bedroom. As parents, our job is to help each of them understand danger without suppressing their desire to explore. In other words, we have to teach our kids to be fearful yet brave, not fearless.

The Bible assures us that in the midst of our fear, we can have confidence that God is working on our behalf. We can be fearful but we should certainly be brave.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5,6

*Paul Mamalian*

# Marilyn's Message

The morning Christian Living group had a lively discussion in September of the *Left Behind* phenomenon. If you haven't heard of this, it is a series of novels, and subsequent videos, depicting the end times. The beginning of the series has an airline pilot ogling an attractive flight attendant because his wife spends all of her time reading the Bible. Suddenly the flight attendant announces that many of the passengers on the plane have disappeared, leaving only their clothing and belongings on their seats. Other happenings convince a few of those "left behind" that this is the rapture, which marks the beginning of the end. The only ones who will possibly be safe from eternal fire are those who find faith and survive the seven years of tribulation that follow the rapture. The novels in the series continue through the devastating events that take place before God finally comes in and saves the day.

This series is hugely popular, with over 60 million books and videos sold. The authors claim that thousands have come to faith as a result of reading the books, although researchers have not found much direct evidence of this. The authors claim that yes, the books are works of fiction, but that the basic premise is true: there will be a rapture in the way they describe. There have been dozens of books written to explain the *Left Behind* books, and as many written to refute them.

Not surprisingly, at the women's group we had a diversity of opinion on the usefulness of the books. Some felt that the books were helpful in getting people to open their Bibles to see if the stories were an accurate representation of the end times. Others thought they were dangerous because they seem to promote war and violence, and might make people believe that this is what Christians are called to do. There is also the "fear factor," that notion that people might come to faith because they are afraid not to. We thought about the images of God and Jesus Christ presented in the books, and how those connect with our understandings.

Generally, the theology in these books is way out of line with Presbyterian theology. We do not find biblical evidence for a rapture, and the two-tiered coming of Christ seems contrived to make difficult Bible passages fit together. We believe in a gracious God who loves us and does not delight in the destruction of any of God's creation. The books give neat, easy answers to dilemmas that Presbyterians are comfortable keeping in tension.

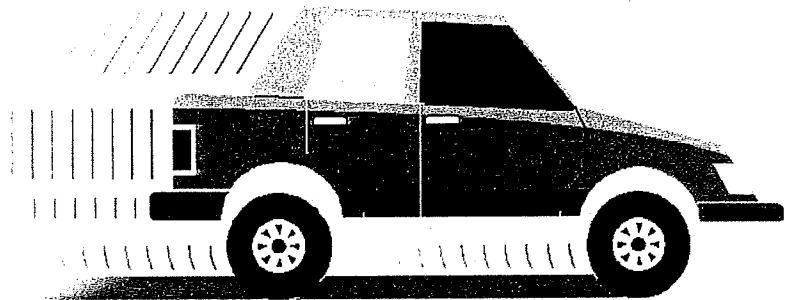
(Continued on page 4)

## Marilyn's Message, continued:

I came away from the discussion appreciating our Presbyterian heritage all the more. We are not prone to accept just anything as truth as much as we are to investigate, experience, and live into the truth. We are satisfied at times saying, "I really don't understand this, but I'm willing to keep looking for an answer." We are people of the Book, and although we read the Bible as the inspired Word of God, we do so through the lens of its historical and literary context. We can discuss these things in a group and appreciate everyone's point of view and allow it to help to shape ours, even though we may disagree.

In a culture that values black-and-white answers and winning at all costs, we are fortunate to be in a church that encourages us to use our minds and celebrate our diversity. We are blessed to be able to disagree and still love each other.

I have some handouts that can help to explain the Presbyterian understandings of the end times if you'd like to read them. Just call or drop by the office.



**Tennessee  
or  
Bust!**

## FIRST 2005 WORKCAMP FUNDRAISER! CAR WASH/BAKE SALE

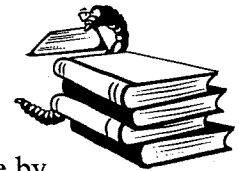
Keep those cars dirty for a couple of weeks longer – the youth are having a car wash and bake sale on Sunday, October 10, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bring your car, give us the keys, and then go to adult education or worship and we'll have your car spiffy and clean when you come out. The car wash is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Yummy homemade baked goods are available for sale in the Fellowship Hall after worship. All proceeds go to send our 2005 Workcampers to Bristol, Tennessee, to help those whose homes are in need of repair. Thank you for supporting our Workcampers!

## CHURCH NOTES

**AUGMENTATION OF CHURCH ORGAN** - Additional speakers are being installed in the choir loft to improve the organ sound production at worship services. The added speakers are intended to enable Cindy, the choir, guest instrumentalists and the congregation to hear a more balanced sound from the church's electronic organ.

The cost of the rearrangement and augmentation of the speakers and the re-voicing of the organ is expected to be about \$ 8,000. This project was not budgeted at the beginning of 2004. Members of the congregation are being invited to contribute toward the cost of the project by giving to the church's organ fund. Contributions marked for the organ fund may be placed in the offering plates at services or sent to Financial Secretary, Kay Mitchell, care of the church office.

**CHURCH LIBRARY** - Four new books have just been received for the Church Library. (Call numbers are included.)



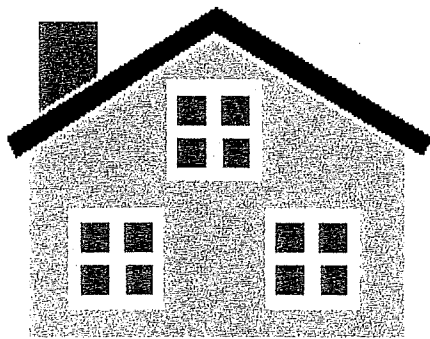
Performing the Faith: Bonhoeffer and the Practice of Nonviolence by Stanley Hauerwas has had wonderful reviews (261.7-Hau).

Real Kids-Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives by Karen Marie Yust will be helpful for many of the young parents in our congregation.(268.432-Yus).

Reading is Believing: The Christian Faith Through Literature and Film by David S. Cunningham takes us through The Apostle's Creed in twelve chapters. At the end of each chapter are questions for discussion and suggestions for further reading. (809.933-Cun)

A Theological Word Book of the Bible edited by Alan Richarson is an old book but one that should be helpful not only to our teachers but to all of us. (220.3-Ric)

If you have checked a book out sometime this year, would you please look around, find it and return it or check it out again? I have found several books missing. Thanks a bunch. Any questions, comments? Call me, Nancy Tietjen, 301-299-3272.



## RAINBOW PLACE SHELTER

Rainbow Place, a women's shelter at Rockville Presbyterian Church, has enjoyed our support through Mission giving for many years. From November through March, Rainbow Place provides food, overnight shelter, laundry and shower facilities to about 25 homeless women each night. While remaining affiliated with and based in Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rainbow Place is in the process of becoming a separate non-profit

organization. They have invited Potomac Presbyterian Church to select one of our members to serve on their Board of Directors and to help them during this transition. No particular expertise is required, but some experience with non-profit administration would be helpful. If this opportunity 'speaks' to you, please 'speak' to Rob Wescott.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Last May, we sponsored a drive to collect books, magazines, videos and games for our wounded veterans of Iraqi Freedom. The items are used in lending libraries at Bethesda Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center for servicemen and women while they are undergoing treatment there. Our congregation responded overwhelmingly. In a few short weeks, we had collected more than 10 cartons of items to donate. It was a privilege and a touching experience to deliver the gifts on behalf of our church family. Thank you all for contributing.

*Vivian Teets*

## A HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE PPC COMMUNITY

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the 4th Annual Cure Autism Now 5K Run/1 mile walk was a huge success. Over 1500 people ran, walked or volunteered on an overcast and steamy holiday morning. With your help, we raised over \$130,000 which far exceeded my expectations! Over the course of the morning, I saw so many familiar faces from the PPC community. In fact, over 50 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 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Susan Perelles*

## Praying for the Children



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.

Lindsey Bedingfield, Roman Conway, Margaret Koonce, Matthew Mamalian, Robert Trenkamp, Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Patterson Koonce, Chandler Kuhn, Christian Alarie, Emily Cyrway, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Alexandra Mamalian, Abigail Spencer, Kyle Venit, Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Charlotte Koonce, Zachary Nannen, Megan Reilly, Samuel Spencer

## Lectures on the Presbyterian Tradition





The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington, of which Potomac Presbyterian Church is a sponsoring member, is offering a series of courses intended to provide congregational leaders with a better understanding of the Presbyterian church's history and the ideas on which its current practice is based. This season's three lectures have been scheduled for Saturday mornings, September 26, November 6th, and February 12th. The first lecture, "Worship in the Reformed Tradition" by The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Stricklen, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was hosted by Potomac Presbyterian Church.

The Institute is also offering three six-lecture courses in 2004-05 at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. Dr. R. Bruce Douglass will teach on "The Protestant Reformation: an Overview," David Jon Van Houten will teach "Reading Calvin Again for the First Time," and Wayne G. Boulton will teach "Ethics in the Reformed Tradition: An Introduction."

Descriptive announcements with registration forms are available from the church office.

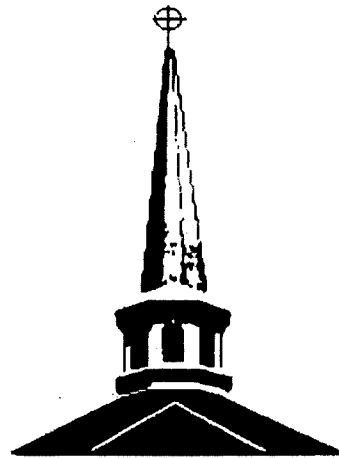
### ADULT EDUCATION

October 3:	Workcampers, Fellowship Hall.
October 10:	Union-PSCE Student Caravan
October 17 and 24:	The Rev. Donna Marsh: <i>Christ to Constantine</i>
October 31:	Jim Reichley: <i>Faith in Politics</i>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2004</h1>					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-I 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism World Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>6</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  7:30 p.m. CE Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	<b>7</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. Youth Worship 9:30 a.m. Workcamp Car Wash 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-II 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>11</b>  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>12</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)  6:30-9:30 p.m. Wooten H.S. Music Honor Society Concert	<b>13</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Bible Study  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>14</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>15</b>  12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline	<b>16</b>  4:30 p.m. Lane/Broseker Wedding Westminster, MD
<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-III 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 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	<b>18</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>19</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>20</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>21</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>22</b>  	<b>23</b>  9:00 a.m. Fall Grounds Clean-up  Gimer/Lee Wedding
<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New members meet with Session 11:00 a.m. Worship/New Members Received 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	<b>25</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>26</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	<b>27</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>28</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <i>Potomac Day</i>
<b>31</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship			<p>COME JOIN US ~ Stephen Ministry will host the Compassionate Friends on October 13 at 7 p.m. Compassionate Friends supports those who have experienced the loss of a child (or a sibling). A panel of parents will present their experiences.</p> <p><a href="http://www.compassionatefriends.org">www.compassionatefriends.org</a></p>			

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## STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

### Potomac Presbyterian Church

November 2004

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

### *Christmas International House*

The Christmas International House program is a chance to show hospitality and friendship to foreign students studying in this country who cannot afford to go home at Christmas. From December 18 through January 2, you are invited to be a host family for either 2 weeks or 1 week. Or, you can help with trips and tours, potluck suppers, etc. Please contact Margaret Curren, 301-990-0550, or Eleanor Munch, 301-987-6742, for further details if you want to be a part of this joyful ministry which has been ongoing in Gaithersburg area churches for many years.

### **KERRY ON...**

Are we listening to each other? Amid the sound bites and political TV commercials I was thankful for the Presidential debates. For the most part we were able to listen and watch the candidates debate the issues and state their positions. More depth would have been preferred but at least we listened to both sides on the same stage.

The "Presbyterian Outlook" carried an interesting report earlier this month.

A survey found that conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh has roughly the same number of fans that liberal film producer Michael Moore has. Of those participating in the study, 7% indicated that they had listened to Limbaugh's program during the previous week, while 8% said they had seen Moore's film *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

What was most revealing was the finding that ¼ of 1% had exposed themselves to both that very conservative and very liberal voice.

It is troubling when folks only pay attention to the voices they agree with and hear the other side only as interpreted by like-minded voices. This unfortunately is happening in Christian denominations as well. It has become too common for Christians of varying theological perspectives to each claim that they know what God's will is on any number of issues. "It is important to remind ourselves that our interpretation of God's will is in fact *our interpretation*."\* I strive to listen to a variety of voices and share them with you in sermons. I pray that we will continue to grow in our appreciation for the political and theological insights of others.

\* Ismael Garcia, "Religion and Politics", Insights, Austin Seminary, Fall 2004, p. 7



## The Wright Note

In church music there are constantly new challenges and opportunities. In the children's choirs, for instance, a new group of five-year-olds became eligible for the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir this season. At the same time, the second graders from that same choir graduated to the Sunshine Singers who meet on Sunday mornings. Both of these choirs are active and enthusiastic. The younger group that meets on Wednesdays has seven in attendance, and the older group that meets on Sundays has fourteen. If you heard them sing in worship during October, you know, as I do, the contribution their music brought to the service.

The Sanctuary Choir has moved into the 2004-2005 season with characteristic enthusiasm and support. But thus far, no new members have come to our Thursday night rehearsals. Since many of our singers are now grandparents, they tend to travel frequently. Our numbers get very thin, especially near holidays, when our church services demand more choral participation. I urge any of you who enjoy the experience of good ensemble singing in an uplifting Christian setting, to please consider joining this choir that meets on Thursday evenings from 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

To utilize our three octaves of handbells, our Handbell Choir needs two more ringers. We have lost ringers due to college and demanding travel schedules. If you are reasonably comfortable with reading rhythmic values and note names from the musical score, give this group some consideration. We rehearse weekly from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings. The activity of ringing is great fun, a true stress reliever, according to our ringers. Contact Cindy Wright at 301-926-7015 if you have an interest in this choir.

In closing, may I add that our church is fortunate to have Jason McFeaters as our guest saxophonist for All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th. We eagerly await the exceptional tone and expert musical skill that Jason will bring to our celebrative worship that day.

*Cindy*



### Advent and Christmas Decorating!

Saturday, December 4, 9:00 am – Save the date! Plan to join us in decorating the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and exterior of our beautiful church in preparation for this joyful season!  
*Eugenia Lee, Pam Drumbheller, and Roberta Meredith*

## In the Church Family



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

Pat Stow, whose mother, Mary Criscio, died recently in Massachusetts; Bob Garcia, Bob Hazard, Klara Rozner, Barbara Shamel and Dawn Thompson, at home; Roy Whitesel, at Washington Adventist Hospital; Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff.

### ***Our congratulations and God's blessings on...***

Laurie Lane Hay and Brad Broseker, who were married on October 16 in Taneytown, Maryland by Pastor Stoltzfus. Congratulations also to Molly Stanton and Robert Foa, who were married on October 2 in Duck, North Carolina. Molly is the daughter of Jane and Bill Stanton. Rob is the grandson of Emajeane Harvie. Congratulations as well to Geoffrey Grier and Svetlana Skvortsova, who were married by Pastors Stoltzfus and Miles on September 25 in Pennsylvania. Geoffrey is the son of Doug and Harriet Grier.

### ***We celebrate with joy...***

the birth of Colleen Isla McMillen, daughter of Brett and Kathy McMillen, in Colorado. The proud grandmother is Pat McMillen.

Also we celebrate with joy the baptism of Robert Karch Trenkamp, son of Robert and Kara Trenkamp, and grandson of Robert and Karen Karch.

We rejoice and give thanks with Alex and Magda Shalaby, whose employees were released recently in Baghdad.

## New Addresses

Lisa and Carl Bretscher  
300 Reading Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850

Fran Cox (correction from last month)  
3100 N. Leisure World Blvd., #725  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-8393

Claude Gordon  
9829 Veirs Drive, Villa 3  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-762-0615

Betty Yadlosky  
374 Russell Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-216-5188

## Men's Book Group

Tuesday, November 16, 10:30 am, church parlor:  
Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy by Jane Leavy.



## DEACON'S CORNER

Thinking of Thanksgiving, I found Psalm 100, "A Psalm of Praise:"

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the lands!  
Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the Lord is God!  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him, bless his name!  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,  
And his faithfulness to all generations. *Beth Davit*

### A MOUNTAIN OF CEREAL FOR MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

Miriam's Kitchen, a downtown DC soup kitchen, is in need of cereals to serve to their homeless population. Let's help to make a mountain of cereal to add to their inventory with our donations. Please bring boxes of cereal (only those with LOW sugar content, please) on November 14 and 21. Add them to the growing mountain of cereal in Fellowship Hall. Working together, we can help to overcome hunger in the DC area. Thank you!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE LORD'S TABLE

On the first Tuesday of every month we prepare and serve a full meal to those in need. We are there between 1 and 5 pm and can use help any part of that time. Remember that it is only 4 hours a month and is such a wonderful way to give. The Lord's Table is served at St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg. Please call Jane Stanton at 301-983-3068.

### HOME NEEDED FOR TRAILER

Jim and Renee Jochum have generously offered to donate a large trailer to the church. In the past, we have used this trailer to haul the workcampers' sleeping bags, tools, and luggage to workcamp, and it has helped us to avoid renting a vehicle for this purpose. We'd love to accept their offer, but don't have any place to store the trailer. If you have some outdoor space and would like to give this trailer a good home (it won't eat much!), please contact Marilyn Johns at the church.

# Marilyn's Message

I am always delighted to come to worship on Sunday and look out at the members and friends of our congregation eager to worship God. I am thrilled at the diversity of ages in our sanctuary, from the youngest babies to the most "seasoned" worshipers, all together as one family of faith.

From time to time I am asked why our church doesn't offer Sunday School and worship at the same time, as many churches do. On the surface, it seems to fit our 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyle: trying to fit as much into as short a period of time as possible. Parents can worship, children can learn. Everyone's out in an hour!

I believe that there are some long-range consequences to this type of Sunday morning schedule. If adults are in worship while children are in Sunday School, that means that children never get to worship, and adults never get to learn. Teaching children about worship is valuable, and our Enrichment classes do just that. But to then expect our children to automatically know how to worship is like reading a book on how to play golf and then expecting to win the PGA tournament. You have to experience it to really learn it.

Our goal in teaching young children the parts of worship and some of the worship music is that by the time they are in the third grade they will be able to stay in the worship service and participate. True, they won't grasp every word of the sermon, but they will know how to praise God and follow in the hymnal, they will know how to look up the Bible verses and say the Apostles' Creed. The rest comes with practice. Sitting still for twenty minutes during the sermon is something that is learned through practice. Understanding the mystery of God in worship takes a lifetime of practice.

I firmly believe that children who are not given the opportunity to participate in corporate worship with the whole church family will not know how to do it, and will therefore avoid going to church as adults. It takes courage on the part of the parents - and it takes understanding on the part of the congregation. If we are to faithfully raise these children to love God and participate in the church, as we agree to do when they are baptized, we must allow for - no, rejoice in - a little paper-rustling and fidgeting as we help them grow into their faith.

Next month, I'll give a list of tips for parents and others in helping to raise our youngest ones in the faith through corporate worship.



## YOUTH FUNDRAISER NEWS

Thanks and thanks again to all who generously supported the first car wash/bake sale of the season. We were blessed with a beautiful day, many willing workers, and lots of dirty cars. The proceeds from this fundraiser were \$1460, which is our best car wash ever.

Mark your calendars for the following fundraising events for this program year. All proceeds from fundraisers go to help send youth and adult sponsors to summer workcamp, this year in Bristol, Tennessee, to repair the homes of those who can't do it themselves. Your support is so appreciated.

- November 14: **Bingo Night** - prizes will be in the form of youth workers to rake leaves, babysit, whatever you need. Bingo Night includes a delicious dinner and fellowship with your church family. There will also be an opportunity to hire youth to do work for you throughout the year, so think of creative projects - dog washing, Christmas card addressing, mulching, sorting photographs, etc.
- January 21-22 **Rock-In, Lock-In** - youth will bring rocking chairs to the church and rock all night. They will solicit pledges from their friends and relatives for the number of hours (up to 12) that they can stay awake and rock. There will be plenty of (what else?) rock music and games.
- April 16-17 **Church Rummage Sale** - save those yard sale items to donate to the church! We will have a yard sale for the community on Saturday, and a sandwich lunch on Sunday to sell the rummage sale leftovers at clearance prices. We'll start collecting your 'treasures' in April.
- May 22 **Car Wash/Bake Sale** - our spring car wash, just when the pollen is all over your cars.
- June 12 **Annual Church Picnic** - always a good time of food, fellowship, and fun.

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents of young children, rejoice! We are having our second Parents' Night Out on Friday, November 12. Sign up in the narthex to have loving child care for your children (through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) from 6-9 p.m. while you go out to dinner or have some quiet time at home. This is a free service, but if you *must* make a donation, it will go to the workcamp fund.

## CHURCH NOTES

### The Associate Pastor Committee Report:

"What's happening?" you might ask. It has been about a year since our Session approved the position of Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. We want you to be able to share in the excitement as we go through the process of finding this special person. Recently, our Session approved our church "résumé" and it has since been approved by our Presbytery. At this writing we have already received 4 replies or matches online through [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Our committee will now consider these based on specific criteria approved by our Session. We will be in contact with these individuals and if our initial contact goes well we will arrange for interviews. Please be patient with this process. No doubt, there will be many interviews before we decide on the right match.

Each of you may view our Church Information Form today on our PPC website [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org). We will also make paper copies available in the church office so you can help us spread the word. Who knows? Maybe you will be the one to mention this opportunity to a friend or colleague who may be interested. Please let any committee member know if you have any leads. God does work in mysterious ways! As our church family grows, so do our needs for pastoral care and guidance. Your generous pledges and prayers will help support this endeavor. Thank you! Stay tuned to our bulletin and Steeple to People for future announcements. God Bless.

*The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:*

*Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, Gail Cannon, John Hummon, Ken Kent, Cyndy Mamalian, Tom McPherson, Susan Perles, Mark Shalaby, Mary Margaret Smith, Bob Tietjen, Gail Yates*

New Organ Speakers Installed: The supplemental speakers for the organ have now been installed. The choir is delighted because they can hear the organ accompaniment to the anthem and several members of the congregation have commented on how much better they can hear the choir. During an anthem the auxiliary speakers in the loft are activated, and the main speakers to the congregation are turned off. Thus, the choir or soloists in the loft can hear the organ more effectively, and the musical presentation is then more balanced. In addition to the auxiliary speakers, a new bass woofer and a trumpet speaker have been installed and the organ has been re-voiced. The \$8000 cost of the organ work was not anticipated in the 2004 budget. Members of the congregation are invited to contribute towards the cost by gifts to the organ fund. Checks so marked may be placed in the collection plate or left for Kay Mitchel in the church office.

*William Malone*



## Praying for the Children

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

Jackie Fasano, Travis Nannen, Noah Pereles, Meredith White, Isabella Augustine Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Nathan Bretscher, Delaney Casten, Katherine Donahue, Bryan Eng, Lauren Eng, Nicholas Mason, Jackson Miller, Dalton Novalis, Dylan Parr, Meredith Srou, Nathan Van Brunt, Austin Venit, Jack White



## THE REFORMED INSTITUTE

Upcoming Event: November 6

Dr. Daniel Migliore, a distinguished theologian and professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, will offer a leadership development talk titled "The Use of Confessions of Faith in the Reformed Tradition." This is the second in a series of lectures for church officers and lay leaders. It will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria on Saturday, November 6, at 9:30 am. Refreshments will be served at 9:00 am. If interested, please contact Mary Hill, Program Coordinator, at 703-518-5125 or [mhill@reformedinstitute.org](mailto:mhill@reformedinstitute.org).

*The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington has been created by a group of Presbyterian churches in the Washington, D.C. area to promote understanding and deepen appreciation of the Reformed tradition among the staffs and members of Presbyterian churches.*



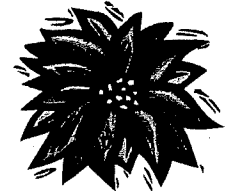
### ADULT EDUCATION

November 7:	David Stump: "Finding Faith on a Journey Through Science and Medicine."
November 14 & 21:	Dr. O. Thomas Miles: "Revisiting the Prodigal Son, <i>et al.</i> "
November 28:	Dr. Doug Lewis: "Theological Education/Issues in the Church."

## November Poinsettia Sale

*Plan ahead for church & home Christmas decorations!*

As we near Advent Season the Worship Committee is offering a lovely array of poinsettias for sale to the congregation to defray costs of the decorations for the church.



The poinsettias are grown by Behnke Nurseries and continue to be of excellent quality. They are available this holiday season in red, white, and pink. The deadline for orders is Sunday, November 28. Poinsettias may be picked up on Saturday, December 11, from 10:00-12:00. Checks should be made out to:

Potomac Presbyterian Church and must accompany the order. Please insert the order form into the Flower Fund envelope, found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail the attached order form to the church with attention to Susan Hougen. Coordinators this year are Cecie Phair, 301-926-8944 and Susan Hougen, 301-299-8391.

Another way to help prepare for and enjoy the Advent Season is to help decorate our church on December 4 beginning at 9:00 am. COME AND SHARE THE JOY!!

Pot Sizes	Number of Blooms	Price
6 inch	4-6	\$12.00
7 inch	8-12	\$ 20.00
8 inch	12-15	\$ 30.00
10 inch	20 +	\$ 45.00

Note: Prices remain the same as last year.

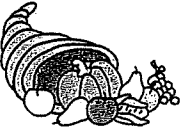
### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

QUANTITY	SIZE	COLOR	PRICE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

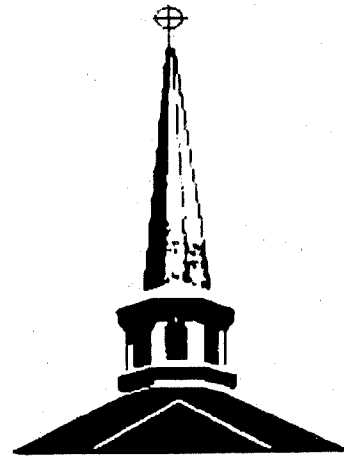
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember: Poinsettia pick up date is Saturday, December 11 in Fellowship Hall.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2004</h1>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	<b>3</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	<b>4</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.)  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir	<b>5</b>   9:00 p.m. Sr. High Lock-In → →	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m. - noon Reformed Institute Leadership Development at Westminster, Alexandria
<b>7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Congregational Meeting 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	<b>8</b>   7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>9</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>10</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	<b>11</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting   6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>12</b>   6:00-9:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out	<b>13</b> 8:30-4:00 p.m. Session Retreat (Ingleside)
<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Bingo Night (Workcamp Fundraiser)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>17</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>18</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 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	<b>22</b>   7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>23</b>   6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  ~ THANKSGIVING ~ (Office Closed)	<b>26</b>   (Office Closed)	<b>27</b>
<b>28 ~ Advent I ~</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	<h1>We Give Thanks</h1>			

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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

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December 2004

## KERRY ON...

Looking for a Christmas gift that will provide spiritual insight? I suggest giving a book that can be appreciated daily in 2005. Over the years I have used a number of books for daily devotional reading. Some are written or compiled to provide a reading for the full 365 days of the year. It is a real challenge to find one, however, that will sustain your interest for a whole year. One that did it for me was All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for our Time, Robert Elsberg, ed. In fact, in the following years I began to read biographies of Christians and found the experience to be very rewarding. I also appreciated Listening to Your Life by Frederick Buechner, which is a collection of 366 quotations from his twenty- seven books.

Most years, I read a number of books that can be read in short portions as daily readings. One of my favorites was Beyond Doubt: Faith Building Devotions on Questions Christians Ask by Cornelius Plantinga. It will last 135 days. Another is Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers by Donald McKim. It has 92 questions. Kathleen Norris wrote Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith and it will sustain you for 80 days. You could spend a hundred days with a book by Henry Gariepy, Songs in the Night: Inspiring Stories Behind 100 Hymns Born in Trial and Suffering. I have also appreciated 134 days with Borrowed Light: Hymn Texts, Prayers and Poems by Thomas Troeger for its freshness and creativity.

I encourage you to give such a gift, and maybe one for yourself.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*  
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*  
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Dec. 5 - Williamsburg Breakfast - CLASS WILL NOT MEET  
Dec. 12 - Elder Janie Jones: *General Assembly Update*  
Dec. 19 through Jan. 2 - CLASS WILL NOT MEET



## The Wright Note

This month I am devoting my entire article to the discussion of the upcoming Christmas presentation called CHIMES IN THE NIGHT, a musical for young voices by Allen Pote, with text adaptation by Tom S. Long. Our children's choirs, with choir alumni and friends, will present this story within a story at the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. In the past, this Sunday has been called Pageant Sunday. But this year the wonderful nativity story will be presented as part of an old legend about the chimes on Christmas Eve that refused to ring year after year, no matter how impressive the gifts offered.

The choirs have the musical responsibility and periodic dialogue. Six youth will provide narration and dramatic character roles. We have one of our own families to portray Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. We have a few spaces for young animals. If you have a child who wants to be a lamb, donkey or cow, please sign a chart that I have hanging outside the choir robe room door. The animals come forward at a designated time and have no singing or verbal roles. The shepherds do sing and will be played by the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir. The three kings and camel bearers are non-speaking roles. Upper elementary or junior high youth are welcome to sign the chart in the king category. Sign-ups for any of the non-speaking, non-singing parts are welcomed until Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

The choirs and actors are trying to prepare this musical during our weekly rehearsals. This is far less than the rehearsal schedules experienced in their schools. I am asking, however, for one rehearsal for everyone involved in the production to be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday morning, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Please arrive at 10:45 a.m. to receive costumes and stage direction before rehearsal starts at 11:00 a.m. There are other rehearsals scheduled for earlier that morning, but they are for the 19<sup>th</sup> evening program, not the musical for the morning of Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mark your calendars now for 9:30 a.m. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> to experience CHIMES IN THE NIGHT with our children's choirs and friends. This nativity story, told as part of the old Christmas legend, will NOT be repeated at 11:00 a.m. service.

Cindy

## In the Church Family



### Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard, Klara Rozner, Barbara Shamel and Dawn Thompson, at home; Jack Crawford at Kessler Rehab Center; Jim Jochum in Sorocaba, Brazil (jimjoch@aol.com); Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff.

### We celebrate with joy...

the birth of Eileen Jaclyn Lee, daughter of Claire Crawford and John Lee. The proud grandparents are Jack and Eileen Crawford.

### Thanks from the Reids

My family and I want to thank all those in our church who have bestowed upon us so many comforting words, cards, flowers, and calls expressing your sympathy on the death of my mother, Louise Love Riggs, this past October. Your loving kindnesses lend strength in our sorrow and give testament to the faith, nurtured by my mother, which we share with you in this community of Christian faith. Gratefully, Elsie Reid and Family

### New Members!

Harry and Merrily Tovmassian have lived in Maryland for 27 years. They are the parents of Tiffany, who lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband, and Troy, who lives in Maryland. The Tovmassians are avid Redskins and Terps fans. Merrily is a nurse information specialist at NIH and enjoys quilting, walking, and reading. Beyond his work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Harry's interests include reading, computers and sports. Harry and Merrily look forward to the fellowship of the congregation and activities as members of PPC.

### New Addresses and Information

Merrily and Harry Tovmassian  
12717 War Admiral Way  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-926-0614

John and Kay Norvell  
301-330-2468

Debbie and Megan McKune  
301-591-3755

Nick and Melanie Propps  
9407 Rosehill Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
301-365-1923

## DEACON'S CORNER

As I write this, I am on a train bound for the company office in downtown Manhattan, three blocks from where the World Trade Center towers used to stand. During my visits to the New York office, I would walk over to the shops in the WTC and pick up a gift for my oldest daughter, Sara. The last time I was in the New York office, I had to rush out to grab a train back to Washington in time to join Pam at the hospital; it seemed that Emily wanted to come into the world early. It was a joyous day and exactly three weeks later, September 11, 2001, the towers and the shops were gone. When the towers fell, I recalled that I had neglected to visit the shops when I was there the prior month; I figured I'd be back soon, anyway, and I'd stop by then. Of course, that will never happen. It represented a lost opportunity, albeit a rather trivial one--one that pales in comparison to what was really lost that day.

I wonder how many of the people in those towers, not unlike me, were putting off till tomorrow what could have been done today, waiting for the *right* day. That day, and what they had planned to do with it, will never come for them, at least not here on Earth. There is an old message that says to treat each day as the *gift* that it is from God, as tomorrow is promised to no one.

That brings me back to putting things off. We are in the season of Advent. We are *waiting* to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. This is the end of year, and many of us are following an old tradition associated with the New Year, taking stock and making resolutions. Things like, starting an exercise program, stopping smoking, making more time for family, and serving our community. We are *waiting* to do something good. Why are we waiting?

We belong to a church dedicated to service. In Cynthia Wright's "We Celebrate Together," the last line is, "We now renew that vision to share without reserve." I think the most important word in that line is, *now*. Well, I *now* renew that vision, to serve without reserve, my congregation, my community, and my family. As I think about that day, those people, my life, God's gifts, and that tradition, I wonder, can I really *afford to wait*? Isn't it time to stop *waiting* and start *doing*?

Chris Cyrway

## Marilyn's Message

*Last month I tried to present a rationale for our Sunday School and worship schedule, and the value of teaching children to worship by doing it. This month I've listed some suggestions for worshiping with children, either your own or someone else's. This is a revision of an article I wrote 4 ½ years ago.*

We are blessed in this congregation to have a growing number of children. We spend a lot of time and energy on teaching them the basics of the faith, so that as they grow older they will be able to make their own faith decisions. A big part of that education is teaching children how to worship. We begin this process at the very youngest ages by inviting children to participate in a portion of the worship service. At first and second grade, the focus of Creative Enrichment is worship education. By third grade, children are usually able to be in regular worship for the entire service. Here are some tips to helping your child (and you) get the most out of the worship service:

**Encourage your child to participate.** There are many parts of the worship service in which your child can participate. The Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed are examples, and they can follow along in the front of the hymnal if they're not sure of all the words. They also know, or quickly learn, the Gloria Patri and the Doxology that are sung every week. Encourage them to follow along in the hymnal, even if they can't sing the tune.

**Sit where your child can see what's going on.** I know, Presbyterians have a strong distaste for sitting in the front. But it really helps children to see better, and thus feel more a part of the service.

**Point out any special interest items.** Read through your bulletin as you arrive in church, and show your child where there is special music, or new colors for the liturgical season, or a baptism, etc.

**Let your child help.** Ask your child to mark the pages in the hymnal and Bible that pertain to the day's activities. Let them put your offering into the plate. Let them sign the friendship pad.

**For younger children, have something for them to do during the sermon.** We now have worship bags, specifically made for third graders as they transition into adult worship. These bags contain a picture Bible, Bible storybook, bookmarks to mark the

Bible and hymnal, and other helpful items that will keep hands busy and allow them to listen. Encourage your child to listen to the sermon by reading the scripture ahead of time, picking a word or two that you think will be mentioned often, and asking your child to count the number of times that word is said. You'd be surprised at how much they pick up of the message. Leave the toys at home.

**Talk about the service later.** Include the children in your discussions on the way home and at lunchtime. Ask what they liked best about the service; share positive comments you have. Note their good behavior in church. Children learn quickly from the examples their parents exhibit. Be sure they hear more positive than negative comments.

### COLLEGE STUDENT SUNDAY

Every year, on the Sunday after Christmas, the college students who are home for winter break lead the worship service. This year College Student Sunday falls on December 26. There is no Sunday School that day, but if you are in town, make a point of attending the worship service at 11 a.m.

## REMINDER

Remember to save your treasures to donate to the Youth Fundraiser Church Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 16, 2005!

### *Praying for the Children*

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

Sara Cyrway, Grace Pereles, Jordan Reilly, Shannon Baarman,  
Laura Bretscher, David Fasano, David Hay, Audrey Ling,  
Courtney Parr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl, McCartney VanBrunt, Haley White



## CHURCH NOTES

### The Associate Pastor Committee Report

*"It is good to have an end to journey towards;  
but it is the journey that matters in the end"- Ursula Le Guin*

Our committee is definitely having fun and learning as we journey in search of a new Associate Pastor of Congregational Care! At this writing we have received and reviewed 15 replies or matches online through [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Using criteria approved by our Session, we are moving forward in processing and considering these candidates. But since we are still so early on in our search, we are hoping to receive additional promising candidates that we may consider! Please mention this opportunity to friends or colleagues who may be interested, and let the committee know if you have any leads. You can view our Church Information Form on our PPC website [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org), and paper copies are also available at the church office. We have advertised our position in *Presbyterian Outlook*, a magazine that is read by clergy nationwide. And we will be forwarding our Church Information Form to a number of seminaries in the North and Mid Atlantic regions so that their students and alumni are made aware of our call. Please continue to pray that God will guide us as we make this exciting journey.

*The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, Gail Cannon, John Hummon, Ken Kent, Cyndy Mamalian, Tom McPherson, Susan Pereles, Mark Shalaby, Mary Margaret Smith, Bob Tietjen, Gail Yates*

As Alexander Pope said, it is **"Coffee, which makes the politician wise."** Gain a little wisdom and try some of our Equal Exchange Fairly Traded Gourmet Coffee produced by small farmers and their families in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We will be serving and selling the coffee throughout this holiday season. Look for our table during the fellowship hour after church on Sundays. Get some while supplies last!



*The Fellowship Committee*



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

**JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Sunday, December 19, 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

**HEAR:**

**Jesus Birthday Band  
Men's Chorus                  Women's Chorus  
Youth Chorus                Children's Chorus  
Soloists, Duets and Ensembles**

**PARTICIPATE:                                  ENJOY:  
Sing Christmas Carols                  Birthday Cake & Beverages**

**Make this Birthday Celebration a part of Your Christmas!**

***Join Your Church Family!***

**If you would like to participate in the band or any chorus,  
Please call Mary Margaret Smith at 301-299-3331.**



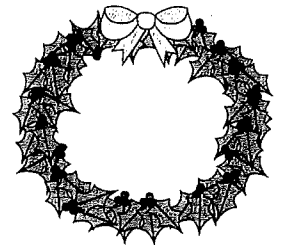
**The Williamsburg Breakfast**  
*Hosted by the PPC Deacons*  
Sunday, December 5, 9:30 a.m.



Celebrate the start of Advent!  
Ring in the Christmas season with spirited carols and fabulous food.

*Don't miss your chance to take part in the Giving Tree.  
Pick an ornament tag and spread the joy of Christmas to a family in need.  
Bring a breakfast bread to share  
and a small bell to ring during carol singing.  
Children will be served first and will then go to their classrooms.*

**Church Christmas Decorating**



- **Decorate the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and exterior**  
(Sat. Dec. 4 - 9:00 am, and Thursday, Dec. 23 - 12:30 pm)
- **Monetary Donation**  
(Use Flower Fund envelopes in pews and note "Christmas Decoration" on envelope.  
Excess funds donated to Montgomery County Hospice.)

Questions? Pam Drumheller 301-977-7973, Renee Jochum 301-309-0235,  
Eugenia Lee 301-530-5761, Roberta Meredith 301-963-8666

**USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
Additional ushers will be needed for the three Christmas Eve Services at 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m. If you can help, please contact Gary Niskanen at 301-258-7836 or John Sohl at 301-765-7645 for more information.  
Many thanks.

**November 28 ~ First Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
Adult Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion  
11:45 a.m. Children’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
NO youth groups



**11/29 – Mon.**

7:30 p.m. New Officer Training

**12/1 – Wed.**

12:00 p.m. Bible Study Luncheon  
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  
7:30 p.m. CE Committee

**12/2 – Thurs.**

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

**12/4 – Sat.**

9:00 a.m. Decorate Church  
11:00 a.m. Men’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
1:00 p.m. Deacons set up for breakfast  
1:00-5:00 p.m. Christmas Shoppers Sitter Service

**December 12 ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
Adult Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Children’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:15 p.m. Women’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
3:30 p.m. Caroling at Manor Care  
and Collingswood  
6:00 p.m. Caroling Dinner  
No Youth Groups



**12/13 – Mon.**

7:30 p.m. Session

**12/14 – Tues.**

9:30 a.m. Christian Living

**12/15 – Wed.**

12:00 p.m. “Steeple to People” Deadline  
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir

**12/16 – Thurs.**

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Women’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**12/18 – Sat**

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band  
10:15 a.m. Men’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
10:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal—  
“Chimes in the Night”

**December 5 ~ Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Children’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:15 p.m. Women’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth



**12/6 – Mon.**

7:30 p.m. Committees

**12/7 – Tues.**

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

**12/8 – Wed.**

3:00 p.m. Collingswood  
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

**12/9 – Thurs.**

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Women’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**12/11 – Sat.**

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band  
10:15 a.m. Men’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

**December 19 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Worship (Pageant)  
“Chimes in the Night”  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
12:15 p.m. Women’s Chorus (Jesus Birthday)  
(NO Youth Groups)  
5:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Band  
6:30 p.m. Men’s Women’s,  
Youth & Children’s Choruses  
7:00 p.m. “Jesus Birthday Celebration”

**12/21 – Tues.**

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

**12/23 – Thurs.**

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

**12/24 – Fri. (Christmas Eve)**

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

**December 26 ~ College Student Sunday**

NO Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:30 p.m. Lunch for College Students  
NO Youth Groups

**12/30 – Thurs.**

10:00 a.m. Take down Christmas decorations