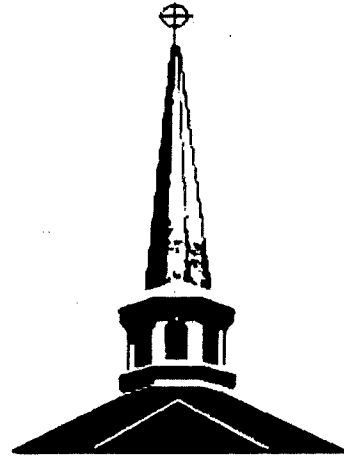


Potomac Presbyterian Church
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
JANUARY 2006

KERRY ON...

I am reading a new book by Eugene Peterson, Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: a Conversation in Spiritual Theology. He writes,

“Everything that Jesus does and says takes place within the limits and conditions of our humanity. No fireworks. No special effects. Yes, there are miracles, plenty of them. But because for the most part they are so much a part of the fabric of everyday life, very few notice. The miraculousness of miracle is obscured by the familiarity of the setting, the ordinariness of the people involved.”

As the New Year begins let's look for miracles. Something like a long and steady faithfulness is a miracle as is unselfish caring for a loved one who is sick. Children give of themselves in spontaneous acts and the grandparent generation behaves in playful ways. A person gives up some advantage to share with their friend. We might leave a warm bed and take the Metro to provide breakfast for strangers who we call guests. We learn something new that we thought was impossible.

The Lord provides our daily bread and the miracle of life sustained happens. Any time there is healing of body or mind or spirit we should be astounded. Joy catches us by surprise and its source is beyond reason. Beauty is sometimes hidden and with a miracle is revealed. Even tears are often signs in the everyday fabric of life.

Most of all it is a miracle that love has found us in the One who came to earth as a baby. He became the One who healed the sick, called disciples and was a friend of sinners. Even death could not obliterate that love and he lives to open our eyes to the miraculous in the midst of our ordinary days. May Jesus be praised now and always.

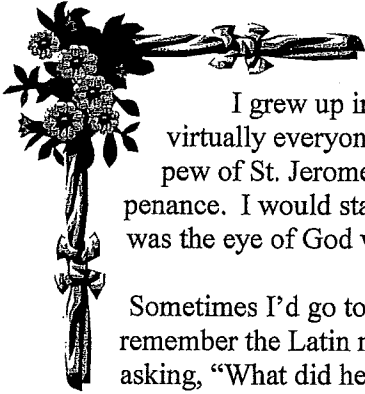
Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting
for Sunday, January 29, following lunch at 12:00 noon.

ADULT EDUCATION

January 8 - Film - Installation Sunday
January 15 - Dr. Alice Bellis - "Science, Scripture and Homosexuality"
January 22 - Dr. Tom Hougen
January 29 - Dr. Dewey Wallace - "Fear and Trembling" by Soren Kierkegaard

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



Leslianne

I grew up in the South Bronx; and, except for Leonor, Gloria and the Binder sisters, virtually everyone I knew was Roman Catholic. I spent many hours sitting in the back pew of St. Jerome's church waiting for my friends to finish their confessions and penance. I would stare at the huge eye painted in the dome of the ceiling. Lourdes said it was the eye of God watching us. You can be sure that made quite an impression on me.

Sometimes I'd go to Mass with Elsie and Lourdes. Believe it or not, I'm old enough to remember the Latin mass. What I remember most was poking my friends in the ribs and asking, "What did he say?" Turns out they didn't know either. Every now and then, though, a snippet of Latin would float my way and I would know what the Priest was saying. The phrase that comes to mind today is *Anno Domini Nostri Iesu Christi* – "In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ." This term has fallen out of common use in favor of the more inclusive "CE," short for Common Era. *Anno Domini* is a way of understanding our years that is linked to the birth of Christ. Before this Christian calendar was conceived, dates were reckoned from the date of the founding of Rome.

The Liturgical calendar also reckons its days beginning with the Birth of the Savior. The first Sunday in Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. The calendar then moves through the seasons of the Christian life. It is a way of telling the story of God-with-us and naming that presence in cycles of time.

Beginning with the Incarnation cycle, our liturgical calendar celebrates four weeks of Advent and the twelve days of Christmas, culminating in the Epiphany of the Lord. There is a brief period of what is called "Ordinary Time" before we enter the Easter Cycle which includes the forty days of Lent, fifty days of Easter and the Day of Pentecost. "Ordinary Time" resumes the Monday after the Day of Pentecost and extends through the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent.

Don't let the term "ordinary time" fool you. There is nothing "ordinary" about it. On the Sundays of Ordinary Time we again remember the death and resurrection of Christ. For Christians every Sunday is a "little Easter" in which we celebrate the unfolding of the new creation we are in Christ. Nothing ordinary about that!

Within the seasons we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the Transfiguration of the Lord, Ash Wednesday (which begins Lent), Passion/Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday of Holy Week (the Triduum), The Ascension of the Lord, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day and Christ the King Sunday.

(continued next page)

DEACON'S CORNER

We have just witnessed the Season of Advent and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although it is still almost two months away, the Season of Lent is approaching. It is a time for us to reassess and renew our faith. This year the Deacons are planning on a new (for PPC) series of events to aid in our reflection and renewal. Although planning is not yet complete, there will be two new events where we can gather as a community of faith to reflect on the season. One event is an Agape Dinner, an opportunity to celebrate our community of faith as in the time of the New Testament. The other event will be more focused on praise, prayer and worship. These events are being planned so that our church family can set aside time, individually and as a community, to reflect, pray, and spend time with God. Look for more details in next month's Steeple to People.

Chris Cyrway

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, and Colleen Mitchel at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; Marilyn Shankland, recovering from surgery at Sibley Hospital; Pat King recovering from surgery at home. Our prayers are also with Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries who have returned to Congo; Sherri Bond, whose mother died last month; Gary Niskanen, whose mother died last month.

We celebrate with joy the birth of...

Jack Leo Di Gioia, on December 24, 2005. Proud grandparents are Bob and Louise Plumb. Grateful parents are Sarah and Lou Di Gioia.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Joe Curry and Bernadette Defontes who were married at PPC by Pastor Stoltzfus on December 24, 2005.



Please Remember the Children of Our Congregation



This month we are invited to pray for our children in 4th and 5th grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Shannon Baarman, Laura Bretscher, David Fasano, David Hay, Audrey Ling, Courtney Parr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl, McCartney Van Brunt, Haley White, Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Samantha Klein, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Allison Nasson.

Women of Faith will be at the MCI Center July 21st (Friday evening) and July 22nd (all day Saturday). Nationally known Christian speakers and singers present the program. It's a nondenominational, spiritually uplifting event. Tickets are around \$75 (exact figure available soon). Olivia Mabeus is organizing a group. If you are interested in going please e-mail omabeus@earthlink.net no later than February 5.

PPC Providing Community Based Shelter Meals



The PPC Mission Committee is honored to assist the Community Ministry of Montgomery County with their Community Based Shelter (CBS). The shelter serves up to 36 adults. These individuals attend professional or treatment programs during the daytime hours working diligently on the issues related to their homelessness.

We need your help to provide and serve dinner for the week of February 5th through 12th. We also need volunteers to make 30 lunches during the week, and shop for miscellaneous supplies the shelter may need. There will be a sign-up sheet during coffee hour the last three Sundays in January, or you can call Rob & Janet Swisher (301-977-2650).



Thank you to everyone who has so generously helped in the past. We hope you can find it in your hearts to help out again for such a worthy cause.

Library: Have you checked out the church library lately? Several new books have been added. Also, a new book truck holds some of the newer additions and books pertaining to our Bible studies and Adult Education classes.

Talking With Christians by David Novak (296.396/NOV) would be a great book for further study about Karl Barth, Paul Tillich, Martin Buber and others. Novak offers interfaith discussions.

For all those who love to read Tolkein, The Gospel According to Tolkein by Ralph Wood (823.912/WOO) would be interesting.

Real Kids-Real Faith-Practices for Nurturing Children's Spirits by Karon Marie Yust (2 68.432/YUS) This is a balanced and useful guide to the spiritual growth of children.

Remember, write the date you take the book, your name and phone number on the book card in the back of the book. Then put the card in the long brown box. Any questions or suggestions, call Nancy (301- 299-3272).

As most of you know, I was raised Baptist and we didn't recognize all these cycles and seasons. Maybe that's why I am so fascinated by the concept of the liturgical calendar. I have a huge liturgical calendar mounted on the door to my study at the church. Come by and take a look. I like to pinpoint a day and see if I can tell the story associated with it. Can you tell the story of the Epiphany or the Transfiguration of the Lord? Do you remember what happened at the Ascension? These are *our* stories to remember and to tell and to celebrate.

These are the stories that help us stay grounded in the knowledge that every year truly is *Anno Domini Nostri Iesu Christi*. – May the *Anno Domini* in which you live and move and have your being be blessed!

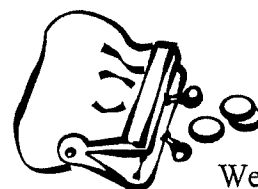
Leslianne Braunstein



BETH'S BLURB

We all enter the New Year with hopes and dreams for the year and somehow feel disappointed when we fail to see them realized. In the Christian Living class we are reading a book by Sunny Schlenger called *Organizing for the Spirit*. She suggests that sometimes we are too attached to the outcomes we've pictured in our heads to allow events to unfold differently, and in this way we create our own problems. When things turn out differently than we expect, we turn our energy into anger or disappointment, instead of looking to see what it is that God is doing in this thing. So this year, for my New Year's resolution, I am resolving to be open to the Spirit in all things, not locked into my expectations which can be false, but truly open to all that God can do, knowing that God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Beth Williams



Workcamp Fundraisers: Thank you all who supported the workcamp by purchasing alternative gift cards. We raised \$742!

We move into the New Year with more plans for fundraisers. This month the youth are sponsoring a **Coin Drive**. Do you have a jar of pennies or loose change that sits around your house looking for a good cause? This is an easy way to support the campers. Donate your pennies and your loose change to the workcamp. We will count the coins and give you a receipt for your donation. It is amazing how those pennies can add up when we combine them.

Parenting Class – resumes after a break during the holidays. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the parlor. We will be discussing communication and cooperation, values, sibling rivalry and more.

Red Cross Babysitting Class – In January or February we will be offering the Red Cross Babysitting class for any child ages 11 – 15. This is an eight-hour course which, upon completion, will make you a certified baby-sitter. The course provides the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. It covers five critical areas: leadership, safety and safe play, basic care, first aid, and professionalism. The cost is \$60 per person. This is open to church youth and their friends. Sign-up on the poster on the youth bulletin board.

Youth Ski Trip - February 17-20 - at Canaan Valley, WV
Depart Friday evening, Return Monday p.m. 2 full days of skiing!



Costs: Transportation and Lodging for three nights, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners: \$150.00. Lift Tickets and Rentals – see registration form for the specific costs for your needs. Also, you will need money for dinner on the drive up and 3 lunches. Tubing is extra. **To register:** sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board and turn in a registration form and pay by Jan.22. Space is limited, so sign-up early. Questions? Beth Williams - 301-299-6007.



Calendar dates to reserve for this summer:

College Habitat for Humanity Trip to North Carolina - Late May or early June

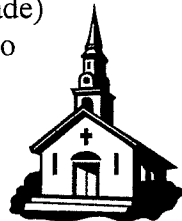
Sr. High Workcamp – June 24-July 1 (For those currently in 8th-12th grade)

There are still spaces available. It is not too late! Invite a friend to join us on this adventure of service and faith.

Vacation Bible School – July 10-14 (For ages 3 through 5th grade)

Regular or Extended Care hours available

6th grade on up are invited to participate as helpers.



Local Mission Week – July 24-28 for grades 6-12

We will be working at a variety of mission sites around the county and in the district in the mornings and spending the afternoons in fellowship together.

New Addresses:

Matthew and Kathy Clouse 7127 Maple Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912	Bob Garcia 333 Russell Avenue, #415 Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (301) 216-4498	Woody Wollesen <i>Katie, Matthew</i> 11006 Cross Laurel Dr. Germantown, MD 20876 (301) 972-6337
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Address Correction: Eric and Greta VanBrunt, *McCartney* and *Nathan*,
16105 Howard Landing Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (301) 987-7017.



The Fear of Particularity and the Decline of the Mainline Church

Reformed Institute's Third Annual Convocation

Saturday, January 28, 2006 9:30am - noon

National Presbyterian Church 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW Washington, D.C.

Speaker: Marilynne Robinson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction (2005), author of *Gilead* and *Housekeeping*.

Continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Presentation, 9:30 a.m. to Noon

There is no charge for this event.

Sophia House Needs Volunteers!

We need volunteers to deliver and serve meals to the women of Sophia House. PPC delivers dinner (and breakfast for the next morning) to 30 homeless women on the first Sunday of every month. If you are able to help us continue this mission in our community then please let Tracy Spencer know (tracyspencer@comcast.net).

The dates still available are:

March 5, April 2, June 4, July 2, August 6, October 1, November 5,
December 3, and January 7, 2007.

Our Associate Pastor, Leslieanne, will be away from January 8 (afternoon) through January 14 at Stephen Ministry training in Orlando, Florida. Our prayers and good wishes go with her.

Many thanks to all the folks who gave so generously of their time to decorate and “de-decorate” the church for Christmas this year! We are grateful to Carolyn Stump, Gail and Richard Cannon, Merrily and Harry Tovmassian, Susan Hougen, “Grandma” Pat McMillen, Leslieanne Braunstein, Susan and Joe Haynes, Dan, Pam, Dixon and Janie Drumheller, Janet Dunlop, Roberta Meredith, Nancy and Bob Tietjen, Heather, Bob and Robbie Rosecrans, Karen Wise, Rob Wescott, Ed Ebert, Bob Mecklenburg, Beth Williams, David Wescott, Trevor Johnson, and Peter Russo. A special thanks to Tom Hougen who stayed to vacuum up the mess.





Habitat for Humanity®
Of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Groundbreaking at Linganore Woods!

Twenty-four local families will eventually call Habitat's townhouse development, Linganore Woods, in Burtonsville, MD home. A very successful Groundbreaking Ceremony was held November 6, where staff, board members, committee members, local politicians, past and future Habitat homeowners all came together to celebrate this project. (http://www.gazette.net/stories/110905/burtnew211105_31933.shtml).

Despite this exciting event the project is still in the permitting process, which has been slowed due to the problems in Clarksburg and the county carefully reviewing their permitting process. Construction will likely begin in February on the first 12 townhouses. Contractors must complete all site work and foundations before the volunteers can begin work. A kick-off meeting for those interested in working on the houses will likely be held at the church in January. Send an e-mail to Susan and Robert Mitchell, PPC's volunteer coordinators, at susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com or rpm911@gmail.com to receive notices of construction activities and other HFH volunteer opportunities.

Non-Construction Volunteers Also Needed

Can't quite picture yourself at a construction site? No problem -- Habitat also has many other opportunities for volunteers! Examples include helping stuff envelopes, Holiday gift wrapping for donations, donating items to the Habitat ReStore (see below) or picking up donations, working in the store when it opens, and of course bringing lunches to the construction site. Many of these are one-time commitments and/or short time commitments that are easy to work into a busy schedule.

The Habitat ReStore Manager has been hard at work securing a warehouse location on Gaither Rd. in Gaithersburg. A grand opening will be held in mid January. If you or anyone you know has any new or used building materials, home furnishings, or appliances please do not hesitate to contact Kevin White at restore@habitat-mc.org, 301-990-0014 x16. All donations to the Habitat ReStore are tax deductible and also help raise funds to support projects locally. For an idea of what things can be donated please visit the Habitat ReStore section of the website (www.habitat-mc.org).

THE WRIGHT NOTE

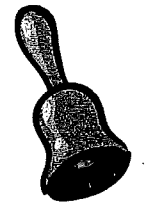
The deadline for newsletter articles was Dec. 15th. I was late and didn't get mine in until Dec. 17th – the night before the Christmas pageant. The following was the result:



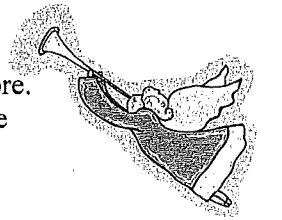
T'was the night before pageant and all through the church
Were sticky-note name tags where shepherds would perch.
The camels were resting beside the kings' pew
Where three gold-wrapped gifts were in elegant view.
There were animal risers, each one with a label
For sheep, cows and donkeys who'd make this a stable.



The halos for angels were all on the rack,
And the star and star robe graced the pew in the back.
The sign "Holy Family" was still good and tight,
From this pew they would journey to the song, "Silent Night".



The manger was centered beside Mary's stool
That was covered in burlap; no hay is our rule.
The tapestry hanging with its stars still a-twinkle
Was still a bit crooked from a year's storage wrinkle.
The script for the readers was carefully placed
On the small stand that greeted the people it faced.
The handbells were resting in diatonic order,
Ready to be rung as the harmonic border.
The music and bulletin were spread on the floor
Where Cindy would kneel down to direct from her score.
So turn off the lights and give one more quick glance
Around our dear sanctuary all dressed for the dance:
The dance for the birthday of Jesus, our King,
Glory to God, let all voices now ring!



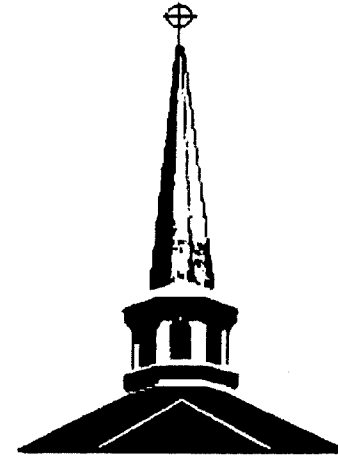
Thanks to all of the choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, celebration planners, directors and parents who helped us all experience a beautiful Advent and Christmas.

Cindy Wright

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2006</h1>						
1 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship No Youth Groups	2 <i>Holiday</i>	3 ~ School Begins ~ 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	5 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 8:00 p.m. St. Luke Christmas Eve	7 8:30 a.m. Deacon Retreat - Home of Roberta Meredith 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. St. Luke Christmas Day
8 9:00 a.m. New Officer Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship/Ordination and Installation of Officers 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 3:30 p.m. Youth Groups to movie - Dinner at church afterwards	9 3:30-4:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	10 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	11 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	12 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	13	14 9:30-12:00 Reformed Institute Class - <i>Jim Reichley</i> "Reformed Political Thought and the American Experience"
15 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	16 10:00-12:00 p.m. DAR Meeting 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	17 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	18 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 1:30 p.m. RI Program Committee 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	19 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	20	21 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Girl Scout Father/Daughter Dance
22 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Workcamp Meeting	23 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	24 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National)	25 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. Kerygma Bible Study	26 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	27	28 9:00 a.m. Reformed Institute Convocation - <i>Marilynne Robinson</i> National Presbyterian Church
29 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting 4:30 p.m. Youth Groups bowling	30	31				

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
FEBRUARY 2006

KERRY ON...

I recently read about a church bulletin announcement that included the following: "Next Sunday the congregations will celebrate the Lord's Supper." A person who was a new Christian called one of the members. "I have two questions," she said, "It's about this supper thing. Am I invited and how much will it cost?"

At first we might laugh and then upon further reflection consider how profound those questions really are. "Am I invited?" When I give the invitation to the Lord's Table I say,

This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust in
Him to share the feast which he has prepared.

We come not because we are worthy but because we are hungry, and not because we are faithful but to remember Christ's faithfulness on the cross. We gather at the Lord's invitation with all who trust in Him in every age and in every land.

What about the question, "How much does it cost?" It is free because it cost Jesus his life on the cross. "We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes," the pastor says. We sing,

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free.
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me.

The Supper is free. Discipleship is costly. When the feast is ended we go out to serve the One who gave his life for the world. We have been nourished and strengthened, if you will, for living as faithful disciples on the job and at school, in our homes and communities. In the closing prayer we hear the words,

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of the Spirit,
to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus. Amen

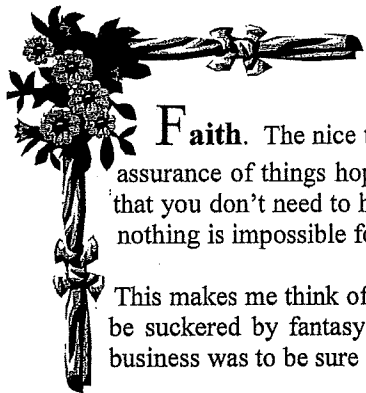
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O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29—12:00 NOON**

February 5 – 19 **ADULT EDUCATION**
 Dr. Dewey Wallace – "Fear and Trembling" by
 Soren Kierkegaard
February 26 - **(To be announced)**

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

Leslianne



Faith. The nice thing about faith is that we have a bona fide scriptural definition: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The best news about faith, though, is that you don't need to have a lot of it. According to Matthew, if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing is impossible for us.

This makes me think of little Susie in the movie, *Miracle On 34th Street*. Susie's Mom did not want her to be suckered by fantasy. Mom took great pains to raise a logical, rational child, and her first order of business was to be sure Susie knew there was no Santa Claus.

Susie's mother worked for Macy's and was very involved in the selection of the store's Santas. Susie was, therefore, very aware that Macy's Santas had pillow stomachs and fake beards. (And most of them drank a little too much.) One day, Macy's hired a Santa who claimed to be the real thing -- Kris Kringle, himself. Susie was not about to be taken in by this; but, gosh, this Santa was VERY convincing.

Susie didn't wish to admit she wanted to ask Santa for a present. Mr. Kringle, however, was persistent and Susie asked for a house. Not a doll house - a real house in the suburbs. Maybe, just maybe this guy really was Santa.

Christmas was celebrated at Mr. Kringle's retirement home, but there was nothing under the tree about a house for Susie. Susie was politely appreciative of the gifts she received; but, she was utterly disappointed. On the drive home Susie sat in the car murmuring, "I believe... I believe." Susie was torn between her doubt and her faith - and she couldn't relinquish either one.

Truthfully, this is where I spend a surprising amount of time - caught somewhere between my doubt and my faith, unable to relinquish either one. The faith part of me knows that God is at work in the world. But, when I read of the world's turmoil in the newspaper, my heart hurts. My doubt surfaces and I don't always know what to do about that. But faith does.

Faith is not the antidote to doubt. Faith and doubt coexist quite uncomfortably together. But even when doubt rages, faith seems to maintain the upper hand. We don't need a lot of faith to outmaneuver a whole lot of doubt. Faith keeps hanging in there no matter what doubt tries to do. A preacher I know once said "the point of faith is not that you will be certain. The point of faith is that you will continue worshipping."

When we worship we bring all that we are, including our fears and doubts, and we lay it at the cross of Jesus Christ. Our doubts and fears are no longer the center of our attention; Jesus is. That is worship. As we worship we encounter the living Christ, the heavy burdens of our hearts are lifted and our hearts have more room to perceive God working in the world. In worship the 'eyes' of our hearts are lifted and our faith is renewed.

We are assaulted daily with news of a broken, hurting world. There are times when it is all we can do to get up, get dressed and come to worship. On those days we may find ourselves having to rely on the worshipping community around us to carry us during the service. It doesn't seem like much, but showing up is at least mustard size faith. It is enough, and it will be renewed.

Leslianne Braunstein

DEACON'S CORNER

Greetings to the PPC family... the Deacons hope everyone had a wonderful New Year and your resolutions include spending more personal time with our Lord and Savior. As of this writing, we mark the beginning of another Deacon year. But first, let us recognize and thank our wonderful outgoing Deacons. Next time you see Chris Cyrway, Roberta Meredith, Beth Dart, and Kay Norvell, give them a warm hug of thanks for their three terrific years of service to our PPC family. I am personally thankful for their instruction, prayers, and leadership, which contributed to my first year being a rewarding experience.

This past Saturday, we welcomed our new class of Deacons and spent the day planning the events for the year. Roberta Meredith was again our gracious host, serving us scrumptious meals and opening her home for our discussions. Thanks again, Roberta! Please join me in welcoming Kathryn White, Eric VanBrunt, Mark Shalaby, Kathy McPherson, and Chris Kent. Full of the Spirit, bringing their unique talents and wisdom, we are blessed to have them.

The first big event for the Deacons will be an all new Lenten Program. Mark your calendars and save the date—**Wednesday—March 22—7:30 pm-PPC**. Your Deacons are planning an exciting new event as part of the Lenten season, an event you won't want to miss. There will be lively, inspirational music... familiar songs from some of today's most recognized artists. So bring the entire family and be ready to sing, clap, and dance to the Lord's resurrection. It will surely be an uplifting event and fun for the whole family.

And why will there be so much singing and music? To celebrate the Lord's gift of salvation and everlasting life for us. There will be readings from the scripture to put the songs into context, and tell the whole wonderful story. If you really want to have fun and make it more personal this year, plan to the chorus, volunteer to be a reader, play in the band, or just sing from your heart.

Again, mark your calendars and save-the-date. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new event. Check *Steeple To People*, the Sunday bulletins, and keep an eye out for posters in the Fellowship Hall.

Corey Eng

GREETERS NEEDED: Please sign up to be a greeter one Sunday in 2006. A new greeter chart is located in Fellowship Hall.



MEN'S BOOK GROUP will meet in the parlor on Tuesday, February 21st at 10:30 and discuss The Dante Club: A Novel by Matthew Pearl. Join us!

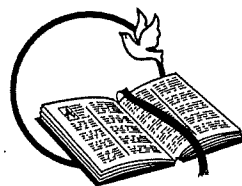
In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, Colleen Mitchel, Barbara Shamel and Marilyn Shankland, at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries who have returned to Congo. Our prayers are also with Mira and Irene Guo and the family of Ted Guo, who died on January 4th.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

the new PPC elders and deacons (see page 9).



IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Ted Guo. We commend him to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHILDREN OF OUR CONGREGATION

This month we are invited to pray for our children in 6th and 7th grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Hunter Casten, Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Stephen Kirchner, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Justin Lau, Amanda Lee, Katherine Ling, Molly Miller, 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, Mackenzie Phillips, Meili Sohl.

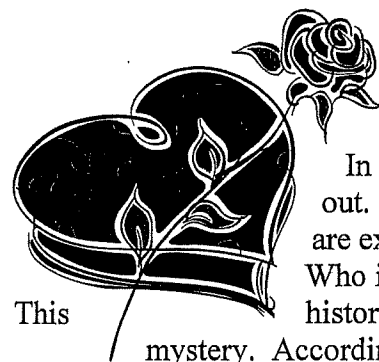
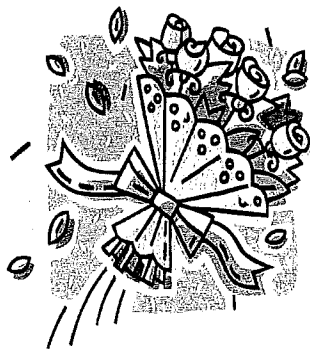


A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO...

...**KAREN WISE** for two years of "CARING AND WISE" co-editorship of Steeple to People. You will be missed! We wish you all the best in your newer endeavors.

... **BETH RUDNIC** for stepping up to the plate to fill the void! What a blessing you have been!

... **YOU, PPC**, for submitting your articles promptly by the 15th via steepeop@hotmail.com, or **Sonia Russo** at (301)-926-7580, or **Beth Rudnic** at (301)-869-4622.

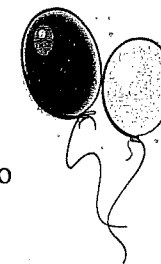


BETH'S BLURB

This

In the stores, the day after Christmas the Valentine stuff comes out. Every Feb. 14, across the country, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. Who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? history of Valentine's Day – and its patron saint – is shrouded in mystery. According to the History Channel, there are several legends. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest in the third century in Rome who defied a decree of the Emperor Claudius banning marriages and continued to perform weddings for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine was in love with a young girl, possibly his jailer's daughter. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine." In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius named February 14 in honor of St. Valentine as the patron saint of lovers. In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To "wear your heart on your sleeve" now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling. In 1969, Pope Paul VI dropped it from the calendar. However, the blend of Roman festival and Christian martyrdom had caught on, and Valentine's Day was here to stay. This Valentine's Day, I would like us all to take a cue from the Middle Ages and wear our hearts on our sleeves. The world should be able to look at us and see who our Valentine is – GOD!

Beth Williams



BALLOONS AND ROSES WORKCAMP FUNDRAISER

Following the service on February 12th, you can buy beautiful red roses and Valentine balloons for those special Valentines in your life. All profits will go towards Workcamp.

CALENDAR DATES TO RESERVE FOR THIS SUMMER:

College Habitat for Humanity Trip to North Carolina in early June.

Sr. High Workcamp – June 24-July 1: for those currently in 8th-12th grade.

Vacation Bible School – July 10-14: for ages 3rd through 5th grade; 6th graders on up needed as helpers. Regular or Extended Care hours available

Local Mission Week – July 24-28 for grades 6-12—local mission work in the morning; fellowship in the afternoons.

COME JOIN US!



THE WRIGHT NOTE

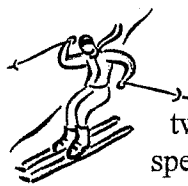
We have a tradition in our Wonderful Wednesday Choir. These kindergarten-through-second grade singers (only three this season) close every Wednesday afternoon's rehearsal by singing this simple benediction: "Thank you, God, for music. Thank you, God, for song. May the joy we feel while singing last the whole week long. Amen."

To sing this benediction, we form a circle, holding hands. Yuck! Sometimes a boy has to hold a girl's hand. We close our eyes and begin singing the prayer. Depending on the activity level of the day, this song can be either somber or sometimes tempered with a giggle or two. I have been known to say upon its completion, "I am so glad that God has a sense of humor."

At the close of one of our busy pre-pageant rehearsals during December, I looked at my watch, saw that the time for dismissal had already passed, and quickly said, "Thank you all for coming. You sang very well today. I'll see you next week. Good-bye." Noah Pereles promptly spoke up and in an urgent tone said, "But we didn't sing our closing prayer."

When one of our pastors delivers a benediction on a Sunday morning, and the Sanctuary Choir sings, please recognize the impact of this final blessing and the words sung in response.
Cindy Wright

WOMEN OF FAITH will be at the MCI Center July 21st (Friday evening) and July 22nd (all day Saturday). Nationally known Christian speakers and singers present the program. It's a nondenominational, spiritually uplifting event. Tickets are around \$75 (exact figure available soon). Olivia Mabeus is organizing a group. If you are interested in going please e-mail omabeus@earthlink.net no later than February 5.



YOUTH SKI TRIP - February 17-20 - at Canaan Valley, WV
Depart Friday evening. Return Monday p.m. 2 full days of skiing!

Costs: Transportation and Lodging for three nights, three breakfasts and two dinners: \$150.00. Lift Tickets and Rentals – see registration form for the specific costs for your needs. Also, you will need money for dinner on the drive up and 3 lunches. Tubing is extra. Call **Beth Williams at (301)-299-6007** for more info.



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS

A service of ordination and installation was conducted on Sunday, January 8th for four new elders and five new deacons at PPC. The introduction of the candidates was followed by the constitutional questions to them and to the congregation, followed by the ceremony of the laying on of hands and prayer and welcome. Congratulations and God's blessings on the following new Session members:

NEW ELDERS:

Tom Hougen
Gary Niskanen
Sonia Russo
Karen Wise

NEW DEACONS:

Christopher Kent
Kathy McPherson
Mark Shalaby
Eric Van Brunt
Cathryn White



SONG AND SCRIPTURE A LENTEN CELEBRATION PRESENTED



BY

POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DEACONS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND

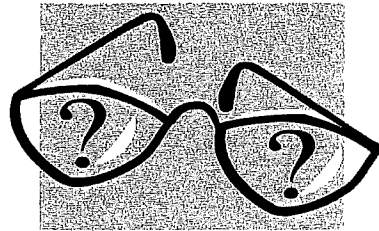
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please join us for fellowship, music and worship.

The program will include Contemporary Christian Songs, Scripture Readings & Hymns. If you would like to participate, please contact:

Wendy Kuhn (program) (301) 963-9239
Joel Miller (music) (301) 949-6865





INQUIRERS' SERIES

A three-part Inquirers' Series will be held on March 5, 12, and 26 for those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership, at Potomac Presbyterian Church. (There will not be a meeting on the 19th because of the Berger Lecture.) 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, April 2, and then be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact **Julie McMahon, 301-869-4639**, or **Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007**, with any questions.

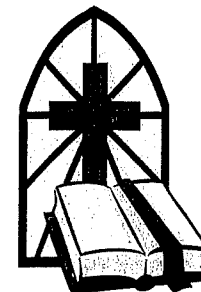
2006 SESSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

All PPC members and friends are invited to serve on a committee in 2006. All committees, except Christian Ed, meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the church. CE meets on the fourth Monday. If interested please contact us.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR (S)	
Christian Education	Janet Dunlop 301-838-0583	or Karen Wise 301-299-2826
Fellowship	Judi Miller 301-949-6865	
Mission	Tom Hougen 301-299-8391	or Sonia Russo 301-926-7580
Outreach	Frank McKenna 301-963-0127	
Property	Ed Ebert 301-469-0222	or Gary Niskanen 301-258-7836
Stewardship	David Simpson 301-762-0545	
Worship	Bill Malone 301-365-1175	or Fran Ligler 301-983-3482
Personnel	David Simpson 301-762-0545	or Nettie Props 301-365-0367

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL MISSION WORK THROUGH PPC

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER IN ROCKVILLE:

The PPC Mission Committee is honored to assist the Community Ministry of Montgomery County with this shelter. It serves up to 36 adults, who attend professional or treatment programs during the daytime hours, working diligently on the issues related to their homelessness. We need your help to provide and serve dinner for the week of February 5th through 12th. We also need volunteers to make 30 lunches during that week, and shop for miscellaneous supplies the shelter may need. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, or please call **Rob and Janet Swisher (301)-977-2650** for more details. Thank you!

SOPHIA HOUSE IN ROCKVILLE: The PPC Mission Committee is looking for volunteers to prepare meals for this 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 food for the next morning's breakfast. We are looking for individuals, families, Girl Scout troops, youth groups, book clubs--and anyone else who might be interested—to pick a date and sign up on the red poster in the Narthex. Financial support is available. Please call **Tracy Spencer at (301)-251-9340** for dates available for volunteering. Thank you!

THE HABITAT RESTORE IN GAITHERSBURG: A Habitat for Humanity store, which will accept and sell donated building and remodeling materials, will be opening in February. If you are interested in becoming a Habitat ReStore volunteer, i.e., sales staff, cashier, administrative worker, etc., please come to a Habitat ReStore Volunteer information session on **Monday, January 30th at 7 pm** at 9110 Gaither Rd., Gaithersburg, MD, or call **(301)-990-0014** for more information, if you can't make it to this session.

PPC HABITAT HOME: Habitat for Humanity has received the sediment control permits for the Linganore Woods townhouses and will soon be able to begin doing groundwork. They hope to have volunteers on site in March following volunteer orientations in February. Contact: **Susan Mitchell** at susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com.

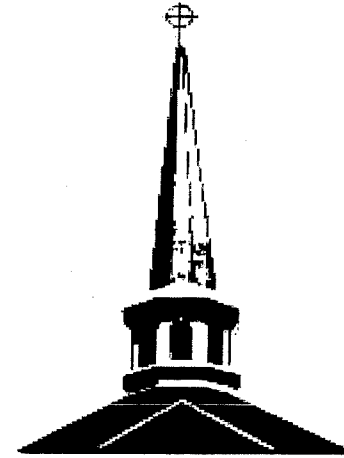


PRAYER TEAM: Our prayer team invites you to share your needs and concerns. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. Envelopes for prayer requests are also available in the church office. Please call **Roberta Meredith at (301)-963-8666** if you have any questions regarding this ministry or if you are interested in becoming a part of the Prayer Team.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2006</h1>						
			1 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir <i>NO Kerygma Bible Study</i>	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course
5 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Youth Groups: Super Bowl Party <i>CBS Shelter Week >>> Sat. 2/11</i>	6	7 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	8 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) <i>NO Wonderful Wed. Choir</i> 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 10:00-3:00 Potomac Area Newcomers Club <i>NO Handbell Choir</i> <i>NO Sanctuary Choir</i>	10	11 9:30-12:00 Reformed Institute Class - <i>Jim Reichley</i> "Reformed Political Thought and the American Experience"
12 <i>NO Sunrise Singers</i> 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	13 3:30-4:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	15 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	16 10:00 a.m. Ingleside Coffee 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18 Youth Ski Trip - Canaan Valley, WV (Back Monday afternoon)
19 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care <i>NO Youth Groups</i>	20 <i>Holiday</i> 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	22 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 12:00 p.m. Reformed Institute Lunch 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24	25 9:00 a.m. Reformed Institute Leadership
26 <i>YOUTH SUNDAY</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Parenting Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4 th Mon.)	28	March 1 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service			

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
MARCH 2006

KERRY ON...

“What wondrous love is this,” is the first line of one of our beloved hymns and a profound theme to contemplate as we begin the season of Lent. As Jesus was forty days in the wilderness, we are invited to prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter for forty days. It is a time to step aside from what is reasonable and consider the love of God that is beyond reason.

One of America’s greatest black preachers is Rev. Gardner C. Taylor and he wrote about being reasonable and the love of God.

The greatest things in life are not reasonable. The mind may make sensible comments about these greatest things in life, but they are not reasonable. The love of a mother for her child has reasons, but it is not reasonable. The love of a man for a woman, and the other way around, is surely not reasonable. Beauty, a sunset, the great plunging torrents of Niagara, the final tremendous thunders of the “Hallelujahs” in Handel’s Messiah, the catch in the throat when the sun sets over the sea striking a line of gold on the calm waters touch us at a different level from logic and reason.

And the love of God for us is not reasonable.

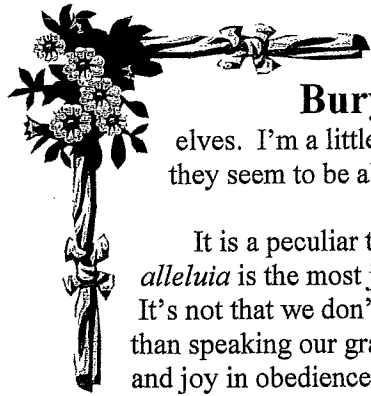
I invite you to participate in the variety of Lenten opportunities here at PPC beginning with

ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION	
March 5, 12	Dr. Bruce Douglass – Georgetown University and The Reformed Institute—“Reform Christians in the Age of Progress: 1870-1930”
March 19	Berger Lecture – Dr. Ian Torrance President, Princeton Theological Seminary
March 26	Dr. Bruce Douglass, (continued)

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.



Leslianne

Burying Alleluia. I have to apologize to the “Steeple to People” elves. I’m a little late getting this reflection in. I’ve been gathering up my *Alleluias* and they seem to be all over the place.

It is a peculiar tradition of Lent that we do not say or sing the word *alleluia*, because *alleluia* is the most joyful word we have for praising God. *Alleluia* is the song of the angels. It’s not that we don’t praise God during Lent. It is that our praise takes other forms. Rather than speaking our gratitude and joy using the song of the angels, we express our gratitude and joy in obedience – intentional, thoughtful obedience to God’s will.

Lent is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting. It is a period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our fidelity to our baptismal covenant. At some undefined point in my journey with Christ I began to take Lent very seriously. Now it is my Lenten practice to read our baptismal covenant every day. At the end of each day I ask myself: Did I sincerely resist all evil? When I sinned, did I catch it quickly, and did I take the time to ask God’s forgiveness on the spot? Did I, today, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ? (Did people experience the love of Christ today through what I did and said?) Did I seek and serve Christ in all persons? Did I love my neighbor as much as I love myself? (Was I open to the voice of the Holy Spirit that often comes to me through other people?) Have I given any of my time and energy to God’s justice and peace among all people? Have I treated with respect and dignity everyone I have encountered today?

Now, I think I’m a pretty good person. I don’t intentionally treat people badly. I’m fairly certain I can get through a day without breaking any of the major Commandments. But intentionality is the key to Lent. It is about being conscious of how I live my life before God in the community. When I’m paying attention, I realize I’m not as good as I think I am, and I need to more closely and honestly look at those Commandments. Suddenly I discover Lent truly is a season of penance, reflection and fasting.

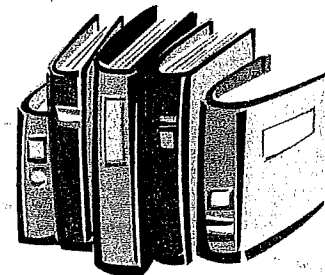
A tradition that appeared as early as 4th century was bidding farewell to *Alleluia* on Transfiguration Sunday (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday). *Alleluia* was sung with great abandon on Transfiguration Sunday. Choir boys then processed out of the church carrying *alleluia* in a coffin. The coffin was buried, and *alleluia* was not heard again until it burst into glory with great surprise on Easter morn. That is when we greet each other with the words: “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” And then, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we will worship and adore God’s glorious name with the praise song of the angels: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.*

Leslianne Braunstein

DEACON’S CORNER

With spring quickly approaching, we look forward to the Lenten season and Easter. The Deacons are busy preparing for this season and beyond. As Lent approaches, we can all use this time to reflect on our faith. “...(T)his season engages us in the process of confronting who we are by nature, who we are by God’s purpose and redeeming action, and what we can become by divine grace,” (from Calendar: Christ’s Time for the Church by Laurence Hull Stookey). This important season offers us a chance to reflect on the cycle of life, as well as God’s redemption. To help us with this reflection, **devotionals** will be available for the congregation in the narthex. Please consider picking one up if you are interested. Also this year the Deacons are preparing a new **Service of Song & Scripture** to celebrate the season of Lent. This service will be held the evening of **March 22nd** and is designed to be a celebratory family evening. Also, your Deacons are preparing for another **All Deacons Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 2nd**. This is a chance to meet your deacon and mingle with the congregation. We hope to see many of you there! And finally, as Deacons, one of our goals is to strengthen relationships between the congregation and the church, so your Deacon will be calling you soon just to check in. We wish you a happy spring.

Tracy Spencer



LIBRARY NEWS

Have you seen all the new books yet? They have been out on the book truck in the library for easy browsing. We have added several books on The Reformation to augment the adult studies. Many other books have been added also, three of which are noted here. **The**

Worshipping Life (264.05/HIC) by Lisa Hickman is a book of meditations on the order of worship. Each meditation on an element of worship reflects on how that particular element plays out not only in a service of worship, but also in everyday life. **Belonging: Faith in the Neighborhood** by Lucinda Mosher explores what it means to live and worship among many faiths. And I must mention Marilynne Robinson's book, **The Death of Adam**. This book, unlike **Gilead**, is a book of essays. As she says, "they undertake to demonstrate that there are other ways of thinking." **HAPPY READING!**

Nancy Tietjen

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, Colleen Mitchel, Barbara Shamel and Marilyn Shankland, at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries who have returned to Congo. We pray for Mike's continued recovery. We also pray for Fred Clark (Ed's father), and Bob Conley, both recovering from surgery; Roy Whitesel, whose daughter-in-law, Mary, was killed in an automobile accident; and Tom Hougen, whose father, Joel Hougen, died last week in Austin, TX..



FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY: MARCH 26



We have scheduled a "Friendship Sunday" on March 26, 2006.

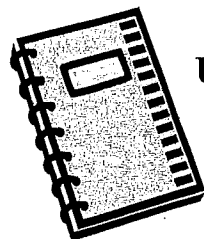
This is a great time to bring a friend, a neighbor, an extended family member or co-worker to our church. Our service, music, youth activities and "friendship" coffee and cookies will focus on the warm and welcoming spirit that is a hallmark of PPC. So, remember March 26 and bring a friend.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHILDREN OF OUR CONGREGATION

This month we are invited to pray for our children in 8th grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

**Kathleen Arnold, Dixon Drumheller, Brett Kirchner,
Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee, Kevin Wyatt**



UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

Look on the Outreach table in Fellowship Hall for the latest draft. Please check your contact information and make any corrections. Thank you.



BETH'S BLURB

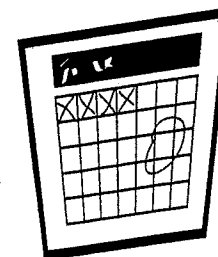
Many of you have met, at least figuratively my cat, Felicity. She was the one that got stuck up in a tree and had to get rescued by the tree man. Well, once again, Felicity has helped me to grow deeper in my understanding of our loving God. On Super Bowl Sunday, Felicity did not come home. Now Felicity is one of two cats I have, the younger troublesome one. I also have Duncan, an older more responsible creature. There has been no sign of Felicity in the weeks since the Super Bowl, but I know if she were to show up on my doorstep, I would kill the fatted calf and welcome her home, much to the disgust of Duncan. I would feel, as God must feel when each of us returns to Him, that we "must celebrate and rejoice, because this one was dead and has come to life; (s)he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:32)

Beth Williams



CHRISTIAN LIVING begins a new study for Spring based on Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer prize winning novel, Gilead. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am with our next meeting being March 14. Whether or not you have read Gilead, women of all ages and stages are invited to join us for lively discussions and Christian fellowship. The discussions will be guided by the book Gifts of Gilead. The record of a life cannot be told in lists of names and dates. Stories are the way we tell our lives, say authors Amy Lignitz Harken and Lee Hull Moses. Through the story told by Marilynne Robinson in her novel Gilead, Harken and Moses take readers on a journey to discover the gifts of their own life stories. We will travel alongside the life of Robinson's character John Ames III and be introduced to some of the great theologians and reflect on the life of humble ministers. We will explore biblical concepts of stories, prayer, legacies, and blessings. In Gifts of Gilead, readers share John Ames III's quest for answers, join him in prayer, and maybe even gain a little insight into humanity's relationship with God. Join us as we join John Ames. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$11.00 each.

RESERVE THE DATE: April 2 following worship, the Workcampers invite you to a **Mystery Dinner Theater**. The Workcampers will be serving a delicious meal and presenting a mystery play for the audience to solve. Admission is by donation. Watch for more announcements. Also, save your treasures. The Workcampers will be sponsoring another **Rummage Sale** in May and will need your donations. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure.





THE WRIGHT NOTE

Lent is coming. From a musical perspective, Lent has a certain sound that differs from the other liturgical seasons. The melodies and harmonic settings are more somber and contemplative in nature. With or without words, music prepares our minds to hear the message of Christ's love and supreme sacrifice.

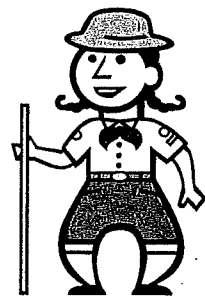
This year when you come to the **7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday** service, you will hear the handbell choir ringing beautiful Lenten hymns that will prepare you for the season. On the **first Sunday of Lent** you will listen to **The Musical Offering Flute Quartet** playing inspiring music during the prelude, offertory, postlude and Communion. On **March 12** you will hear **the children in the Sunrise Singers** chanting "**Wade in the Water**" from the Black Spiritual tradition. The depth and intricacy of **Mozart** will enlighten our worship as the Sanctuary Choir sings "**Kyrie Eleison**" from *Missa Brevis K. 275* on **March 19**.

No matter what the season, I am reminded of the words from Psalm 104 as I select music for our worship services:

*I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.*

Cindy Wright

ATTENTION GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS



If you are interested in earning the **God and Family (Grades 4-5)** or the **God and Church (Grades 6-8) Religious Awards**, please let **Beth Williams** know.



SCRIPTURE A LENTEN CELEBRATION PRESENTED



BY
POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DEACONS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please join us for fellowship, music and worship.

The program will include Contemporary Christian Songs, Scripture Readings & Hymns.

If you would like to participate, please contact:

Wendy Kuhn (program) (301) 963-9239

Joel Miller (music) (301) 949-6865



INQUIRERS' SERIES

A three-part Inquirers' Series will be held on **March 5, 12, and 26** for those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership, at Potomac Presbyterian Church. (There will not be a meeting on the 19th because of the Berger Lecture.) 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, April 2, and then be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact **Julie McMahan, 301-869-4639**, or **Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007**, with any questions.



GREETERS NEEDED: Please sign up to be a greeter one Sunday in 2006. A new greeter chart is located in Fellowship Hall.

THE FLOWER FUND for arrangements in the sanctuary for Sunday worship offers many opportunities to honor loved ones and special occasions. After Sunday worship, the flowers are taken to members and friends who would appreciate them. A gift of \$25 for each Sunday is requested. Sign-up chart is in Fellowship Hall, or please drop a flower fund envelope in the collection plate.

“To the parishioners of Potomac Presbyterian Church –
On behalf of the children of Dhi Qar Province, here in Iraq, we'd like to thank you for your generous contribution to our fundraising drive. The clothes and toys will truly benefit all the boys and girls, many of whom are now going to school because of the schools we (the U.S.) have built over the last 2+ years. Thanks again for being so generous and opening up your hearts. You made a difference!!

Col. Sharon Braund
 The Men and “Woman” of the
 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
 Tallil Air Base, Iraq



Thank you to John and Carol Clouse who washed the American and Christian flags in the sanctuary and to Country Squire Cleaners in the Village who dry-cleaned the Scottish flag with the Cross of St. Andrew, which was presented to us by the church in Girvan.

Thank you to all you contributed to the Souper Bowl offering. We collected \$319.30 which will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. The national total as of February 14 was over \$3.2 million. The Steelers may have won the real Super Bowl, but the Seahawks came out ahead in ours, \$184 to \$135.30. However, the real winners are those who will not need to go hungry one more night. Thank you for supporting this youth-led initiative!

WORKCAMP COIN DRIVE



Do you have a jar of pennies or loose change that sits around your house looking for a good cause? Donate those coins to Workcamp! We will count the coins and give you a receipt for your donation. It's amazing how those pennies can add up when we combine them together. For the next several weeks there will be a Workcamper available at Coffee Hour after worship to receive your donation. Thank you!

Prayer Team: 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. Envelopes for prayer requests are also available in the church office. Please call **Roberta Meredith at (301)-963-8666** if you have any questions regarding this ministry or if you are interested in becoming a part of the Prayer Team.

MAKING PPC A MORE CARING PLACE

Stephen Ministry Commissioning Service

On **Sunday, March 12**, our church will commission **eight new Stephen Ministers** to this caring ministry of our church. We are delighted to welcome **Penny Boyd, Dave Boyd, Susan Hougén, Sherry Johnson, Nancy Miller, Charlie Miller, Beth Sherfy, and Merrily Tovmassian** to our fine group of Stephen Ministers.

This year we also had five trainees from other area churches...one from Geneva and four from St. Francis Episcopal in Potomac. So far we have trained 48 Stephen Ministers....19% of whom are from other churches. We are very pleased with the outreach of our Stephen Ministry program.

All Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training before they begin their ministry of Christian caregiving. Stephen Ministers will continue to develop their skills as they take part in continuing education during the next two years as they walk with Care Receivers.

Leslianne Braunstein, who attended the Stephen Ministry Leadership conference in January will be commissioned as a Stephen Leader. Leslianne will join our dedicated Leadership team which includes: **Karen Karch, Sandy MacFarlan, and Ruthanne Stoltzfus. George Hunt and Pastor Anne Benefield** from Geneva Presbyterian Church on Seven Locks Road are also members of the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team.

We are profoundly grateful to the members of the 2004 Stephen Minister class who have now completed their formal commitment to Stephen Ministry. These individuals have given hundreds of hours of caring to our parishioners who experienced all kinds of needs from friendship to bereavement, illness and confinement. The current team includes: **Diane Chapin, Janet Dunlop, Claude Gordon, Jean Granum, Maggie McKenna, Pat Stow, and Karen Wise.** We are very grateful for their commitment to this caring ministry.

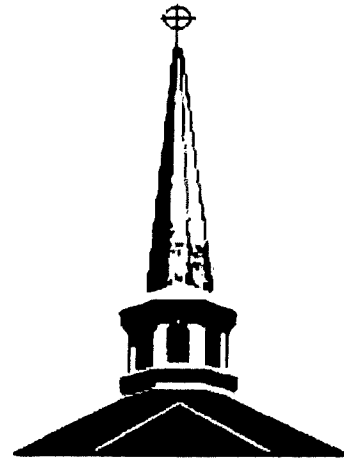
Stephen Ministry is grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a system through which members of our community are trained and organized to help provide supervised Christian caregiving to members of our congregation. Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who bring Christ's healing love by listening, understanding, accepting and praying for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time. Stephen Ministers are compassionate, skilled and full of faith. Stephen Ministers are trustworthy and loyal. All interactions between Stephen Ministers and their care receivers are strictly confidential.

If you or someone you know might benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Leslianne or Pastor Kerry.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2006			<i>March 1 – 7:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service</i>			
			<i>March 22 – 7:30 p.m. – Deacon's Lenten Service</i>			
			1 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4 12:00-3:00 p.m. Reformed Institute - Event for Confirmands
5 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - 1 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	6 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee	7 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	8 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11 9:30-12:00 Reformed Institute Class - <i>Jim Reichley</i> "Reformed Political Thought and the American Experience"
12 <i>Girl Scout Sunday</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - 2 11:00 a.m. Worship/Stephen Ministry Commissioning 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	13 3:30-4:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	15 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/ Berger Lecture 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	20 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	22 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacon's Lenten Service	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - 3 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4 th Mon.)	28 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	29 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	31	

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
APRIL 2006

KERRY ON... ... Once again we draw near to the day we call "good." On a particular Friday on a hill outside the city wall He took upon himself the depths of human sin and rebellion. An unholy alliance of political and religious power conspired to execute an innocent man. The crowds joined in and shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

As an old preacher once said at a Good Friday Service,
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
The disciples had all deserted him, one had betrayed him and one denied that he ever knew the man.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
Some women stayed and watched the horrible agony of the cross.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
His mother was there watching as her son suffered the taunts of the crowd.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
At the end even God had forsaken him.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
We were there as the old spiritual suggests, when they nailed him to the tree, when they pierced him in the side, when they laid him in the tomb.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming.
When human pride and injustice and violence prevails it is like that dark day on a hill outside the city.
That was Friday but Sunday is coming!
When our own sin and rebellion carries the day we see the long dark shadow of the cross on which the Prince of Glory died.
That was Friday but Sunday but Friday is coming.

Sunday is coming and we will sing, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

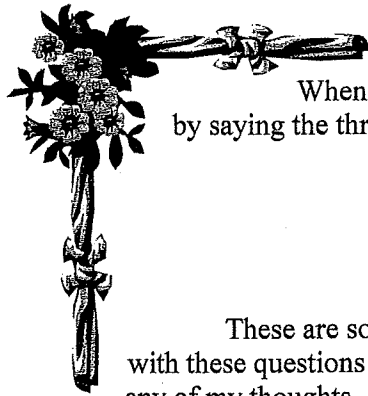
EASTER SERVICES: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

April 2	Dr. Bruce Douglass – Georgetown University and The Reformed Institute—“Reform Christians in the Age of Progress: 1870-1930”
April 9	Leslianne Braunstein, Associate Pastor
April 16	EASTER SUNDAY--CLASS WILL NOT MEET
April 23	Rev. Donna Marsh, Director National Capital Presbytery, New Church Development

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



Leslianne

When I took Systematic Theology in seminary, our professor began the course by saying the three essential questions of the Christian life are:

Who is God?
What has God done?
How do I respond?

These are some pretty big questions – too big to ponder in one sitting. My problem with these questions is that they're so broad. They don't have any "pegs" on which to hang any of my thoughts, so I need a tool to help me focus my reflections. The tool I generally use to help me answer these questions is our Baptismal Covenant. I choose the Baptismal Covenant because it is in my baptism that I receive my Christian identity. In the Baptismal Covenant I have a guide to help me understand who I am as God's child and how I am to live out this Covenant with this God who loves and cares for me. I invite you to consider these three essential questions in light of the promises we make to God:

The Baptismal Covenant
(Who is God? What has God done?)

- Do you believe in God the Father?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

(How do I respond?)

- Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Jesus Christ?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

To be continued . . .

Grace and peace,
Leslianne Braunstein

DEACON'S CORNER

Once I see the bright yellow forsythia blooms and the pink buds on the red bud trees, I know Easter is just around the corner. During the Lenten Season I've been reading the devotional booklet by C.S. Lewis and praying each day as part of the Deacon prayer challenge. I've found it more meaningful to think that others in PPC might actually be praying a similar prayer at the same moment. (Strength or safety in numbers maybe?) Lent isn't a very comfortable time, but I think it's that discomfort which makes Easter so special once it's finally here. I find the Maundy Thursday service especially puts me in the right place spiritually, and Easter Sunday dawns brighter – even if it's cloudy out. I hope your Easter dawns bright!

Please come to the fellowship time after the service on April 23rd for the Deacon's Coffee Hour. It's an excellent opportunity to visit with your deacon and others in your Parish.

Susan Mitchell

Deacons' Lenten Challenge

Lent is a time for reflection, contemplation and prayer in preparation for the celebration of Easter. This Lenten season the Deacons are challenging each member of the church to join together in preparing their hearts by scheduling a daily appointment with God. In this time you are asked to pray for yourself, your church family and all God's children to witness God's glory.

"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

To assist you in your daily quiet time, Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex.



In addition, **Daily Lenten E-Scriptures** are available at www.potomacpresbyterian.org.

A Message from the Stewardship Committee

During Worship and at Fellowship Hour over the past month we've been reminded of some of the valuable and various activities that PPC supports through volunteer efforts and our "Good Gifts". From Christian Education and Stephen Ministry to serving meals at shelters, from improving our own property to building Habitat for Humanity houses, our mission in the community is large and growing. We want to thank all of PPC for your efforts and pledges, and encourage all of us to think about our priorities throughout the year in our giving of "time, talent and treasure."

Matt Spencer

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Bob Conley, Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, Colleen Mitchel and Barbara Shamel, at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries to the Congo. We pray for Mike's continued recovery. Our prayers are also with Keith Rust's father, Bill Rust, who is in hospice; Charles Trenkamp, infant son of Kara and Rob Trenkamp, who was welcomed home from the hospital on March 12; and Jane Jordan, whose husband, Bob, died in Hilton Head, SC on March 15.



We celebrate with joy the birth of ...

Patrick George McMillen, on March 14 in Wilmington, NC. Proud grandmother is Pat McMillen; grateful parents and sister are Brett and Kathy McMillen and Colleen. Grant Lawrence Dick, on March 21, to Jung and George Dick. Proud grandmother is Judy Dick.

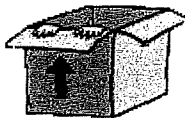
NEW ADDRESS

Carrie Smith-Coons
5623 Spellman Rd.
Houston, TX 77096

Carrie and her husband Shawn have accepted new positions at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas. Carrie was our seminary intern during the summer of 2001. Godspeed to Carrie, Shawn and their son, Ben, as they begin their new ministry.



NEW DIRECTORIES may be picked in Fellowship Hall on the Outreach Table.



VISIT THE BIG YELLOW BOX! A list of needs for **Stepping Stones Shelter** in Rockville has been posted on the box next to the Mission Kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for remembering the less fortunate by making a donation to the box.

Carolyn Stump

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHILDREN OF OUR CONGREGATION

This month we are invited to pray for our children in 9th grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Daniel Bond, Sabrina Chanock, Jenni Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kathryn Haynes, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Britten Mindnich, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton, Maggie Scott



BETH'S BLURB

We are going into high gear with several wonderful **Workcamp fundraisers** in the next several months. Please do support the young people who will be going on a "challenge" camp doing repair and construction work on homes for the needy in Lockport, New York.

Mystery Dinner Theater, Sunday, April 2 - PPC Youth will host the first ever Mystery Dinner Theater presenting the play *A Prom to Die For!* It will be fun for everyone. Just join us in the fellowship hall following worship.

- By Donation
- Interactive – you decide who did it
- Full course meal
- Youth actors and servers

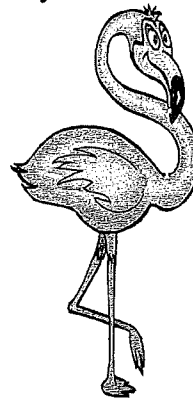
Flamingo Surprise Fundraiser, April 23-May 21

Help the youth raise funds for their Workcamp trip by adorning someone's yard with the beautiful springtime color of pink-- that is, with a pink FLAMINGO or two or three, or more.

Place your FLAMINGO order during church Sunday morning and they will appear on the lawn of your choice that evening. The youth will remove them the following week only to move them to beautify someone else's yard. If for some reason you don't

want your yard adorned, you may purchase FLAMINGO INSURANCE at the same cost as the flamingos.

- 1 flamingo for \$20.00
- 3 flamingos for \$50.00



The youth will be taking flamingo orders from April 23rd until May 21st. Order forms will be located in the fellowship hall along with a box in which to place your FLAMINGO orders. Please place your order and a check made out to PPC (with Workcamp in the memo) in the box. A youth will be available on Sunday mornings by the box if you have any questions about FLAMINGOING.



Rummage Sale – May 6

The Workcampers will once again be having a rummage sale. As you do your Spring Cleaning, start collecting your unwanted items. We will begin accepting donations after the fellowship time on April 30. The more donations we have, the more money we can raise. If you would like to help with the rummage sale, adults are needed during the week to help sort and price the items. Please let Beth know if you would like to help. This is a wonderful way to reach out to our community as well as clean up our own homes.



**Habitat
for Humanity**

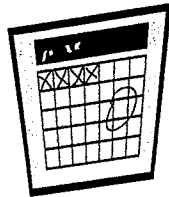
In addition to the 24 people who will be going to New York, this year we have **eight college students** and **Kerry and Beth** who will be going to **Avery County, North Carolina** to work with **Habitat for Humanity** from **June 4-11**. Avery County is a beautiful area in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina. However, because of the beauty of this area, over the past twenty years a radical transformation has occurred. As more people discover the area, the prices of real estate have increased such that many middle- and lower- income families cannot afford to purchase land to build a home or to locate a mobile home. While land costs were increasing, the local manufacturing industries that were the backbone of employment for the county's middle class left. As a result of these two economic forces, it has become almost impossible to find and secure affordable housing. Since its start in 1993, Avery Habitat has built 23 homes, changing the lives of over 100 men, women, and children. Groups from all over the country will be working to build 3 homes this summer; and we are looking forward to being a part of this. If anyone is interested in joining us, please talk to Beth or Pastor Kerry.

Beth Williams

RESERVE THE DATES:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - July 10-14 from 9:30 am – 12:30 am for children age 3 – 5th grade. Older children and youth are invited to participate as helpers. Extended care will be provided for those children who need to stay longer. Registration will begin in May, but be sure to save the dates now.

Join us as we go on a special Treasure Hunt!



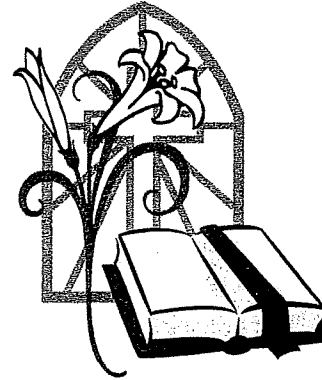
LOCAL MISSION WEEK - July 24-28 is for all those who will be entering 6th grade through 12th grade. We will spend a week doing mission projects in the morning in the local community, the county, and the District, and we will spend the afternoons doing recreational activities. Participants will receive 20 hours of community service.

SECOND ANNUAL EASTER EGG DECORATING NIGHT

Hippity-Hop on over to Fellowship Hall to decorate eggs on **Friday, March 31, 7-8:30pm**. This fun activity is for everyone. Families with young children are encouraged to attend. Friends and family members are welcome! Paint, dye, sprinkle, decoupage your own masterpiece. The eggs have been blown, so these will become family heirlooms to enjoy for many Easters. If you have any questions, please feel free to call **Judi Miller 301-949-6865**.



EASTER



SERVICES:

- April 9 Palm Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.**
- April 13 Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.**
(Supper followed by Communion Service)
- April 16 Easter Sunday Services 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.**

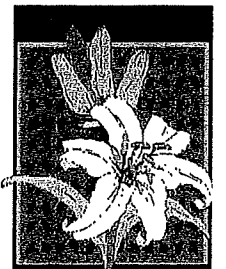
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 13 at 7:00 pm

“On this very night, years ago in Jerusalem, the night before he was killed, Jesus . . .” At this special service we will try to imagine ourselves there in the Upper Room, to hear, see, taste, and smell what happened. This service will be an intergenerational service. The children will have been learning about the Passover and Communion in Sunday School and will be participating throughout the service. We will begin the evening as Jesus did with a simple meal with friends. We will be reminded of all that God has done for us through the symbolic foods of a Passover meal, and we will be reminded of how Jesus took two elements of that Passover meal, the bread and the wine, and gave them new meaning. We will experience what it felt like to leave that room and to go to a place of prayer to be with God as we move into the sanctuary for a time of scripture, sacred music, and the Lord’s Supper. And we will leave filled with the knowledge that “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son . . .”

EASTER FLOWERS

The Easter Sunday Flower Fund is a very special PPC tradition. Friends and family members who have influenced our lives in special ways are remembered through the flowers decorating our sanctuary, with their names listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Surplus funds are donated to the Montgomery Hospice Society. Please complete the flower envelopes, located in the pews, and place them in the offering plate. Or, mail the envelopes to PPC, attention Teresa Seldomridge, marked “Easter Flowers” on the outside. **Donations must be at PPC by Palm Sunday, April 9th.**



(continued from page 5)

At this point, you may be confused because you don't have note names or a score in front of you. It is hard for you to envision the tune and setting. This is exactly where some of the magic occurred on that Sunday when this song was created. The children were SO excited about creating this song and wanted desperately not to forget it. They decided that they needed to put it all down in notation so that they would have a guide for the next time they wanted to sing and ring it.

They, not I, grabbed the markers and eraser board. Kayla appointed herself as scribe and began drawing the staff lines and clefs. The students themselves figured out the rhythmic structure and the note location for the tune and the chords. I helped them put the words with the appropriate notes on their musical staff. They would have done that, too, had the clock not indicated that it was time to move on to Sunday School. I have never seen five choristers more enthusiastic than Lia, Kayla, Sara, Katherine and Audrey as they left our creative rehearsal that morning. On occasion I have had senior moments, but on that wintry Sunday, I experienced a magic moment of creative discovery with five stimulating students.

Cindy Wright



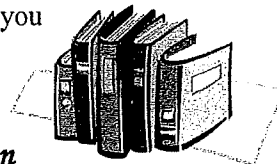
Second Annual Theological Education Sunday Sunday, April 30

Again this year we are devoting a special day to increasing our recognition, understanding, and appreciation of the Theological Seminaries that prepare and sustain our pastors, missionaries, educators, and lay leaders. Seminaries also provide theological and biblical research, as well as resources critical to the vitality and growth of the whole Church. Theological Education Sunday is a time to celebrate our past gifts --- and to consider our responsibility for continued support.

Ed Clark

Library News

Many new books have been added to our collection. We have more books about the Reformation to add to Bruce Douglas' adult education series. Other titles that may be of interest are: **In the Beginning: 'The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language and a Culture** by Alister McGrath and **Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport--Making Connections in Today's World** by Richard Mouw. Doesn't that title make you curious? You'll find these and other new books on the book cart in the library. If you want to borrow a book, don't forget to sign the book card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box on the shelf. If you have any suggestions or questions, give me a call (301-299-3272). *Nancy Tietjen*



THE WRIGHT NOTE A Magic Moment

If you were in worship on March 12th, you heard the Sunrise Singers Choir sing an anthem and a benediction response. Did you notice the composer credits for the response at the end of the service? The bulletin recorded it as JESUS IS MY FRIEND written by the Sunrise Singers Choir. Aren't you curious as to how this happened? Well, let me take you back to January 15, 2006.

It certainly didn't start out to be a four-star Sunday. I unlocked the church at 8:30 a.m. to prepare for our 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers rehearsal. It was an extremely cold, windy Martin Luther King holiday Sunday. No school on Monday. Choir attendance would no doubt be low today. It was.









By 9:05 the only five who were coming filed expectantly into the frigid choir room and begged to go across the hall to the warm loft to rehearse. So we grabbed our folders, my interval charts which I had so carefully prepared for today's lesson, the dry eraser board, markers, my Musical Alphabet Song chart and the case of choir chimes, and hurriedly set up shop in the loft.

I started with the Musical Alphabet Song, asking the five children to each pick two chimes from the case that would contribute to the melodic theme. Whoever had the first note would be the one to start ringing the song. At that point Lia raised her hand and asked, "Can't we first ring the chimes all at the same time, just to see how it sounds?" Always willing to let children experiment with sounds, I agreed. On cue, the children rang an emphatic ten-note tone cluster. Afterwards, I saw the grimaces and heard negative verbal responses to the dissonance. I mentioned that certain contemporary composers use clusters of sound as a deliberate technique for their compositions.

Then I asked them what would be the effect if we separated our cluster of sound into three sections? Still not knowing who held which notes in the A major scale, I pointed to Lia and Kayla and directed them to ring together (group 1). Then I cued Katherine and Audrey (group 2) to ring after them. We went back and forth in half notes for what seemed to be a developing pattern. Then I brought in Sara who still had not rung her two notes. Her notes (group 3) rounded out our pattern. With each group ringing half notes and the last group ringing a whole note, we rang this sequence:

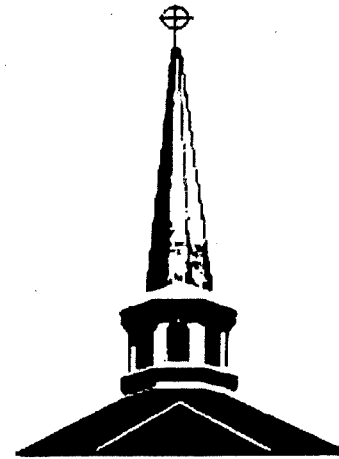
1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 3-2, 1-2, 3-2, 1.

As we rang our accompaniment pattern, I began chanting, "Jesus is my friend", using mostly E's and just two F sharps. The children joined in and began adding words. Soon our chant became, "Jesus is my friend. I'll love Him to the end. Amen. Amen."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2006</h1> <h2>SUNDAY, APRIL 30 - Theological Education Sunday</h2>						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. New Members meet with Session 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ New Members Received 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Mystery Dinner Theatre (workcamp fundraiser)	3 3:30-4:30 p.m. Brownie Troop	4 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30-2:30 p.m. DAR Silent Auction 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	6 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	7	8 9:30-12:00 Reformed Institute Class - <i>Jim Reichley</i> "Reformed Political Thought and the American Experience"
9 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Stepping Stones 	10  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	11	12 Bible Study <i>will not meet</i> 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) Wonderful Wednesdays Choir <i>will not meet</i> 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	13 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Supper and Worship Service 	14 	15 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline
16 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:20 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Groups 	17 Holiday ~ office closed	18 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Stud 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	20 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Deacon Coffee Hour 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	24 7:30 p.m. Session & Deacons (Joint meeting)	25	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	27 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28	29 Sr. High Lock-in
30 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner					 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" 	

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
MAY 2006

KERRY ON...

Pastor and theologian Garret Keizer responds to a line we have all heard, "I'm very spiritual, but I'm not religious at all."

Religion is potluck suppers, for Christ's sake – disciplines and dogmas and, most trying of all, pews full of *other people*. Those who like spirituality without religion are modern Gnostics who claim to have special knowledge of the divine. Their ultimate goal in emancipation from the vile world of matter, and their deepest spiritual need is to be delivered from the body, including the body politic. (Harper's Magazine, February 2006)

The latest version of Gnosticism has made it to TV and the popular press with the publication of "The Gospel of Judas." One of the lines of this text which is a copy made around A.D. 300 has Jesus telling Judas, "Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom."

The canonical Gospels are too earthy, too human, too concerned with the physical for this Judas version of the Jesus story. They too are full of mystery but not the kind that is revealed to certain insiders. Their mystery has to do with the astounding claim that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. It is never explained but simply presented and leaves us with many unanswered questions. Jesus of the Gospels is incredibly complex and intriguing. We are invited to follow where he leads into the world as we know it with its pain and sorrow, joy and gladness. We are called to find him in "the least of these", not in some realm of heavenly mystery.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

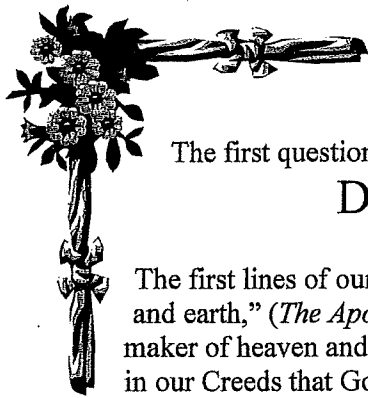
ADULT EDUCATION

May 7, 14, 21 and 28

Sandy MacFarlan - Student of Theological Studies at
Wesley Theological Seminary

"Techniques for Studying the Bible as Applied to the Gospel of Mark"

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



Leslianne

The first question of the Baptismal Covenant is:

Do you believe in God the Father?

The first lines of our creeds say: "I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth," (*The Apostles Creed*) and "We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen." (*The Nicene Creed*) We affirm in our Creeds that God is the maker of all creation. God is the source of all that is, including things we may know nothing about and things we do not understand. Our affirmation that God is "almighty" says something about the "dynamic character of God's work as creator and ruler of all that is."¹

I like that. God is dynamic. "Characterized by continuous change, activity, or progress; Marked by intensity and vigor; forceful. (See synonyms at active.)² It helps me to remember that God is active in the world, even though it is difficult to see most days³. God's action is continuous; God is always working toward God's goal of "shalom." God's intent on shalom is charged with divine energy that is eternally vigilant. "He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." (Ps. 121:4). God is "solid." The Psalmists often refer to God as a "rock." A rock provides protection and shelter and it is very solid. God's solidness is reliable: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22).

But what does it mean to say that God is "the Father?" When God is called the Father, we do not mean God is the father of the world or the father of men and women. When we say God is the Father, we mean God is the Father of the Son – the Word who becomes flesh in Jesus Christ. It is through Christ that we receive the spirit of adoption by which we call God Father. (See Romans 8:15-17)

To say that God is the Father is to say God is in relationship with Jesus; and, by adoption, it is to say that God is in relationship with us in a very particular way. It is not a boss/slave relationship. It is a close, intimate, loving, compassionate relationship. "As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him." (Psalm 103:13). (*Cont'd on p.3*)

¹*The Apostles' Creed*, Book of Confession: Study Edition, (Louisville: Geneva Press), ©1996 by the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

²Excerpted from *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Third Edition Copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products N.V.

³Trust me, there will be more on this in the months ahead

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard and Barbara Shamel, at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries to the Congo. We pray for Mike's continued recovery. We also pray for Cheryl King, whose father, Leslie Somers, died; for Keith Rust, whose father, Bill Rust, died; and for former PPC member Jane Jordan, whose husband, Bob, died.

We celebrate with joy the birth of ...

Grant Lawrence Dick, on March 21. Grateful parents are Jung and George Dick; proud grandmother is Judy Dick.



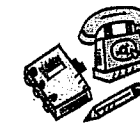
PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation and their families. This month we are invited to pray for our children in 10th and 11th grades.

Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahan, Teman Mebane, Thomas Niskanen, Connor Phillips, Brent Rose, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, David Scott Hannah Self, Zandy Chanock, Carole Dempsey, Christa Sohl.

NEW ADDRESS:

**Matthew and Pam Rice, Hannah & Lily
27062 Falling Leaf Drive
Laguna Hills, CA 92653**



THANK YOU FROM COMMUNITY MINISTRY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER PROGRAM:

The PPC Mission Committee sends a special thank you to everyone who shopped, prepared, and served meals for the residents of the Community Based Shelter (CBS) this past February. We genuinely appreciate your time and especially the extra special attention you gave to the residents. We received a lovely note from the shelter and wanted to share it with each PPC volunteer.

Janet Swisher

Dear PPC Congregation Volunteers,

I want to thank you so much for the wonderful job you did providing meals for the Community Based Shelter earlier this month! Your dishes were delicious and servers exceedingly kind, making "your week" a favorite among the residents! I know they would want me to send their heartfelt appreciation for your generosity. You surely brought sunshine into their lives!

Many blessings, Cindy Hall, CBS Volunteer Coordinator

DEACON'S CORNER

April showers (although minimal this year) spring May flowers. Clearly spring is in full bloom as we enter the month of May – a month in which we celebrate our mothers with an entire day devoted to them! In celebration of mothers all around the world I would like to share with you a poem that is dear to me titled “A Mother’s Love,” by Jill Lemming.

*There is no love, like a mother's love, no stronger bond on earth...
Like the precious bond that comes from God, to a mother, when she gives birth.
A mother's love is forever strong, never changing for all time...
And when her children need her most, a mother's love will shine.
God bless these special mothers, God bless them every one...
For all the tears and heartache, and for the special work they've done.
When her days on earth are over a mother's love lives on...
Through many generations, with God's blessings on each one.
Be thankful for our mothers, for they love with a higher love...
From the power God has given, and the strength from up above.*

Peace, *Cathryn White*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jim and Carol Dietzel, Deacon, *Kitty Cowie*
13806 Longacres Preserve Ct.
Potomac, MD 20854
301-963-3954

Mike Williams, Deacon, *Bob Rosecrans*
8871 Winding Hollow Way
Springfield, VA 22152
703-913-1426

Phil and Janice Page,
Jacqueline and Alex, Deacon, *Cathryn White*
1705 Crestview Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854
301-340-7243

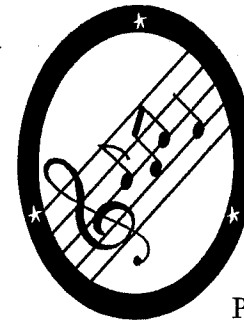
Nick and Sylvia Visnich
Nicholas and Matthew, Deacon, *Corey Eng*
10816 Willow Run Court
Potomac, MD 20854
301-983-0660

KOMEN NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006

The **2006 Komen National Race for the Cure** will be held **June 3, 2006** on the National Mall, Washington, DC, and our team from PPC, with captains **Marnel Williams** and **Cindy Mamalian**, is already registered. We need at least **30** people to qualify to carry our sign. Registration fee is **\$30 for run/walk participants**. See one of our team captains to register, or register online: www.nationalracefortheure.org. Our Team Code is **PPC**. If you register online, please print a copy of your registration as a record, so we can count you in.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE!



The Wright Note

The After-Glow

Newsletter deadlines on Easter weekend mean that certain staff members writing articles finally get around to the task on the day after. I am still basking in the glorious events of yesterday's Easter celebration at Potomac Presbyterian Church. My anticipation was high as I left the church late on Saturday after practicing the organ and setting up all the handbells for the next morning. Nettie had transformed the sanctuary into a fragrant spring garden. I knew that the Sanctuary Choir, the Handbell choir and the soloists had spent hours in rehearsal and were ready to lead our worship celebration. Another Easter was just waiting to bloom.

And bloom it did both at 9:00 o'clock and 11:00 o'clock. The alleluias rang forth in sight and exuberant song. I particularly want to thank the loyal musicians who rang and sang throughout Lent and on Easter. Beautiful sounds don't just happen; they are planned and practiced. Every choir member, from the five-year-old to the over eighty, cooperated fully with rehearsal and service schedules. Serving God in song is a joy. Leading these servants is my privilege. Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Cindy Wright



“**Leslianne**”, continued from page 2)

This, my friends, is a very radical concept. No other faith system makes this claim. Oh. I know lots of people would say that God is Father – but they tend to mean God is the father of the world; the father of humankind. We mean something very different. We mean God is the father of Jesus the Christ, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God is continually – dynamically – working out God's goal of peace and reconciliation not only between God and humans, but also among humans. When we say the Creeds, we affirm that through Christ we enter into a unique relationship with “the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.”

Thanks be to God.

Leslianne Braunstein

BETH'S BLURB

Several weeks ago I passed my one year anniversary here at PPC. But it didn't feel like it until this Sunday when I had the chance to celebrate my first Easter with you. (Last year the first Sunday I was here was the Sunday following Easter.) I have had a chance to experience Vacation Bible School, Rally Day, Advent and the Jesus Birthday Band, Ash Wednesday, Lent and Holy Week, and now to celebrate our Risen Lord, Alleluia! It has been a year of blessing and healing for me as you all have welcomed me and my ministry. I have enjoyed getting to know you, worshipping and studying with you, and growing in faith with you. In the Kerygma class several weeks ago the curriculum mentioned that Christians are known as Easter people, and I want you to know that that is how I have experienced you. You are a congregation that has felt the presence of the Risen Lord and seek to live out his commandments faithfully and hopefully in a hurting world. Thank you for letting me be Easter people with you!

Beth Williams



This year the children's Sunday School offering will go to purchase animals through the Heifer Project. It is Heifer's mission to end hunger in the world. At the end-of-the-year celebration and teacher recognition breakfast on June 4, the children will be deciding on which animals they would like to purchase.



HEIFER ENVISIONS....a world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet.



HEIFER MISSION IS...to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.



HEIFER'S STRATEGY IS...to "pass on the gift." As people share their animals' offspring with others—along with their knowledge, resources, and skills—an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.



HEIFER'S HISTORY: This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for almost 60 years. Today, millions of families in 128 countries have been given the gifts of self-reliance and hope.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE

Linganore Woods

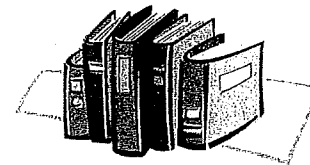
Currently the site work is to be completed by late summer and house construction should begin by September. The timetable is tight and permit acquisition might slow down the project. The goal is to be under roof by the first week of December so that winter weather will not prevent construction work.

Habitat ReStore is now open for business on Gaither Road, Gaithersburg. The Habitat ReStore is a retail outlet specializing in quality new or used building materials, home appliances and furniture, all sold to the general public at deeply discounted prices! There are many volunteer opportunities in addition to donating items for the store. Visit www.habitat-mc.org for more details.

First Annual Habitat Golf Outing, Friday, May 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. You drive the balls . . . we'll drive the nails! Whiskey Creek Golf Club, Shotgun Start, Scramble format. *Entry Fees:* Individual Golfer - \$250 - Includes round of golf, cart equipped with GPS system, driving range, tee bag & goodies, continental breakfast, box lunch & awards buffet. Corporate Foursome - \$1,000 - Includes foursome of golf, all benefits listed above and complimentary tee sign (\$200 value). *Sponsorship Opportunities Available*

Visit www.habitat-mc.org for the brochure and registration form (Adobe Acrobat Reader required), or for more information, contact: **Miriam Gandell, Development Director at 301.990.0014 x 13.**

Please e-mail **Susan Mitchell** at susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com if you would like to receive e-mail updates about volunteering or participate on the PPC construction team.



LIBRARY NEWS It was wonderful to have so many people come to the library table at coffee hour last month. Look for me again this month with more new books. All new books, and some of particular interest, are put on the book truck to make it easier for you to find them. I want to highlight the few books we have on

the history of our hymns and other sacred music. **Patrick Kavanaugh** has written, **The Music of Angels: A Listener's Guide to Sacred Music from Chant to Christian Rock**. He lists recommendations, some history, and short biographies of composers. Another fun book is **Amazing Grace** by **Steve Turner**. This is the fascinating story in which the author "embarks on a journey to trace the life of the hymn." **Wonderful Words of Life** by **Richard J. Mouw** and **Mark A. Noll** is about the history and theology of Protestant hymns in America. If you would like to give a book in memory, or in honor, of someone, I have a list of some titles we'd like to add to our library shelves.

Nancy Tietjen (301-299-3272) - 9 -

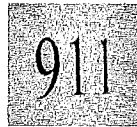


Vacation Bible School July 10-14

Join us at SonTreasure Island VBS! When your children come to SonTreasure Island, they'll have a boatload of fun playing exciting island games, creating cool crafts, singing fresh upbeat songs, and enjoying tropical snacks. But most of all, they will discover that there's treasure on this island. More precious than gold, more lasting than diamonds, it's the greatest treasure of all – God's love! Each day your kids will learn how Jesus' life illustrates God's love as described in 1 Corinthians 13. Children age 3- 5th grade are invited to the island, older youth are encouraged to participate as helpers. The regular program goes from 9:30- 12:30 am and extended care is offered in the afternoons. Registration forms are available in the narthex or you can register on-line by going to www.potomacpresbyterian.org and clicking on the VBS link. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please call **Beth Williams at 301-299-6007**.



PPC PLANS TO TRAIN FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES



Emergency

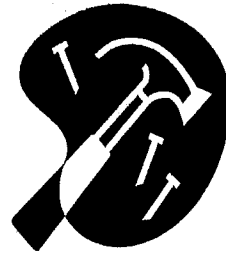
The Church is looking to put into place a more comprehensive plan to provide emergency first aid to worshippers and

other visitors to the church until the local rescue squad arrives. The Property Committee will replace the present, rudimentary first aid kit, and a cadre of church members will be certified in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and operation of automatic cardiac defibrillators (ACD), as well as standard first aid.

Four hours of training is required for certification, and two identical classes have been scheduled for **Monday, May 1st, at 6:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 6th, at 8:30 a.m.** Class size is limited, and trainees will be selected to maximize coverage. Medical professionals in the congregation, as first responders, are invited to audit to gauge the ability of the cadre. There will likely be a limited number of class slots for volunteers, and those members of the congregation wishing to volunteer should leave their names with Teresa Seldomridge in the church office. In addition, for planning purposes, those members already holding current certification are invited to list their availability with Teresa. Questions may be directed to Elders **Bill Malone, Tom Hougen, or Ed Ebert**.



SAVE THE DATE! LADIES' LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH



WORKCAMP REPORT

MYSTERY DINNER THEATER:

We hope you enjoyed the "Prom to Die For." I would especially like to thank **Rob Wescott** for being a good sport as the third prom queen candidate and for being our "Dancing Queen." He actually had the most votes for the guilty party, some of the reasons being:

"He just looks guilty," "He wanted it more than life itself." "He is a male 'Show' 'Van-ist'," "He's a natural Prom Queen and knows it!" "He wanted to be the first male prom queen."

But there were some good reasons for it to be someone else, too:

Carl, the janitor. "He wanted Tiffany to win- Watch out Rob! You're next."

If Tiffany wins it raises his status. As janitor he might have had access to chemicals used as cleaning agents. He has not finished High School and "Carburetor" was misspelled – he wrote that. As Prom King he'd have something to put on his resume for a new job.

It's an honor to be the date of the Promo Queen. If Carl got rid of the competition and have Tiffany win and Carl would become popular, like he's always wanted.

Or it could have been Caleb. He didn't want to go to the prom with a grease monkey. Or Tiffany, she's up to no good. She probably didn't even know that she killed her.

Or Mr. Bardelucci. He felt threatened by Alexis because she was smarter than him and was going to expose that he forged his degree. He just because he was a little too weird!

Or even Alexis' mother, Mrs. Robinson, who may have taken her daughter to Brazil and the beach boys only paid attention to Alexis, not her.

And then there was me, Miss Noftslinger, with the second largest number of votes. It may have been "Because she has a lesbian relationship with Tiffany (not that there is anything wrong with that) and wanted to ensure Tiffany's win as prom queen" or another theory, she did it in order "to preserve the institution of brain dead prom queens."

Whoever it was, we hope you enjoyed the show. We appreciated your support.

We raised \$750 towards Workcamp!!

Beth Williams


FLAMINGO SURPRISE FUNDRAISER, April 23-May 21

Please continue to support the **Workcampers** this month with the **Flamingo Surprise!** Surprise your friends and neighbors with a cheerful pink flamingo to enjoy for a week. Order and insurance forms are available in fellowship hall.



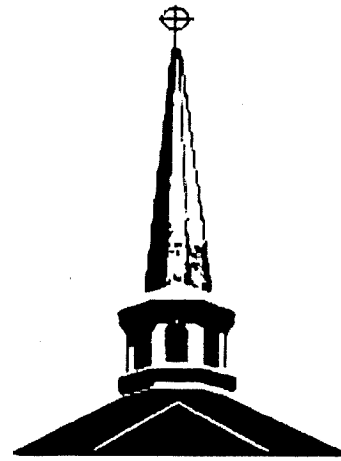
RUMMAGE SALE, Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please bring in items to be donated and sold anytime the week prior to the sale. If anyone would like to help with the sale, please contact Beth Williams. We are collecting everything from house wares, clothing, books, toys, sporting goods, and furniture.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2006</h1>						
	1 3:30-4:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 6:00-10:00 p.m. ACD-CPR Training	2 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	4 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	5 Rummage Sale Set-up	6 8:30-12:30 p.m. ACD-CPR Training 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Rummage Sale (Workcamp Fundraiser)
7 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:30 p.m. Manor Care (with Sunrise Singers) Middle School Youth working at Manna Food Center	8 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	9 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	11 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12	13 9:30-12:00 Reformed Institute Class - <i>Jim Reichley</i> "Reformed Political Thought and the American Experience"
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Youth groups WILL NOT meet	15 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	16 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	18 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	19 5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	20 5:00 p.m. Wedding (Yoo)
21 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	22 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4 th Mon.)	23 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. College Habitat Meeting	24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	25 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Youth Groups WILL NOT meet	29  MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	30	31 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study			

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
JUNE 2006

KERRY ON...

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

Some call it an attack on Christianity and others a teaching moment. I'm referring to the movie "The Da Vinci Code." It is based on a book by the same title by Dan Brown that has now sold over 43 million copies. The story is a mixture of history and fiction, theology, church intrigue and murder. Theologian Rodney Clapp argues that it is based on a fundamentally Gnostic premise: that most of the church has been duped and that the *real* Christian belief is a secret that will now be divulged to the privileged reader. (*Christian Century*, May 16, 2006, p. 5)

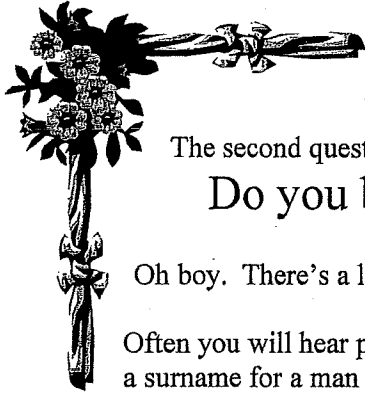
The same issue of *Christian Century* included the following:

The early church adopted Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as the canonical Gospels because they omit earthly aspects of Jesus' life; the church rejected Gnostic gospels for the canon because those writings speak of Christ's ministry in very human terms. **Actually, the opposite is more nearly the case.** The Gospels present an at times scandalously human Jesus, whereas the Gnostic gospels assume a radical body-soul dualism and display an antagonism between God and all things material. (p.23)

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

On Sunday, June 25, I will preach a sermon on the Jesus of the canonical Gospels with some references to the later Gnostic versions. At 11:15 we will meet in the library for a discussion of "The Da Vinci Code," the book and/or movie. On Sunday, June 11, copies of a few articles will be available in the narthex and, of course, you may want to read the book or see the movie.

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS NEEDED. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



Leslianne

The second question of the Baptismal Covenant is:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Oh boy. There's a lot going on in this tiny little question.

Often you will hear people use the term, "Jesus *the* Christ." That's because "Christ" is not a surname for a man called Jesus of Nazareth. "Christ" is a title. It is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word, "messiah." "Messiah" means "anointed," and in ancient Israel, prophets, priests and kings were anointed with oil and consecrated (solemnly set apart) for the service to which they had been called. The use of the term "messiah" was quite restricted in ancient Hebrew texts. In the great majority of cases, the term "anointed" is connected with a royal figure.

When we apply the title "Christ" to Jesus, we affirm our conviction that Jesus is divinely appointed by God to work in a particular way on our behalf. Jesus is the Christ of God. The term "Christ" "received its content not through a previously fixed concept of messiahship but rather from the person and work of Jesus." (Freedman, D. N. (1996, c1992). *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday.) The particular work of Jesus to which we refer is his death and resurrection. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, reconciliation with God becomes possible for us, and we are invited to participate in the intimate relationship between God and Jesus through our intimate relationship with Jesus. This is the essence of salvation. It is not a word we Presbyterians say aloud very often. The Apostle Peter is quite clear about this, though: "This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected . . . [t]here is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'" (Acts 4:11-12)

Both Hebrew and Christian scriptures highlight the fact that, without divine assistance, the human relationship with the God of all creation is deplorably broken. Without the intervention of a "Christ," we are unable to achieve a life pleasing to God. Paul writes: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23a). What is worse, Paul asserts in Romans 6:23a that "the wages of sin is death."

The good news (Gospel) is that Jesus *is the* Christ--the One whom God anointed to "proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, [and] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19). Make no mistake about it; we who sin are the blind, the captive and the oppressed to whom and for whom God sent Jesus the Christ. The wages of sin may well be death, but the gift of God is forgiveness, reconciliation with God and eternal life, through and in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 3:23b)

That's quite a lot, and it addresses only half the question. To be continued....

Leslianne Braunstein

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

The family of Barbara Shamel. Our prayers continue for Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, and Tom McPherson's mother, all at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries to the Congo. Mike has completed his treatment and remains in Ohio while Nancy returns to the Congo. Our prayers are also with Dianne Gregg and family. Dianne's mother, Lucille Nathanson, died in Florida at the age of 97.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of ...

Jack Leo DiGioia. Jack is the son of Sarah and Lou DiGioia and the grandson of Louise and Bob Plumb. We also celebrate the baptisms of Samantha Katherine Carnes and Eric Michael Carnes, children of Elizabeth and Michael Carnes and grandchildren of Mike and Martha Bentzen.

We celebrate with joy the birth of...

William Parmalee Simpson, born on May 8. Proud parents are Timothy and Laura Simpson; proud sister is Meghan. Grateful grandparents are Paddy and David Simpson. Courtney Mills Spencer, born on May 19. Proud parents are Traci and Matt Spencer, and grateful brother and sister are Abigail and Sam.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Ed and Janet Clark, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 12.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The PPC Property Committee has taken three steps to better prepare our church for rendering medical assistance until the 911 rescue squad arrives. A cardiologist in the congregation has selected and procured a Zoll automated external defibrillator (AED), which has been mounted on the wall of the closet off the narthex. He also arranged for the training and certification of twelve members of the congregation in the latest CPR and AED protocols. They are: **Leslianne Braunstein, Ed Ebert, Tom and Susan Hougén, Stephen and Chris Kent, Bill Malone, Rich McMahan, Dave Moquin, Nettie and Walter Propps, and Ed Tennent.** With guidance from **Tom Hougén and Ed Rudnic, Gail Cannon** of the Committee is procuring a more adequate first aid kit to replace the previous rudimentary one, kept also in the narthex closet. In addition, protocols for the ushers are being written to minimize confusion and delay in the event of a medical emergency.

Bill Malone

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Barbara Shamel. We commend her to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, and GRADUATE SCHOOL graduates, and prayers for them this month as they celebrate, say good bye to old friends, and prepare for new adventures and friends.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

GRADUATE:

Carolyn Dorman
Geoff Johnson
Elizabeth Kent
Katie Scott

Graduating From:

Whitman
Churchill
Lab School
Whitman

Going to:

Virginia Tech
University of Virginia
Muskingum College
Penn State

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Graduate:

Byron Drumheller
Erin Dunlop
Betsey Rudnic
Adam Singleton
Chris Teets
Emily Wescott

Graduating from:

University of Pennsylvania
The College of William and Mary
University of Rhode Island
University of Colorado
University of Colorado
Wake Forest University

GRADUATE SCHOOL GRADUATES

Graduate:

Sara Hougen
Derek Smith
Shana Stump Steensland

University of Rochester Medical School
Yale University Law School
Indiana University Law School

DINNER PARTY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Mark your calendars! **July 2, 6:00 pm, at the Dempseys.** Invitations will follow.



PPC Ladies Luncheon: Saturday, June 10th. 11:30am to 2:00pm at Roberta Meredith's home.

We would be ecstatic if you could attend and invite a family member or friend. Please bring one of your favorite dishes. **Judi Miller will be**

assembling a cookbook with all of our recipes, so please forward her a copy of the recipe you are preparing by June 4th (either church mailbox or millerofmd@comcast.net). Everyone will receive a copy of the cookbook. You will not want to miss this opportunity for fellowship and meditation lead by **Pastor Leslianne. R.S.V.P. to Judi at 301-949-6865.**



The Wright Note

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS CHOIR: We had our last practice for this season on May 10th. We celebrated in joyful song and received certificates for special musical service. This choir for children in kindergarten, first and second grades will resume in the fall. Remember to use your whoo whoo voices on the playground this summer so that you do not forget where your singing voice is hiding.

SUNRISE SINGERS CHOIR: This choir for third-through-sixth grades sang so beautifully for Manor Care on May 7th and for our worship service on Mother's Day, May 14th. They will join me for our **annual choir brunch on June 11th** where they will receive attendance and choir service awards. We will also have a wonderful talent sharing time together. Following the brunch the choir will sing in the worship service.

HANDBELL CHOIR: This group of dedicated ringers inspired us on Memorial Day with a morning full of ringing. This is the last time this season that this group will ring. We have had an enthusiastic and productive nine months of learning new handbell literature and sharing it with the congregation.

SANCTUARY CHOIR: What an exceptional group of musical servants! Year after year they keep supporting our worship services with their inspirational anthems. But you know what? Life style and location changes have all of a sudden caught up with this group that has always "been there" for us. Our soprano, alto and bass sections have been particularly affected by moves, travel and illness. So.....I am making an appeal to all of you used to be, or want to be, singers to consider joining the troops on Thursday nights at 8:00 in the fall. We have such fun together as we learn new music and improve our skills. Worshipping through music is an unexplainable experience. Try it. You'll like it!

FATHER'S DAY CHORUS: It is coming on **Sunday, June 18th**. This will be our fifteenth anniversary chorus this year. Rehearsal will be at **9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.** And miracle of miracles, the group will **sing in the 10:00 a.m. worship service to follow.** Music readers and non-music readers are invited. We have just the spot and appropriate part for you.

Cindy Wright



Girl Scouts

Where Girls Grow Strong.

During the worship service on May 14 a **Plaque of Appreciation** was presented to our church for long-standing service and support to the Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital. This plaque is presented to organizations in order to recognize a high degree of support to the Girl Scout movement for five years or more. Our church was nominated by girls and leaders who have used our building for troop meetings and for larger events attended by many troops. Many girls in our area have benefited by the Girl Scout experience. The support of our staff, session and congregation membership for use of facilities is a big contribution to these programs.

Julie McMahan



BETH'S BLURB

GODLY PLAY

The CE committee will be implementing a new Creative Enrichment curriculum in the fall called Godly Play for children age 3 – 2nd grade. Godly Play is a method of Christian education based on Montessori's approach to education and spiritual direction. The goal is to teach children the art of using religious language and to stimulate children's active participation in story and ritual. It is designed to awaken their creativity for the learning of parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives.

This curriculum uses wood and cloth manipulatives to illustrate the stories and allow the children to play out the stories themselves. Our hope is that this format will provide not just another educational opportunity for the children but that it would be a time of worship for them as well. As they leave the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, they would not be leaving worship but continuing worship as Godly Play.

The congregation can help contribute to Godly Play by "buying" a story. Prices range from \$11.50 - \$265.00 so people can contribute at the level they are able. For example: Abraham's Family - \$13.50, The Parables - \$23.00 each, The Prophets - \$33.00, Holy Family - \$60.00, Advent - \$146.50, Good Shepherd and World Communion \$265.50. See the poster for a complete listing of stories available to be "purchased."

WOODWORKERS NEEDED – This curriculum uses wood manipulatives and woodworkers are needed to help make the pieces. Patterns are available. If you are interested in helping out, please call Beth Williams.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4: END-OF-YEAR SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION AND TEACHER APPRECIATION:

At 9:45 am, all the classes, students and parents, are invited to come to a special Pentecost Party as we celebrate the end of the Sunday School year. Then, at the 11:00 am service, we will recognize the teachers who have given so much of themselves throughout the year.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Eight college students, Pastor Kerry and Beth will be working in Avery County, North Carolina, June 5 through 12 with Habitat for Humanity. Check out www.averycofh.org for more information.



WELCOME

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

MIKE WILLIAMS, 8871 Windy Hollow Way, Springfield, VA 22152. 703-913-1426

Mike is an officer with the US Air Force and is married to Beth Williams, our interim Director of Youth and Christian Education. He presently commutes to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio but is looking forward to no longer making the weekly drive to Ohio when he retires from the Air Force in July. He is the father of Kristen, a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, and Jackie, a freshman at Bucknell University.

JIM & CAROL DIETZEL, 13806 Longacres Preserve Ct., Potomac, MD 20854 301-963-3954

Jim and Carol relocated to the area from Connecticut. Jim is retired from Human Resources at Citigroup and is interested in American history, enjoys reading, finance and travel. Carol also enjoys traveling and gardening.

PHIL & JANICE PAGE, 1705 Crestview Drive, Potomac, MD 20854 301-340-7243

Phil and Janice are proud adoptive parents of Jacqueline Li, age 9, and Alexander Zhu, age 8. Both were born in China. They moved to the area from Kansas City, MO. Phil is an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency.

NICK & SYLVIA VISNICH, 10816 Willow Run Court, Potomac, MD 20854 301-983-0660

Nick and Sylvia moved to the Washington DC area about 10 years ago from Pittsburgh, PA. They enjoy sports, outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing and are fans of the Pittsburgh Steelers! Nick is a physician at Suburban hospital. They have two sons: Nicholas, a first grader at Bells Mill Elementary school, and Matthew, who is 5 years old.



SIXTH ANNUAL CURE AUTISM NOW 5K RACE

AND 1 MILE WALK: Attention runners and walkers of all ages!

Continue our 5-year July 4th PPC tradition and help raise money for Cure Autism Now, a national non-profit organization that funds research, outreach and awareness. The Sohl family will be heading up this year's TEAM PPC with Meili as captain. Join us on Tuesday, July 4th, at 8 am at the Potomac Library. Get more information, and register, at www.canrun.org. If unable to join us, please consider sponsoring a participant or making a donation, anytime during coffee hour during the month of June.

Come join us and cure autism now - one stride at a time. Susan Perles, 301-461-0990

KOMEN NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE: JUNE 3, 3006

Register online at www.nationalraceforthecure.org. Our Team Code is PPC. Please print a copy of your registration because we will need to count you in.

Marnel Williams



Vacation Bible School: July 10-14

Join us at SonTreasure Island VBS! When your children come to SonTreasure Island, they'll have a boatload of fun playing exciting island games, creating cool crafts, singing fresh upbeat songs, and enjoying tropical snacks. But most of all, they will discover that there's treasure on this island.

More precious than gold, more lasting than diamonds, it's the greatest treasure of all – God's love!

- Children age 3- 5th grade are invited to the island, older youth are encouraged to participate as helpers.
- The regular program goes from 9:30-12:30 am and extended care is offered in the afternoons.
- The cost is \$25 per child, max \$50 per family.
- Registration forms are available in the narthex or you can register on-line by going to www.potomacpresbyterian.org and clicking on the VBS link.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call **Beth Williams at 301-299-6007**.

SPLASH – Be ready to get wet. We will be meeting poolside once a week using a study called *Jesus Said It*, an all-new Bible study experience that guides students through a unique encounter with Jesus. They'll explore biblical accounts of his life, and discover the incredible things he said.

Find out what Jesus said about:

- Himself
- Your life
- Your stuff
- Following Him
- Your enemies
- Servanthood



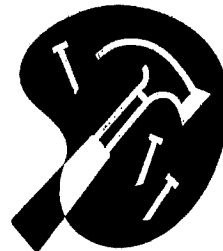
splash



And we will eat, swim and play together. There will be **both a senior high/college and a middle school SPLASH beginning in July**. Watch the youth newsletter for exact times and places.

Youth Local Mission Week – July 24-28

Join us for a week of service and fellowship. If you are somewhere between entering middle school and finishing high school, you are eligible to participate. We will be working at a variety of sites in both the local and the metropolitan DC area, helping with the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the sick. Then, if that isn't enough, we will be going to the movies, swimming, bowling, picnicking and more. The cost is \$30. Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are available on the bulletin board by the youth Sunday School rooms. Please do sign-up if you think you are interested so that transportation arrangements and reservations at the mission sites can be made properly. If you have any questions, please call **Beth Williams**.



WORKCAMP REPORT

Seventeen young people and 8 adults will be leaving for Workcamp the weekend of **June 24** for **Lockport, New York**, where we will be repairing homes. Our last fundraiser for the year will be a **Car Wash on June 4**. Thank you for supporting all our fundraisers throughout the year and making this trip possible. The following people would love to hear from you while we are at camp: **Bill Bedenbaugh, Jon Carty, Jenni Cronin, Joe Curry,**

Bernadette Curry, Carole Dempsey, Chris Dowd, Colin Dowd, Geoff Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Will Johnson, Chris Kent, Liz Kent, Stephen Kent, Donald McMahon, Rich McMahon, Chuck Naegeli, Joe Naegeli, Lizzie Naegeli, Thomas Niskanen, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, David Scott, Christa Sohl and Beth Williams.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Letters can be mailed by U.S. mail to: *(Fill in the name)*

Lockport High School, 250 Lincoln Ave., Lockport, NY 14094 Attn: Group Workcamper
E-mails can be sent by going to www.groupworkcamps.com and clicking on the "Send a Message to a Camper" link. You'll be directed to a list of camps. Click on our camp location, Lockport, NY and fill out the form to create a message. Don't forget to put the camper's name in the subject line. The staff will print and post the messages for pick up each day of camp.



This year the Workcampers will be leading the **worship service on July 2**, sharing their experiences and what they learn as they spend a week serving God's world and studying what it is for the rubber to meet the road, as this year's Workcamp theme is *Full Service – A Jesus Attitude*. **Beth Williams**

Lend Us Your Wheels: Two Vans Needed, Please

Adult drivers Chris Dowd and Bill Bedenbaugh of Chevy Chase Presbyterian- would like to swap their cars (one Explorer; one Volvo sedan) for two vans for the Youth Mission Trip to Lockport, NY. The vans will be needed from **June 23 through Sunday July 2**. We will drive from PPC to Lockport; around Lockport to our assigned work site; and back home. PPC folks have kindly lent us vans in the past; we are once again coming to you for your help. Heartfelt thanks from both of us and the PPC Youth. Please call **Chris Dowd 301-299-3835**.

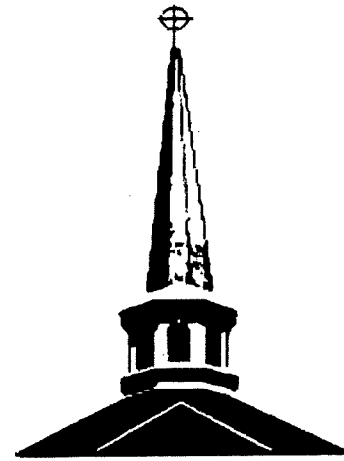
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As the summer approaches and the school year comes to a close, we encourage you to prayerfully reflect on all that PPC has provided to you over the past year and consider once again the rich variety of programs that your "Good Giving" helps to support. Mid-year pledge statements are being prepared and will be mailed early in June. This would be a good time to review your annual giving schedule and check that your pledges are up-to-date. Remember, too, that while you may be away on vacation over the summer, many of the important activities of our church continue and are in need of your on-going support. **David Simpson**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2006</h1>						
				<p>1 <i>Farmer's Market begins</i> 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1st & 3rd Thurs.) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	2	3 8:00 a.m. Komen National Race for the Cure
<p>4 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 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 End of Year Celebration 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Teacher Recognition 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth</p>	<p>5 <i>College Habitat Leaves 8:30 a.m.</i></p>	<p>6 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1st Tues.)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1st Tues.)</p>	<p>7 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class</p>	<p>8 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>7:00-8:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Leader/Daughter Recognition</p>	9	<p>10 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. PPC Ladies Luncheon (at the home of Robert Meredith)</p>
<p>11 9:30 a.m. Sunrise Singers Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p> <p><i>College Habitat Returns</i></p>	<p>12 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon.)</p>	<p>13 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues.)</p>	<p>14 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2nd Wed.)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>15 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline</p> <p>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p> <p>3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1st & 3rd Thurs.)</p>	16	<p>17 General Assembly convenes Birmingham, AL</p>
<p>18 <i>Father's Day</i> <i>SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS</i></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Father's Day Chorus Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care</p>	<p>19 7:30 p.m. Session (3rd Mon.)</p>	20	21	<p>22 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p>	23	<p>24 <i>Workcampers Leave</i> (returning July 1)</p> <p>General Assembly ends</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal</p>
<p>25 10:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 11:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Chapin/Cangialosi Wedding</p>	<p>26 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4th Mon.)</p>	<p>27 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)</p>	28	<p>29 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p>	30	

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
SEPTEMBER 2006

KERRY ON...

G.K. Chesterton wrote this little poem:

*You say grace before meals.
All right.
But I say grace before the play and the opera,
And grace before the concert and the pantomime,
And grace before I open a book,
And grace before sketching, painting, swimming,
fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing,
And grace before I dip the pen in ink.*

Maybe this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said that we ought to pray without ceasing. Prayer might be most of all a kind of continual awareness of God's gifts and blessings. It may also be recognition that every moment presents a possibility for responding to God's grace.

It seems to me that living as Christians is about these two movements of grace; receiving and giving. We can receive the smallest gift; a simple meal, a good night's sleep, a few moments with a friend with gladness. We can give a kind word, a job well done, and a long night with a sick child with a joyful heart.

And grace before...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:45 Christian Education Rally Day

11:00 Worship

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

Sept 10	Rally Day
Sept 17	Tom Miles, "Deciphering the Jesus Code"
Sept.24	Tom Miles, "Deciphering the Jesus Code," (cont'd)

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

The Wright Note

It is that time of year again to figure out what will be included in your fall schedule of activities. I ask you to consider seriously your participation in one or more of our choirs. Yes, joining is a commitment, but well worth it when you experience the joy of ringing or singing yourself or hearing the message that your children bring in song.

The following choirs will resume rehearsals in the fall:

Sanctuary Choir for adult singers will begin **Thursday, Sept. 7th at 8:00 p.m.**

Voices are needed in all voice classifications. Since our beloved Ann Hazard is moving, the altos, especially, are campaigning for another voice to join the ranks.

Wonderful Wednesdays Choir begins **Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 4:00 p.m.** In this choir for children in kindergarten through second grade, the emphasis is finding the child's voice and using it in creative and enjoyable settings.

The **Sunrise Singers Choir** is our vocal choir for **grades three through six**, meeting from **9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings**. Last season we had twelve girls who enjoyed making beautiful music together before going on to Sunday School. Membership is not limited to girls. I encourage both boys and girls to participate. The first rehearsal is **Sunday, Sept. 17th**.

The **Handbell Choir** adds variety, and yes, a little challenge to our music program. Those who ring find that the more comfortable one is with reading the musical score, the easier it is to ring the right bells at the right time. But it is such fun! Just ask any one of the ten people who ring in our choir that meets on **Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Membership changes each year due to personal schedules. If you have an interest in this program, please contact Cindy Wright. Due to members' travel plans and all of the Thursday night complications of Back to School nights, the handbell choir rehearsal schedule will begin **Thursday, Oct. 5th**.

Cindy Wright



DEACON'S CORNER

It will be September when you all are reading this but right now I am trying to get back to reality after returning from a trip to Alaska with my Chicago family. What an incredible place God created, from the mountains to the lakes and glaciers. We were in awe watching the mountain goats, whales and sea lions. Fortunately the fog lifted and we had the opportunity to take a helicopter to see and walk on a glacier. Quite a change from the 101 degrees we left behind in Maryland! I am so grateful for the experience, and for being able to share it with my family.

Remember to save **Sunday, October 1 at 6:00p.m** for the World Communion Sunday Agape dinner. Also, I hope to see you on **September 24 for the All Deacon's Coffee Hour.**

Vicki Dorman

PPC COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR CCMC COMMUNITY BASED

SHELTER - PPC's Mission Committee is looking for a coordinator for our week to serve the Community Based Shelter (CBS). The CBS is a CMMC program and the first level in the Continuum of Care for homeless adults willing to accept rehabilitative treatment. PPC's CBS week usually takes place the second week of February, beginning with Sunday dinner, and ending the following Sunday at lunch. **We need individuals to volunteer to coordinate PPC's efforts during this week.** Duties include: creating a sign-up sheet and coordinating the PPC members who volunteer to prepare bag lunches; preparing and serving dinner—sides, entrée and dessert; and purchasing breakfast supplies and miscellaneous items requested. The coordinator volunteers will serve as liaison between CBS and PPC.

Mary & Jim Reichley graciously coordinated PPC's CBS mission for over a decade, followed by Rob & Janet Swisher, who served for 3 years. Both couples found this effort extremely rewarding. The week serves as a reminder to us all, "There but for the grace of God goes I". PPC's week has always been a favorite among the residents. Please contact the **Reichley's (301-340-7649)** or the **Swisher's(301-977-2650)** if you are interested in learning more about this much needed and richly rewarding mission.

Janet Swisher

"CURE AUTISM NOW" RACE A HUGE SUCCESS -

On July 4th, over 1500 people ran, walked or volunteered to raise over \$170,000 to benefit autism research. Over 40 PPC members participated and 5 placed in their age groups: **Meili Sohl, Erin Dunlop, Derek Smith, Scott Koonce and Doug Dunlop.** Special thanks to the **Sohl family** for heading up the team, and to **Janet and Rob Swisher** for coordinating event registration.



Susan Pereles

BETH'S BLURB

There is still enough of a kid in me to dread the end of summer, for it means the end of lazy days and long nights. And back to school ☹️ But this year I am really excited about what back-to-school means for us here at PPC as we kick-off the many educational opportunities that we have for all ages. **Rally Day is**

September 10 and we will be starting off the year with a colorful celebration of all

God's gifts. **BE SURE TO READ THE CENTERFOLD TO SEE ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE OFFERED.** Take it out and put in on your refrigerator so that you don't miss any of the dates. Even if it means the end of summer, I am so glad to be with you and to be learning more about our faith together ☺️

Beth Williams

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford; Bob Hazard; at home; Peter Fislér, at Arden Court; Dave Moquin and family on the recent death of his mother, Lois Baker; and all who are serving in the Armed Forces. We also remember Mike and Nancy Haninger, our missionaries to the Congo. They hope to return there in the fall. Please remember also Katie McKenna, who is in India building housing with Habitat.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of ...

Grant Lawrence Dick, the son of George and June Dick, and the granddaughter of Judy Dick.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Harper Britton Hoffman, born on July 29th. Proud parents are Whitney and Ted Hoffman.

Grateful grandmother is Nelia Scioli.

Hayden Emily, born on July 10th. Proud grandmother is Grace Sheppard.

Adam Ligler and Diana Estes, who were married on July 8th in Lilburn, Georgia.



NEW ADDRESS:

Kathy and Jim Jeffers (Eric and Matthew)
10313 Yearling Dr., Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 762-6424

INQUIRERS' SERIES — For those people who want to learn more about membership at PPC, a three-part Inquirers' Series, taught by Pastor Stoltzfus, will be held on **October 1, 8 and 15 at 9:45 a.m.** in the church parlor. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on **Sunday, October 22**, and then will be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact **Julie McMahan, 301-869-4639**, or **Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007**, with any questions.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY - Plans are underway for a new pictorial directory. The dates for picture taking are **September 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25**. We will give everyone an opportunity to be in the new directory. Please contact **Frank McKenna (FXMcKenna@aol.com)** or **Harry Tovmassian (301-926-0614)** for information and to volunteer your services.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING TEAM NEEDS new Co-chairs. Please contact **Pam Drumheller at 301-977-7973**. Also wanted: leader for poinsettia sale or other fundraiser

10TH ANNUAL CABARET FOR THE CURE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2:00 – 5:00

MCLELLAN HILTON

PLAN AHEAD FOR A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON

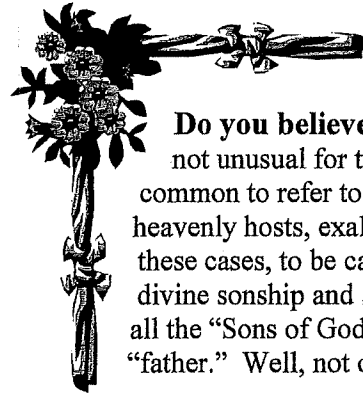
OF DANCE, MUSIC AND FUN!

Ann Hazard



Hope. Progress. Answers.

Leslianne



Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? In the Ancient Near East it was not unusual for the king to be called the "Son of God." Even in ancient Israel it was common to refer to the king in this way. "Son of God" was a title conferred upon kings, heavenly hosts, exalted angels and individuals perceived to be extremely righteous. In all these cases, to be called the "Son of God" meant also that you were God's servant – that divine sonship and service to God were inextricably linked. What's interesting is that for all the "Sons of God" who dwelt on earth in ancient days, not one of them called God "father." Well, not one of them called God "father," until Jesus.

In fact, Jesus called God "abba," a diminutive Aramaic term indicating the special familiarity and intimacy he shared with God. That the early church preserved this Aramaic term tells us just how important it is to our Christian understanding of who Jesus is and the uniqueness of his relationship with God – the relationship between the Father and the Son.

Kings and angels and righteous people became "Sons of God" during the course of their lifetimes. Their titles were conferred. However, in Jesus the eternal Son of God became a person. We affirm in the Nicene Creed that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, "of one Being with the Father." "It is not Jesus of Nazareth who becomes the Son of God; it is the Son of God who becomes Jesus of Nazareth." (*Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*) This is the very heart of the mystery of the Incarnation – God with us, assuming our humanity. In affirming Jesus as the Son of God, we profess that Jesus is God, participating in all God's attributes and roles, sharing in the Divine glory, and worthy to be worshiped and glorified.

The service Jesus rendered to God was his complete obedience. "He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross." (*Phil. 2:8*) Through Jesus' death and resurrection we are reconciled with God "so that we might receive adoption as [God's] children. And because [we] are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (*Gal. 4:5b-6*) Through Jesus we, too, may share a unique, intimate relationship with the Father.

In Matthew 16:16 the Apostle Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of this living God. This is the heart of the Christian faith. It is this confession that makes us Christian.

Leslianne Braunstein

Resources

The Anchor Bible Dictionary
Dictionary of Paul and his Letters
Eerdmans' Dictionary of the Bible
Tyndale Bible Dictionary



Abraham Lincoln: Public Theologian?
Lecture with Discussion by Rev. Dr. Ronald C. White
Professor of American Intellectual and Religious History, Emeritus,
San Francisco Theological Seminary and Visiting Scholar,
National Presbyterian Church
Saturday, September 23, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
The Heritage Hall of Old Presbyterian Meeting House
321 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Please register online at www.reformedinstitute.org or contact Mary Hill by email mhill@reformedinstitute.org or call 703-518-5125. There is no charge for this event.

COURSE OFFERINGS: If interested in study and reflection on themes related to the Reformed tradition, courses taught by members of the Institute's Company of Teachers are available. They provide a menu from historical to contemporary thought; are held at various times of the year; take place at different locations in the metropolitan DC area; are limited to 20 participants and must have a minimum enrollment of 8; and are open to all.
Brochures outlining the course offerings are available in the narthex literature rack or you may visit the website at www.reformedinstitute.org.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Another active summer for PPC has ended. Vacation Bible School, Workcamp and Habitat were all great successes. The church building and grounds look fresh and renewed. And, of course, our regular Sunday services continue to minister to all. We need the help of each and every member of PPC to see that these wonderful programs continue.

We continue to struggle to see our pledges meet our expectations and annual budget. In spite of an extra effort in June and July, we continue to lag behind by about \$35,000 in our annual pledges at the beginning of August. As the summer season ends and we get back into the regular routine of school and church services, please review your pledge response for this year and prayerfully consider your level of giving to participate in the good works of the church and our mission.

David Simpson

GENERAL ASSEMBLY -Copies of a letter to PCUSA congregations from the Office of the General Assembly (www.pcusa.org) are available on the table just inside the sanctuary.



STEPHEN MINISTRY - Please let Pastors Kerry or Leslianne know if you are interested in having a private, confidential and highly trained caregiving Stephen Minister. We have a newly commissioned class who are ready and anxious to be of service.

MISSION HAPPENINGS

It has been a busy and good summer for the PPC Mission Committee. On **July 16** we hosted the visit of the **Rev. Cliff, and Mrs. Nieta, Nunn of First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans**. Cliff spoke during worship hour about the post-Katrina efforts in his congregation. A historic church dating back to 1818, First Church suffered tremendous damage. Teams from all over have come to reconstruct the building, and the efforts still continue. First Church's work has included outreach to the larger community nearby, providing shelters, showers, supplies, help with re-building, and more. Cliff thanked PPC for our great support, and encouraged us to visit N. O., stay at the church, and consider working on site, citing the enormous rewards that come from helping one's neighbor.

On **August 1st**, PPC Mission Committee members were awed, inspired and uplifted by an evening with **Mike and Nancy Haninger**, our medical missionaries in the **Congo**. We were thankful to see Mike active and healthy. He plans to return next year, to continue doing surgery and training local physicians. Nancy's safe motherhood projects and work with malnutrition have reaped great rewards. Despite Mike's health struggles, and political and economic crisis in the country, the Haningers feel called by God to do their work, and their enthusiasm is a marvel to behold. Please read their latest letter: http://pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/haninger/haninger_0607.htm
NOTE: For updates on Mission Committee events and projects, check the PPC website, <http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org/html/links.html>, "Mission" and "Special Events" links.

"MISSION MOMENTS" during Worship Hour in the Fall will consist of PPC'ers highlighting our various mission projects around the world: **Susan Mitchell on Habitat for Humanity; David Wescott on Opportunity International; John Hummon on Holy Cross Hospice in Botswana; and Tom Hougren on Por Cristo in Ecuador.** *Sonia Russo, Mission Committee Co-Chair*



FIRST ANNUAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LEGO

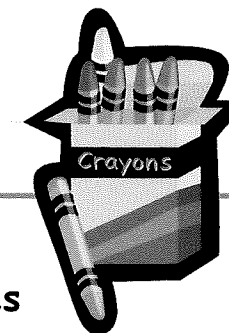
BLITZ BUILD. Youth from across the county will participate in a mini Blitz Build to learn about Habitat. Modeled after Habitat's practice of building hundreds of homes in a short period of time, youth will use Legos to build homes, and raise funds for, and awareness of, Habitat. Help us collect **12,000 Lego pieces** by **Sept. 23rd!** Please donate Legos at the Habitat ReStore (**9100 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877**) or bring them to Fellowship Hall. After the event, the Legos will be donated to **New Orleans area schools** as part of Lego's hurricane relief campaign. *Susan Mitchell.*

SUPPORT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION WITH A MATCHING GRANT

After our April 30 Theological Education Sunday Worship Service, a member of our congregation made an additional contribution to our new Scholarship Fund at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. As exciting as that was---a **corporate matching grant** was added, making it even better! A reminder to every member associated with a firm that offers matching grants: Consider a gift to a Theological Seminary. They are vital to our Church. I'll be glad to help.

Ed Clark, Theological Education Chairman, 301-315-0512

Christian Education adds color to your Faith



Children

Nursery: Birth-Two years

Lower Level, Rm 2 Loving care is provided during the Sunday School hour and worship each week by our paid caregiver.

Sunday School: 3 years - 5th grade

Rally Day - September 10 !!
at 9:45 a.m.

Join us for a colorful kick-off the Sunday School year. We will gather in the fellowship hall for a time of worship and celebration and then dismiss children to their classes.

Godly Play: 3 years—2nd grade

Starts on September 10 following the Children's Time. Godly Play is an approach to worshipping with children that draws on telling of Scripture stories with figures, and encourages children to seek God through wondering.

Children's Music

Two choirs are available for children.



The Wonderful Wednesday Choir, grades K-2nd, meets on *Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.* Rehearsals start on September 13.

The Sunrise Singers for Grades 3-6 meets on *Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.* Rehearsals start on September 17.

Youth

Our Youth Ministry encompasses study, mission, fellowship, and worship.

Sunday School:

Middle School Upper Level, Room 1
Senior Highs Upper Level, Room 2
The Sunday School hour consists of Bible study and discussion of various topics relating Christian faith to life and relationships.

Youth Fellowship:

Kick-off Lock-in September 16-17
at 6:30 p.m.

We will kick off the year with a Lock-in for all youth ages 6th-12th grade. Parents are invited to come with their young people from 6:30—7:00 pm for a brief meeting. The youth will then spend the night at the church, planning upcoming youth group activities. Regular youth group activities begin September 24.

Middle School Youth Group

Each Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Senior High Youth Group

Each Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Mission:

The youth are engaged in mission throughout the year. In the summer we are involved both locally and nationally through the Sr. High Workcamp and our Local Mission Week.

Adult

Sunday Mornings 9:45 a.m.

Adult Seminar in the library

Weekly guest speakers and/or members of our congregation lead this lecture and discussion class for adults of all ages. The first seminar goes from September 17—October 1 with Tom Miles and "Deciphering the Jesus Code." Pick up an Adult Ed Brochure for a complete listing of classes.

Bible Study Discussion Class

This new class will present significant stories of faith from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the epistles in ways that will appeal to the adult who is seeking to understand them either for the first time or afresh in a new light. We will consider the meaning of the passages for us in our life today. The Fall unit Begins with *Providence: God's Creating Word.*

Inquirers' Class

Would you or someone you know like to know more about the Presbyterian Church or about becoming a member of Potomac Presbyterian? Join us for this 4 week series led by the Rev. Kerry Stoltzfus, Pastor
Oct. 1— Oct. 22

Other Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The study for this fall, led by Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, will be "For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Season." The first class is on Wednesday, September 13, at 9:30 a.m.

Kerygma Bible Study, Wed. 7:30 p.m.

Come for any combination of the classes! You do not have to have been in Kerygma before.
Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles
14 weeks September 13—December 20
Job and the Life of Faith: Wisdom for Today's World 7 weeks Jan. 3- Feb. 14
Parables: Stories for Life in God's World
7 weeks February 28—April 25

Christian Living

2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am
starting September 12

This fall we will be discussing **Christian Responses to War.**

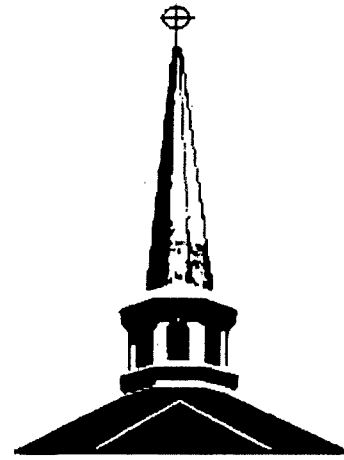
Men's Book Group

3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.
starting September 19
with *Master of the Senate* by Robert Caro.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2006</h1>						
					1	2
3 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	4 LABOR DAY ~ Office Closed ~	5 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	7 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (1st)	8	9
10 RALLY DAY 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremonies 11:00 a.m. Worship/Teacher Dedication 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	11 7:30 p.m. CE Committee 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	12 Election Day 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood(2 nd Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir (1 st) 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study (1st)	14 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline	16 Youth Group Kick-off and Lock-in
17 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers (1st) 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Endowment Committee Program 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	18 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	19 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.) Pictorial Directory Photographs	21 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Pictorial Directory Photographs	22 Pictorial Directory Photographs	23 10:00 a.m. Reformed Institute "Abraham Lincoln: Public Theologian?" Lecture by The Rev. Dr. Ronald C. White Pictorial Directory Photographs
24 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/All Deacon Coffee Hour 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	25 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) Pictorial Directory Photographs	26 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National)	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	28 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	29	30

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

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Rockville, MD
Permit No. 200



STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
SUMMER 2006

KERRY ON...

The Session is pleased to announce that Beth Williams has accepted our call to serve as Director of Youth and Christian Education. She has served since April 2005 as an interim and we have come to appreciate her dedication, skills, faith and initiative. Beth has served with energy, intelligence, imagination and love and we look forward to her continuing ministry at Potomac Presbyterian Church.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

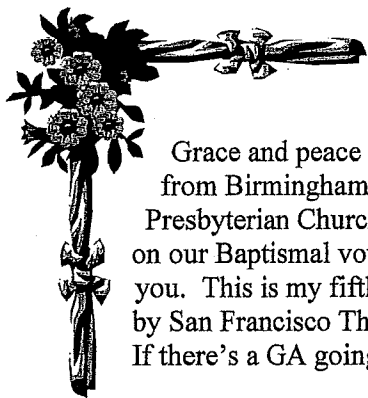
On July 4th, the 6th Annual Cure Autism Now 5K Run/1 mile walk was a huge success. With your help, we raised over **\$170,000**.

Congratulations to five members of PPC who placed in their age groups: Meili Sohl, Erin Dunlop, Derek Smith, Scott Koonce and Doug Dunlop. Over 40 of adults and children joined us as part of TEAM PPC. Thanks to all who participated and to the Sohl family for heading up the team. Thanks to Janet and Rob Swisher for a very fine job coordinating event.

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

A special committee of Session chaired by Janet Dunlop and Karen Wise and including Carolyn Stump, Steven Kent, David Simpson and David Boyd met with Beth to talk about vision and goals for educational ministry at PPC. Challenges and accomplishments were reviewed and the committee enthusiastically recommended that Beth be called to this position. We have appreciated her ministry over the past year and look forward to growth and new opportunities in the years ahead. I want to encourage all of us to renew our commitment to Christian education and youth ministry as we look forward to the fall season. Please remember our children and youth in prayer this summer as they are engaged in mission and education.

The new call will begin on July 1 and there will be an installation service planned for a Sunday morning in the fall. I invite you to welcome Beth informally during the summer and to look forward to the installation service.



Leslianne

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior! Greetings from Birmingham, Alabama, the site of the biennial General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ("GA"). I brought everything I need to continue reflecting on our Baptismal vows, but so much is going on here I can't help wanting to share it with you. This is my fifth General Assembly. In 2001, I attended a class on GA Polity given by San Francisco Theological Seminary. I was hooked, and now I am a "GA Junkie." If there's a GA going on, I've just got to be there.

I arrived on Wednesday, June 14th, and immediately went to "Semper Reformanda," a forum sponsored by the Witherspoon Society – an advocacy group concerned with social justice issues. That evening I went to the Covenant Network Dinner and heard our own Susan Andrews (Head of Staff at Bradley Hills Presbyterian and 2003 Moderator of the General Assembly) speak about issues facing the assembly – most notably the report of the Theological Task Force for Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church. Covenant Network is an organization of churches that "envision a church as generous and just as God's grace. [They] work to uphold and act on the Presbyterian Church's historic, progressive vision." Some would say they represent the liberal voice of the church.

On Wednesday, I attended the More Light Presbyterians' joyous National Celebration dinner. More Light Presbyterians statement reads: "Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA)." Needless to say, the primary issue of concern to the MLPs is ordination standards, and folks would say they represent the *very* liberal voice of the Presbyterian Church.

On Thursday, I went to the Women's Orientation Breakfast (they will know we are Christians 'cuz we eat!) sponsored by Women's Ministries the National Ministries Division. I always enjoy this breakfast (even if it is at 7 a.m.!!!). The Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns always does a great job of outlining the overtures across all committees that are of specific concern to women. I always walk away feeling really well informed.

Last Night was the Witherspoon Society Party and Dance – a not to be missed event if you're ever at an assembly.

Witherspoon party notwithstanding, this morning I attended the "Women of Faith" breakfast at which we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ordination of women Deacons, the 75th

(continued on page 5)

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford; Bob Hazard; William Hotes; Peter Fisler; and Pat Stow, all at home; We remember also all who are serving in the Armed Forces and Mike and Nancy Haninger, our missionaries to the Congo. Mike has completed his treatment and remains in Ohio while Nancy returns to the Congo.

Our prayers are also with Richard Cannon, whose father died, and Hyun Lee, whose mother died. Please remember also Katie McKenna in India to help build Habitat housing; and Elysse Meredith serving as an intern at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary "Summer Youth Institute", July 5-22.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of ...

Elise Makana Sumiko Jenkins, the daughter of Ben and Wendy Jenkins, and the granddaughter of Joyce and Bob Jenkins.

Grant Lawrence Dick, the son of George and June Dick, and the grandson of Judy Dick.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

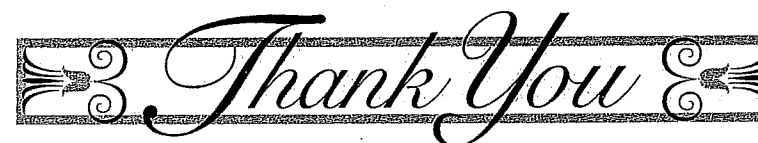
Sebastian Sofron McFeaters, born on June 7th. Proud parents are Arianna and Jason McFeaters.

Grateful grandparents are Del and Mary Margaret Smith.

Aliya Cassidy Boogaard, born on June 8th. Proud parents are Cori and Thomas Boogaard. Grateful grandmother is Marcia Boogaard.

NEW ADDRESS:

Frank and Maggie McKenna, Katie, Timmy, and Abby
9809 Newhall Road,
Potomac, MD 20854



We would like to express our gratitude for the outstanding support we received for the **Komen National Race for the Cure!** Potomac Presbyterian Church raised **almost \$3,000** for this worthy cause, which will help accomplish the mission of eradicating breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening, and treatment. A special thanks to **Olivia Mabeus**, who single-handedly raised over **\$800** for this important effort. The PPC team had a very fun morning in the Nation's capital. Thank you to all those who ran and walked! Thank you, also, to the Mission Committee for supporting this effort. We look forward to PPC's continued support next year.

Marnel Williams and Cyndy Mamalian



Vacation Bible School: July 10-14

We had a wonderful **SonTreasure Island** adventure this year at Vacation Bible School. 55 children, age 3 – 5th grade participated. We also had many youth and adult helpers who the CE Committee

would like to thank for making this week possible; they were truly a treasure to the children and to this church. Through them we all discovered more about God's precious love!

Penny Boyd, Beth MacFarlan, Megan and Michelle Boyd, Mary Grime, Sandy MacFarlan, Jackie Williams, Cyndy Mamalian, Katherine Ling, Molly and Abigail Singerling, Margaret Sargeant, David McGrath, Kelly McGrath, Ruthanne Stoltzfus, Angelica Klein, Katie MacFarlan, Meili Sohl, Rachel Johns, Samantha Klein, Aura Chapa, Wendy Kuhn, Christa Sohl, Karen Wise, and Janet Dunlop.

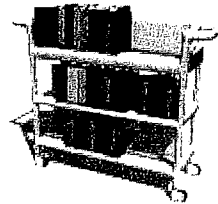
LIBRARY NEWS: Two books written by Tom Wright have just arrived. He recently discussed his latest book, Simply Christian, at the National Cathedral. In Who Was Jesus, Wright considers many questions raised by the latest controversial books written about Jesus.

Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross written by Erik Kolbell is a compelling and hope-filled book. Jane Pauley says it is a "A timely exploration into the spiritual foundations of the decisions we make in our everyday lives. This is a book that can be meaningful to people of any or no religious persuasion."

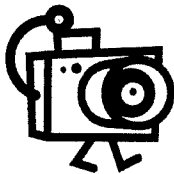
Douglas Oldenburg, Moderator of 210th General Assembly said of Why Scripture Matters by John Burgess, "John Burgess has written a book of immense help to the church in this time of great conflict and division....." Please look around your house to see if you have books to return to the library.

Thanks!

Nancy Tietjen



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY.

The dates for picture taking are *September 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25.*

This is a great way to share our membership photographically and we will give everyone an opportunity to be in the new directory. The Outreach Committee will be leading this activity and will need some enthusiastic volunteers. First meeting of the volunteers will be on **August 10** in the parlor, so, contact Frank McKenna or Harry Tovmassian to join our team.



ETH'S BLURB

As I was meeting with the IP (Interim to Permanent) committee, someone asked me what I do all day. I had to laugh. It reminded me of a time when one of the youth in the youth group asked me what I did for a job. He had no idea that what I did at church was my job. And I have to say, I have the best job in the world. What other job would let you spend time sharing God's love with children and hearing their laughter while they play and learn together, as we will be doing this summer at Vacation Bible School? What other job would let you spend time sharing God's unconditional love with young people, watching them struggle with their faith and seeking answers, as we will be doing at Workcamp and as we gather together for Summer Splash? What other job would let you spend time sharing God's love with college students, working together to build homes for those less fortunate? What other job would let you spend time sharing God's love with adults serious about learning more about God's Word as we did in the Kerygma class this year? And this is just the tip of the iceberg. I am so blessed to have this job, and to spend my days planning and preparing for the times that we are together. To God be the glory.

SPLASH: Middle Schoolers, Senior Highs, and College Students, once again we will be meeting poolside to study the Bible. This year we will be looking at things Jesus said about your life, about your stuff, about your enemies, about himself, about following him, and about servanthood. Besides studying, we will eat, swim, and play together. It all begins the first week of July. College and Sr. High SPLASH will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm at the McPhersons' home; Middle School SPLASH will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at the Meredith's home and will be led by Elysse. Come whenever you can and have fun diving into what Jesus said.

Youth Local Mission Week – July 24-28: Join us for a week of service and fellowship. If you are entering middle school through finishing high school, you are invited to participate. We will be working at a variety of sites in the local and the metropolitan DC area, helping the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the sick. You will receive 20 hours of service learning. In addition, we will be going to the movies, swimming, bowling, putt-putt golfing, and picnicking. The cost is \$30. Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are in the fellowship call.

Beth Williams

The Wright Note



The Father's Day Chorus has sung – the official indication that summer has officially begun. For many, that means a change of pace and schedule. That applies to our four choirs who are taking a well-deserved break from regular rehearsals. Filling their places as musical worship leaders will be vocalists and instrumentalists who will sing or play alone or in ensemble groups. I will coordinate this effort and know that the congregation will support and appreciate these youth and adults who willingly share their talent.

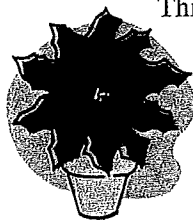
Finding appropriate repertoire for our choirs, soloists and organ is a very important part of my position as Director of Music. I search for music that is not only well written and liturgically sound, but music that uplifts, challenges and comforts us in our worship experience. To help me in this search and also further my education in church music, I will attend the Conference on Worship and Music sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. It will be held at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania the second week of July.

I have attended this event for many years. My favorite part is always the daily worship. The services are filled with fresh, new ideas and of course, wonderful music. I worship as part of the congregation, not as the musician in charge of playing the organ and directing the choir. This perspective is good for me. Now and then I need time to reflect and assume the role of the participant. And yes, I don't always agree with some of the hymn choices. But I look at the overall worship service theme and usually find a connection. I look forward to the PAM conference again this year as a time to worship, learn and share with other church musicians from around the nation.

Cindy Wright

KEEP COOL IN THE SUMMER

Think Christmas fun! Co-chairs are needed to lead the Christmas church decorating team. **Pam Drumbheller** will teach you all you need to know. Please contact her at 301-977-7973. Also wanted: leader for poinsettia sale or other fundraiser.



I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying a restful and relaxing summer and braving our notorious heat and humidity. I would like to take this opportunity to mention our next Deacon Event coming up in October to get your mind off our sultry temperatures!

Sunday, October 1st is **World Communion Sunday**. This year's theme is "Swords into Plowshares: Living the Ways of Peace". We are planning an Agape dinner for Sunday evening; a chance for fellowship, participation and to learn some more about the travels of Paul and the history of Christianity. There will be international cuisine, musical performances and missionary testimony. Please mark your calendars for **October 1st at 6:00 p.m.** Watch your mailbox and church bulletins for more details!

I am so grateful to serve my parish and PPC as a Deacon. I am reminded during my busy and challenging daily routine of all the blessings and gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon me. May you embrace His grace, peace and love as you continue in your walk of faith.

Wendy Kuhn

"Leslianne", (continued from page 2):

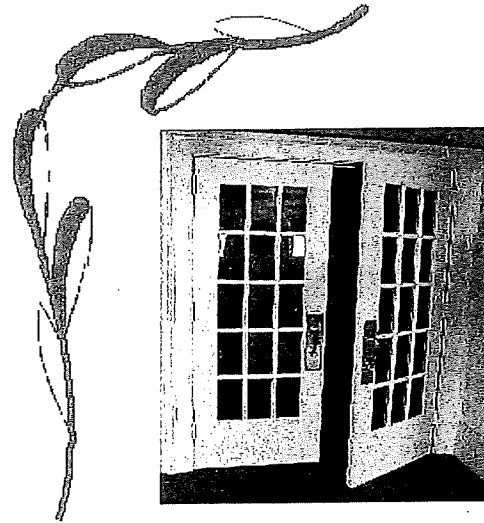
anniversary of the ordination of women Elders and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. We celebrated the ministries of six women (two each of Deacons, Elders, and Pastors) who make a difference in the life of their churches and the church at large. It was very moving – and I discovered that Jane Parker Huber has written a hymn, "We will Sing a Song of Women" that celebrates almost every woman mentioned in the bible!

Coming up on the agenda is the Presbyterian Coalition Dinner. The Coalition was "Born out of concern for the Church which struggled to witness to historic and Biblical leadership standards and out of hope that the Lord of the Church would work His will through the people and polity of this Church." Some would say the Coalition represents the more conservative voice in our denomination.

There are so many more things I want to tell you. The worship is unbelievably varied and exciting, the Committees deliberate with great care and much prayer and everyone is here seeking to glorify God and enjoy God forever! This is the one place I know to come to hear the voices of all our Presbyterian sisters and brothers and to worship as one body of Christ – just as Christ intended.

For all our differences, I know God is smiling on the General Assembly as we worship and praise God together in one voice. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit!
Amen, and amen.

Leslianne Braunstein -5-



Gifts From the Heart

*"Ask and it will be given you;
search, and you will find; knock,
and the door will be opened for you."
Matthew 7:7-8*

It has been said, "Light affects the way you look...things can appear gloomy or heavenly, depending on the light...Today, you realize how your life is a light."

What a way to introduce you to a new way of looking at things differently in our church building. This year we must reach out to our church family to help us fund specific and very necessary projects for our church home. Our budget has not grown enough over the years to keep up with our major maintenance and remodeling needs. We need your help more than ever to keep our church attractive and inviting to you and others who walk through its doors.

Hopefully, you have noticed that the old, sad sanctuary doors have been replaced with two pairs of beautiful glass paned French doors. Please take a long look at what a wonderful difference they have made as you walk into the sanctuary. The light that comes pouring into that once gloomy space has to lift every heart that enters and leaves this holy place of worship and prayer.

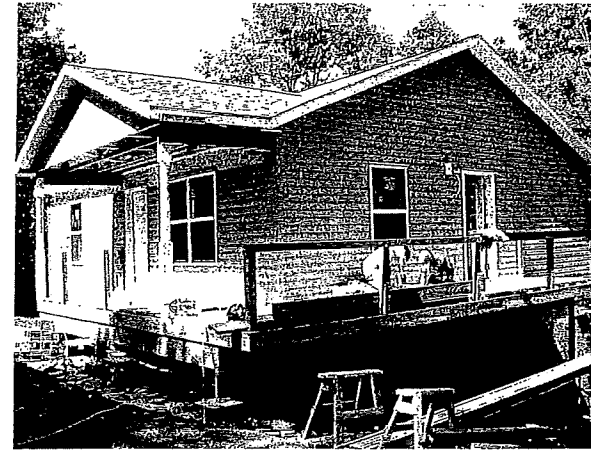
The opportunity we put forth today is a "gift to give" to yourself and others who will enjoy being part of this dynamic church home in the years to come. Our beautiful doors provide a very special way to memorialize and honor our loved ones. Please consider this memorial gift and how you could help open the doors to our sanctuary. The cost of the glass paned French doors totaled \$8,500. A memorial contribution with appropriate and permanent recognition can be made for both sets of the paired doors. Other arrangements could provide for one set of two doors totaling \$4,250 or individual door memorials at \$2,125 each.

If you would like to help with a memorial contribution, please talk with Elders Ed Ebert, property chairman or Gary Niskanen, co-chairman or with Pastor Stoltzfus by August 1.

Listen to your heart and make a difference!

College Habitat Trip

We had a wonderful week in the mountains in Avery County North Carolina working with Habitat for Humanity. Nine college students, Carl Atwood, Brian Dunlop, Erin Dunlop, Rachel Johns, Megan McKune, Katherine McPherson, Emily Wescott, and Jackie Williams, minus one, Peter Russo, because of jury duty, and three adults, Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus and Beth Williams, helped to hang sheet rock at the home of the Paz family. We received a note (in both Spanish and English) from the family:



Dear Volunteers – We would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for having given your time to work on our future home. Thanks to you our dreams are becoming reality and soon we will have a safe place for our family. Thanks to God and to you for all of this.

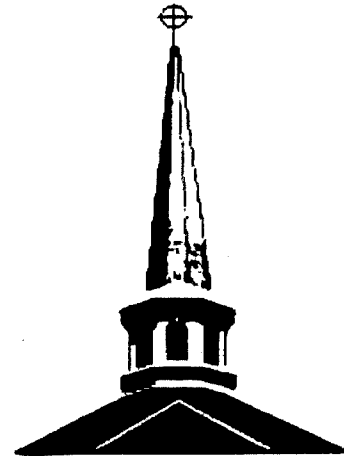
Sincerely, Pragedix, Angelica, Erika, Juan, Yellenny Paz.

Avery County Habitat for Humanity has a facility designed for groups to stay in while they are working. We enjoyed bunk beds with real mattresses, hot showers, washer and dryer, and a kitchen in which to prepare meals. Thanks to the generosity of Tom Cookerly, Sue and David Browning (Rob Wescott's sister), Tom and Kathy McPherson, and with a trip to the Loaves and Fishes Restaurant and the annual Habitat dinner, (ask Megan McKune about the rooster), we did not have to do much of our own cooking.

Avery County is a beautiful area which is deeply in need of assistance. Nearly 1 in 5 children in the county are living in poverty. 15% cannot afford housing. We can and did make a difference and hope to continue to in the future. We are planning on going again next year at the same time. So save the first week in June and join us as we implement the theology of the hammer.

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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301-299-6007
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
OCTOBER 2006

KERRY ON...

In the Gospel according to John we read,

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Theologians call this the incarnation. A frightened little boy was being comforted by his mother one night during a violent thunderstorm. As she prepared to leave his room she said, "Honey, God is with you." "I know," he said, "but I want someone with skin on."

The implications of incarnation are mysterious and downright practical. Take time for example. It is easy to remember extraordinary times. All of us know where we were and what we were doing when the planes flew into the twin towers on 9/11, just as the older ones among us remember the time and place when we heard the news that President Kennedy was shot, or the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. Those moments take on a kind of sacred sense for their depth of pain and loss. Jesus walked this earth and knows what it feels like when tragedy strikes. He was, as Scripture says,

A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Incarnation also means that Jesus knows the shape of ordinary time. He enjoyed the taste of food and drink, especially in the company of friends. He was a faithful son and a respected member of a trade. He practiced faith in the prescribed tradition of his community. He was sometimes disappointed by his friends and surprised by the welcome he received from strangers and outcasts. He marveled at the beauty of creation and demonstrated his love for children. He joined in a joyous wedding celebration and in fact provided the wine so that the festivities might continue. We make an affirmation of incarnation whenever we ask Jesus to be present for a simply meal or for the grand wedding celebration of a beloved daughter of son. "Come Lord Jesus be our guest."

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class

- Oct 8 Dave Thomas, "Russian Megatons to U.S. Megawatts"
Oct 15 David Wescott, "Opportunity International"
Oct 22, Nov. 5, 12 Ann White, "Women of the Reformation"
Oct 29 Beth Williams, "The Reformation Continued"

Parlor Class

"We Believe" Bible Study
Providence: God's Creating Word", The Reformed
Perspective and Celtic spirituality

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

The Wright Note

Our choirs are off to an enthusiastic start for this fall season. In addition to our existing choirs, I would like to extend an invitation to the middle school and senior high youth to participate in a choir that will sing for Beth Williams' installation service on Oct. 15. I will rehearse this group on Sundays after worship on Oct. 1 and Oct. 8. On Oct. 15 I ask that this group come at 9:00 a.m. and rehearse with the Sunrise Singers who will be participating in the installation service as well. This should be an exciting musical experience for us all. Please note the rehearsal dates and meet me after church.



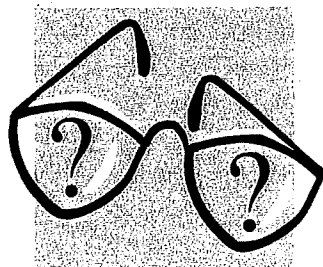
Cindy Wright

BETH'S BLURB

One of my favorite new songs in the hymnal is "Here I am, Lord." I know some people think it is sappy. And it probably is, but I like it anyway. I first heard it when I was in chapel at seminary, standing there surrounded by people who had answered God's call to ministry. We each heard that song as if it had been written specifically for us. It brought tears to my eyes. Here it is ten years since I graduated from seminary with my Masters in Divinity, and I am still brought to tears by that song. I just thought I would warn you. On October 15, there will be an installation service for me, marking my move from interim to regular, and I have asked that we sing that song during the service. And I will cry, and embarrass my children, and pray as I sing, Here I am Lord at Potomac Presbyterian Church. Thank you for bringing me here. Keep me always open to hear your voice and seek your will as I strive to serve you in this wonderful congregation. Is it I Lord? Yes, it is. It is all of us. Thanks be to God!

Beth Williams

INQUIRERS' SERIES — For those people who want to learn more about membership at PPC, a three-part Inquirers' Series, taught by Pastor Stoltzfus, will be held on **October 1, 8 and 15 at 9:45 a.m.** in the church parlor. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on **Sunday, October 22**, and then will be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact **Julie McMahan, 301-869-4639, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007**, with any questions.



DEACON'S CORNER

Hello PPC! Last month I drove my son Peter back to Elon College for the beginning of his junior year. Given we had 4 ½ hours together we engaged in a number of enjoyable "grown up" conversations. As I drove home the next day I thought a great deal about how much Peter has matured over the past few years. I can say without a doubt that much of that maturation is due to our membership and participation in Potomac Presbyterian Church. Had we not joined PPC when we did Peter would not have had the opportunity to attend Work Camp four times. He would not have experienced the growth that occurs when one truly has the opportunity to serve others less fortunate than them. He would not have experienced the growth that occurs through fellowship with other caring and giving young people. He would not have experienced the nervousness and ultimately the confidence that occurs when you are asked to share experiences at a Sunday service. In summary, Heather and I have witnessed an awkward, shy boy evolve into a thoughtful and confident young man, and we are convinced much of that is due to our PPC experience. Thank you so much to everyone at PPC who has contributed to the education and growth of our youth...you have made a difference.

Bob Rosecrans

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Your session and its committees are preparing for the annual Stewardship Campaign, which will take place in October. Our theme this year will be "**Share Abundantly**", based on II Cor:9, 6-15. During the Sunday worship services in October, you will be provided with evidence of the many ways PPC allows us all to share, and share abundantly, as we contribute to and benefit from the good works of our church. Each Sunday will focus on a different aspect of church life, including Worship, Christian Education, Congregational Care and Mission.

Pledge statements, with contributions received as of August 31, were mailed in mid-September. Please review the status of your pledge and, if your contributions have fallen behind over the summer, please bring them up to date as quickly as possible. We are still behind in terms of anticipated income, but we are confident that fulfillment of your pledge commitments over the next few months will put us back on track. A clear path towards a balanced budget by the end of this year is essential in the Session's planning for our activities for 2007.

Your stewardship is an important part of our "**Faith in Action**" and all are thanked for the many ways you participate in this critical part of the life of the church

David Simpson

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

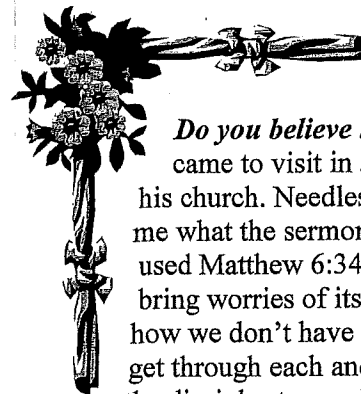
Jack Crawford; Bob Hazard; William Hotes; Charlie Miller; Pat Stow at home; Peter Fidler, at Arden Court; Dave Moquin and family on the recent death of his mother, Lois Baker; and all who are serving in the Armed Forces. We also remember Mike and Nancy Haninger, our missionaries to the Congo.

They hope to return there in the fall. . Our prayers are also with Paddy Simpson and family. Paddy's mother died on August 31 and Bob Best and family on the death of Glenna Chandler. Please remember also Katie McKenna, who is in India building housing with Habitat.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of ...

Charles William Trenkamp, son of Robert and Kara Trenkamp, and the grandson of Bob and Karen Karch.

Sebastian Sofron McFeaters, son of Jason and Arianna McFeaters, and the grandson of Del and Mary Margaret Smith.



Leslianne

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit? When our 7-year old grandson, Benjamin came to visit in July, he told me he had given his first sermon at a vespers service at his church. Needless to say, I was a little more than curious, so I asked Benjamin to tell me what the sermon was about. His sermon was about "God's Holy Spirit." Benjamin used Matthew 6:34 as his text ("So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. *NRSV*), and he talked about how we don't have to worry because God's Holy Spirit will take care of us and help us get through each and every day. Benjamin told me it was God's Holy Spirit who made the disciples to speak a lot of different languages, even though they didn't know them (*see Acts 2:1-4*). Then Benjamin said it also was God's Holy Spirit who helps us do things we don't think we can do.

Benjamin has managed to get his heart around one of the most elusive themes the bible and theology – the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is "the mysterious power or presence of God in nature or with individuals and communities, inspiring or empowering them with qualities they would not otherwise possess."¹ The Spirit is not some ethereal wisp floating out in the ether. The Holy Spirit is real and active in our lives today.

We believe the Holy Spirit is God's *real* agent of creation. In Genesis 1 it was the Spirit of God who swept over the face of the formless void inspiring and initiating creation – "the Lord, the giver of life"² "who continues to create and renew the church as the community in which men are reconciled to God and to one another." (*C67, 9.20*)

We believe the Holy Spirit is God's *real* presence in the covenantal community – the church. "From the beginning God created [us] for community and called a people into covenant.. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, orders, and empowers the new community of the covenant. To each member, that Spirit gives gifts for building up the body of Christ and for equipping it for the work of ministry. A Christian's personal response to God is in community." (*Directory for Worship, W-1.1005*)

We believe the Holy Spirit is God's *real* source of inspiration and power. The Spirit spoke through the prophets, and it is the Holy Spirit who continues to speak to us today through scripture and proclamation, calling us continually to repentance and reconciliation with God and one another. What is really interesting is that the Spirit not only calls and inspires us, to be the people God calls us to be, but the Spirit also equips and empowers us to serve God in ways that often surprise us. God's Holy Spirit helps us do those things we don't think we can do.

Thanks be to God.

Leslianne Braunstein

NEW ADDRESSES:

Rich and Janet McPherson, 1108 Morrow Ave., Nashville, TN 37201, (615) 298-2114
Bob and Ann Hazard, 19355 Cypress Ridge Terr., Leesburg, VA 20176, (703) 858-4345

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

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

Alexander Alarie, Lindsey Bedingfield, Blake Conway, Grant Dick, Margaret Koonce, Preston Kuhn, Ryan Kunst, Eileen Lee, Sebastian McFeaters, Charles Trenkamp, Robert Trenkamp, Kevin Young, Roman Conway, Matthew Mamalian, Aiden Propps, Max May, Jack Swisher, Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Patterson Koonce, Chandler Kuhn, Abigail Spencer.



STEEPLE TO PEOPLE is in need of NEW EDITORS ASAP.

Please consider giving your time and creativity to do this satisfying and fun job. You will be offering a great service to our community and getting to know fellow PPC'ers in the process. Please contact **Sonia Russo** (soniaarusso@hotmail.com, 301-926-7580) or **Beth Rudnic** (brudnic@advancispharm.com, 301-869-4622 to find out more. Thanks!

¹ Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row, P., & Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). Harper's Bible dictionary. Includes index. (1st ed.) (401). San Francisco: Harper & Row.

² Nicene Creed



SAFeway ESCRIP Funds for Workcampers

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.

We earn about \$700 each school year in this way!

Here's how to sign up:

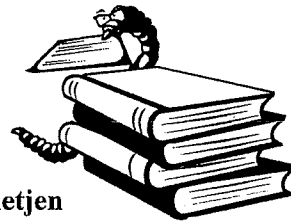
- If you don't already have one, you must first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store.
- After you have your card, I'll need your name, address, phone number and Safeway card number. **Give your information to me by mail, e-mail, telephone or drop it off at the church office.**
- That's all there is to it! Thank you for supporting our workcampers!
9812 Clydesdale St., Potomac, karenewise@hotmail.com, 301-299-2826

Karen Wise

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

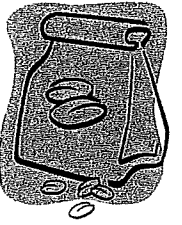
So many new books have been added to the shelves over the summer, I'm not able to list them all. Come on up to the library and see them in the book cart or shelves. I will mention one that I couldn't put down when I started to catalog it. The title is '**Darkened by the Sun: A story of Love, Faith, Hope and Miracles**' by **Ted-David Mizingou**. It is a story of his life growing up in the Republic of Congo and coming to the U.S. at the age of 24. It is an intriguing story.

I'm very happy to see that so many people are now using the library, but I also see that many books have been checked out for many months. Please look on your own shelves to see if you have one of ours and return it to the white basket by the windows. Any questions or suggestions, call **Nancy Tietjen** at 301-299-3272.



Nancy Tietjen

PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT – Please stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship on October 1 to purchase coffee. The price is \$7 per package. Hot cocoa mix and baking cocoa are \$5 per package



Community Based
Shelter

MANY THANKS to Richard Cannon and Susan Mitchell who have graciously volunteered to be the new coordinators to support PPC's Community Based Shelter (CBS) mission.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING TEAM NEEDS new

Co-chairs. Please contact **Pam Drumheller** at 301-977-7973. Also wanted: leader for poinsettia sale or other fundraiser

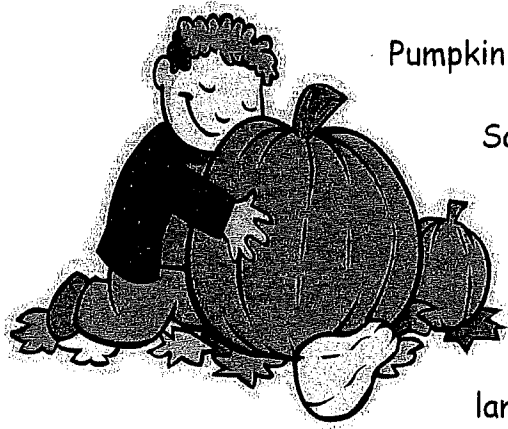


STEPHEN MINISTRY - Please let Pastors Kerry or Leslianne know if you are interested in having a private, confidential and highly trained caregiving Stephen Minister. We have a newly commissioned class who are ready and anxious to be of service.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY -Copies of a letter to PCUSA congregations from the Office of the General Assembly (www.pcusa.org) are available on the table just inside the sanctuary.

SUPPORT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION WITH A MATCHING GRANT
After our April 30 Theological Education Sunday Worship Service, a member of our congregation made an additional contribution to our new Scholarship Fund at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. As exciting as that was---a **corporate matching grant** was added, making it even better! A reminder to every member associated with a firm that offers matching grants: Consider a gift to a Theological Seminary. They are vital to our Church. I'll be glad to help.

Ed Clark, Theological Education Chairman, 301-315-0512



Pumpkin Patch and Hayride at the Homestead Farm

Saturday, Oct 14th, 4:30pm, Hayride at 5pm

Fun for all ages, invite friends!

The fellowship committee will provide dinner and all the fixings for S'mores!

Enjoy this time of fellowship while taking a hayride, picking the perfect jack-o-lantern and singing songs around a campfire.

Cost is \$8/person

Look for more details and a sign-up poster later this month

Other fellowship events coming up -

Christmas Ornament Craft Night, November 17

Caroling at Nursing Homes, December 10.

10TH ANNUAL CABARET FOR THE CURE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2:00 – 5:00

MCLEAN HILTON

PLAN AHEAD FOR A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON
OF DANCE, MUSIC AND FUN!

Ann Hazard



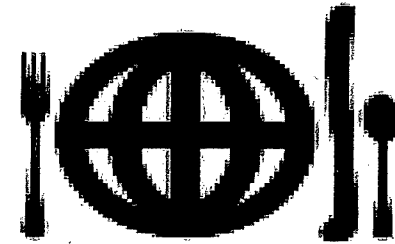
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WASHINGTON

REFORMED INSTITUTE COURSE OFFERINGS FOR

2006-07 – The Reformed Institute offers courses for those who want to engage in study and reflection on themes related to the Reformed tradition. These courses are taught by members of the Institute's Company of Teachers. Brochures outlining the course offerings are available in the narthex literature rack or you may visit the website at www.reformedinstitute.org.

The Deacons invite all members and friends of our PPC Community to join us for an **INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER** celebrating World Communion Sunday.

Deacons are coordinating the dinner which will be prepared by parish members. (Deacons will provide beverages and dessert.)



**Sunday, October 1, 2006
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Come one! Come all! for an evening of fun, food and fellowship as we share table Communion and learn about the spread of the Gospel and how God is at work in our hearts and our world today.

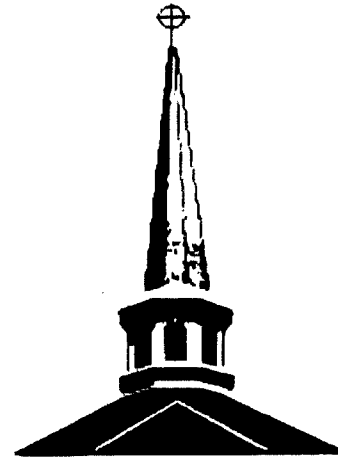
For additional information contact Wendy Kuhn:
(301) 963-9239 or Kahlil0692@msn.com

Childcare provided for children 3 and under in the nursery.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2006						
1 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-I 11:00 a.m. Worship/ World Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:30 p.m. International Potluck Dinner	2	3 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	5 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-II 11:00 a.m. Worship/Bibles for 3 rd Graders 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Meeting with Confirmands and parents 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	9 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	10 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.) 7:00 p.m. Wooton H.S. Music Honor Society Event	11 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	12 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	13	14 4:30 p.m. Hayride at Homestead Farm
15 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers and Youth Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-III 11:00 a.m. Worship/ Beth Williams' Installation 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	16 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	17 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	18 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	19 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	20 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Retreat	21 Middle School Youth Retreat
22 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New members/Session 11:00 a.m. Worship/New Members Received 12:15 p.m. Training for Confirmation Sponsors 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	23 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	24	25 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. RI Program Committee 4:00 p.m. 'Pumpkin Caroling' Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	26 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	27	28 <i>Potomac Day</i> 8:30-3:00 Stephen Ministry Retreat
29 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> Stewardship Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:30 p.m. Haunted Maze	30	31				

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

Potomac Presbyterian Church
NOVEMBER 2006

KERRY ON...

“Share Abundantly” is our stewardship theme for 2007.

In Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians he writes,

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share
abundantly in every good work. II Corinthians 9:8

I would like to share two very different stories that illustrate abundant sharing. Dwayne Wade was the Most Valuable Player in this year’s NBA finals. He has just completed his third year in the league and is already being compared to Michael Jordan. He tithes 10% of his 3.0 million income to his home church in Chicago.

Far away in upstate New York lives a lady named Rosa Murillo. She is often mistaken for a homeless person as people see her collecting cans all over the city of Troy. She is 89 years old and all the money she receives from the recycled cans goes to mission work at home and abroad. She came to the United States 40 years ago and worked for two families as a nanny. After retirement she set out on her “mission for the missions” as she calls it. Every year she gives about \$1,000. Her pastor says that every so often Rosa hands him a brown paper bag with a wad of cash in it. He distributes her donation to the needy in the community. And some is sent to missions in South America. She says, “I see collecting cans for mission as a way of showing gratitude to God for physical and mental health at my age.”

Truly God has blessed us with abundance and invites us to share abundantly,
and as the Apostle told the Corinthians,
God loves a cheerful giver.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

Nov. 5 Dr. Ann White, “Women of the Reformation”
Nov. 12 Dr. Ann White, “Women of the Reformation,” (cont’d)
Nov. 19 Bill Malone, “Inerrancy of Biblical Translation:
A Will O’ the Wisp”
Nov. 26 Dr. John Yieh (title to be announced)

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.

BETH'S BLURB

When I hear the word "installed", I have visions of a new heating system or telephone lines being put in somewhere. I never really thought of myself as installed. But that is what I am now. People have asked me if it feels different, now that I am installed. Installations usually happen fairly soon after a new person arrives at a church, but in my case it did not. I began at PPC as an interim and served for 15 months in that capacity. After doing everything decently and in order, with, of course, a committee or two involved, I was given the opportunity to change my status from interim to---what? What exactly is the opposite of "interim"—"permanent"? But that sounds presumptuous and inconceivable. Everyone must know that I will not be here forever, which is how permanent sounds. Well, in Presbyterian lingo, it turns out the opposite of "interim" is "installed", which also turns out to be a really apt word in this case. One dictionary definition of "installation" is, "something installed, as machinery or apparatus placed in position or connected for use." I think the key word here is "connected", and that is how I feel now. It is how I feel different than before. Now I am connected to this church, its ministry, and its people for a special use or purpose.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make my installation a very special day: the staff, Kerry, and Leslieanne, who made me part of the team; the singers from the Wonderful Wednesday singers all the way to the adult choir, the bell ringers, and especially Cindy for the beautiful music; the Fellowship Committee and deacons for the fabulous reception, gorgeous photo album and plant; the Session for the gift of the tickets to Wolf Trap; and the Christian Education Committee for their generous comments and framed scripture of one of my favorite verses, Romans 8:28, "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."

Now I am not just called – but installed!

Beth Williams



STEPHEN MINISTRY - Please let Pastors Kerry or Leslieanne know if you are interested in having a private, confidential and highly trained caregiving Stephen Minister. We have a newly commissioned class who are ready and anxious to be of service.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doug and Janine Henderson
Ava and Doug
22 Froude Circle
Cabin John, MD 20818
301-320-8640

John and Marjorie Christian
10867 Deborah Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-1034

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Ann Eagleson, Margaret Fahs, Bob Hazard, William Hotes, and John Minaberry, at home; with Peter Fidler, at Arden Court; with Ruthanne Stoltzfus in rehab following a broken hip; with Ed and Janet Clark on the recent death of his father, Fred Clark; and all who are serving in the Armed Forces. We also remember Mike and Nancy Haninger, our missionaries to the Congo as they await their return to the Congo. Please remember also Katie McKenna, who is in India building housing with Habitat.



SPECIAL NOTE: A memorial service for Fred Clark will be held at PPC on **Saturday, November 11, at 4:00 p.m.**

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Fred Clark. We commend him to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for children in kindergarten and first grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Christian Alarie, Emily Cyrway, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Alexandra Mamalian, Gavin May, Matthew Visnich, Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Charlotte Koonce, Zachary Nannen, Megan Reilly, Samuel Spencer.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING TEAM NEEDS NEW CO-CHAIRS. Please contact **Pam Drumheller** at 301-977-7973. We are also in need of a leader for a poinsettia sale or other fundraiser event.



DEACON'S CORNER

This is a time when we reflect on where we are in life, how we got there, what we have become, and what surrounds us. It is a time when we give thanks for all the good family and friends and circumstances that have brought us to this juncture. Giving thanks brings us joy and comfort. Above all, we give thanks to our Lord.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and not we ourselves; 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. (Psalm 100: 1-4).

At this juncture, with only a few months more as an active deacon of PPC, I give thanks for having been asked to serve you. I give thanks for the opportunity to have become more integrated in my Church Family and for my association with my wonderful parish members.

Rejoicing and eternal praise be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, who sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of your disciples and increased the boundless love of God in their spirits. Blessed are you, praiseworthy and glorious forever. (Saint Birgitta).

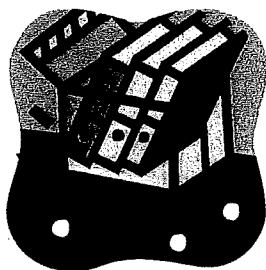
Kitty Cowie



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES:

The deacons sent out 50 care packages full of goodies to our congregation's college kids this month. Thank you, deacons, reports are they were much appreciated!

LIBRARY NEWS



I'm not sure where to start with library news this month. There are so many wonderful books on the shelves. To make it easier for you to see the newest books, I have put them on the book truck. I also have put books to augment our studies--books on the Reformation for adult studies, two new commentaries on Acts for Kerygma, and A Labyrinth Year: Walking the Seasons of the Church by Richard Kautz for Wednesday Bible Study. For the Eugene Peterson fans, his new Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading has arrived. Don't forget to put your name, phone number and the date you take the book on the card in the back of the book and then put it in the brown box on the shelf. Happy reading!

Nancy Tietjen

The Wright Note

This is the time of year when we move our clocks back an hour. Thus, in this article, I will fall back just a bit and review some highlights from October and then spring forward to expectations for November.

In October, there were events at the Potomac Elementary School involving evening parking challenges. I want to thank members of the Property Committee who voluntarily wore orange vests and controlled the traffic pattern on Thursday nights. All of the choir members who came for rehearsals are most grateful for their stress-free parking close to the church.

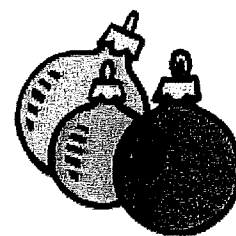
Another thank-you in October goes to all of the musicians who contributed their voices, instrumental talents and liturgical dance to the worship service and installation of Beth Williams. The sanctuary was literally filled with music. From the front we heard ten youths in the Youth Ensemble, the Sunrise Singers and the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir accompanied by handbells, violin and piano. From the rear balcony we heard our Sanctuary Choir singing the "And the Father Will Dance" which was then so beautifully interpreted in liturgical dance. What a glorious morning of celebration!

Another day of celebration will be **All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5th**. We will be privileged to have as our musical guests, The Commonwealth Brass. This brass ensemble is well known throughout the area. The instrumentalists are members of the Army Band and are directed by Charles Seipp, a fine musician known for his expertise as trumpeter and arranger. This group comes to us through the Joy Schwan Best Memorial Fund.

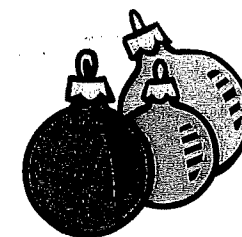
Cindy Wright



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP



Friday, November 17 from 7:00 to 9:00pm
Come out for a night of gluing, cutting, glitter and fellowship as we create hand crafted Christmas ornaments. Bring a friend!! Enjoy light refreshments and Christmas music. If you are interested in lending a hand, please call **Judi Miller 301-949-6865.**





MISSION HAPPENINGS: SPOTLIGHT ON STEPPING STONES SHELTER

Have you ever wondered about the shelter which receives the items you donate to **The Big Yellow Box** in Fellowship Hall? It has an interesting history and provides wonderful services and hope to our area families in need.



Stepping Stones Shelter is the oldest shelter for homeless families in Montgomery County. It was founded in 1979 under the name of Gaithersburg Emergency House by citizens and congregations who were concerned about the growing number of homeless families they were seeing in our area. It was started in a small townhouse, but the organizers soon realized that a larger structure was needed. In 1982 they purchased the Dawson family farmhouse in Rockville and renamed it the **Stepping Stones Shelter**. The farmhouse has six bedrooms, and six families of different sizes occupy the different sized rooms. At any time, the shelter houses 23-25 people of various ages.

The homeless men, women and children who reside at **Stepping Stones** are given the opportunity to regain their independence on a "step by step" basis. In addition to shelter, they are provided with food, clothing, case management and support services with special attention given to the needs of children of the participating families. The three broad goals of the shelter are: *Providing Hope for the Future, Strengthening Family Values, and Enabling Self-sufficiency.* These goals are accomplished through Adult Education Programs and Children's Support Services.

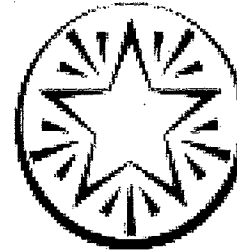
Residents must be willing to work to change their situation and be drug and alcohol free. Five paid staff and numerous volunteers provide 24 hour coverage. They work closely with families to help them get back on their feet and secure more permanent housing. Most families stay from three to four months except in exceptional circumstances.

Stepping Stones Shelter is privately owned and operated by Gaithersburg Emergency Housing, Inc., a non-profit coalition. It receives funding from state programs, the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg, local community groups, synagogues, churches including our own, and individual community members.

When you donate to **The Big Yellow Box** throughout the year, know that you too will be helping homeless families as they struggle to get back on their feet. Thank you for your generosity and continued support! Visit <http://www.stepsstonesshelter.org/> to learn more. Also, please see page 8 for a holiday volunteer event.

Carolyn Stump

"MISSION MOMENTS" during Worship Hour in November will feature **Jane Stanton** of our congregation talking about **The Lord's Table Community Shelter** in Gaithersburg, where she has been a monthly volunteer in the soup kitchen for the past 10 years.



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD! *The Williamsburg Breakfast* *Presented by the PPC Deacons*

Join our church family as we celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with an Advent celebration of music and fellowship

Sunday, December 3rd
9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Please bring a breakfast bread to share and a joyful voice to join in the singing
All leftovers will be donated to a local shelter

Also, don't miss your opportunity to take part in The Giving Tree.
Pick an ornament tag and spread the joy of Christmas to a family in need.

Children in 5th grade and younger will be served first and then will go to their classrooms.
Older children and youth are invited to stay and participate



Please Also Save the Date for the Following Yuletide Events
Organized by the Fellowship Committee

Sunday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m.

Caroling at Nursing Homes

Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Jesus Birthday Celebration



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH DISTINCTION

In September **Elsie Reid** took up her new duties as **Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC)**. Elsie has served on the Board representing PPC for the last five years. Our church has for many years enthusiastically participated in the work of CMMC. Potomac Presbyterian is now financially one of the largest single church supporters of CMMC, and our members give many hours of volunteer service during our annual week providing meals and supplies at CMMC's shelter for the homeless, and for other CMMC projects. As Chairman, Elsie will oversee and direct CMMC's many programs to feed, house, clothe, counsel, help find employment for, and provide public advocacy for the poor and vulnerable in Montgomery County.

Jim Reichley



DESPERATELY SEEKING FURNITURE OF ALL KINDS Community Ministry of Montgomery County (now in its 35TH year of helping the homeless and low income of Montgomery County) is **in dire need of all types of furniture**. CMMC'S furniture distribution program will pick up gently used furniture from your **home or office**, giving it away for free to qualified low-income families in need. Our supply of used furniture is dwindling rapidly. Please call us at **240-361-1736** in order to arrange a pick-up or to inquire further. Please, no heavy appliances or large entertainment centers

CORRECTION TO OCTOBER STEEPLE TO PEOPLE: The new PPC Coordinators for CMMC's Community Based Shelter are **Linda Knowles and Richard Cannon**. Thank you, **Linda and Richard!**

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STEPPING STONES SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to wrap books at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore (12089 Rockville Pike) over the holidays. There is no "charge" for wrapping, but customers are instead asked to make donations to **Stepping Stones Shelter**. Wrapping paper and supplies are provided by Barnes & Noble. Volunteer wrappers are needed on **Saturday, Dec. 23** during the day, and one or two wrappers are needed for **Friday night Dec.15**. To participate in this fun activity, contact **Marjorie Klein** on behalf of Stepping Stones at marjorie.klein@bt.com (**W: 703 262-1524; H: 301 365-3877**). Community service hours are available, but teen shifts must be accompanied by at least one adult. If you cannot volunteer, please go to Barnes & Nobles and take advantage of the wrapping service!

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

We have spent the month of October, one Sunday at a time, highlighting the role of PPC in the world and in our lives, starting with World Communion Sunday. As we prepare for **Stewardship Sunday on October 29th**, we do well to remember the theme we have chosen this year, "Share Abundantly," based on II Corinthians 9: 6-15.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,
so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity:
for God loveth a cheerful giver.

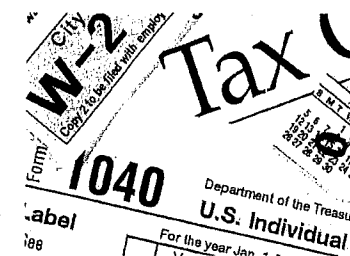
Following Stewardship Sunday, on October 29th, we will send out our 2007 pledge cards, and as we receive our pledge cards and think about how to demonstrate our commitment according to our capabilities, may we be reminded of the interplay of our commitment of mind and pledge through a verse in "Take My Life and Let It Be," (Hymn 391) as we sang on October 15th.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I with-hold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Matt Spencer

Good News! A Window of Opportunity For Tax Free Withdrawal Of IRA Funds---Help PPC and Avoid Taxes!

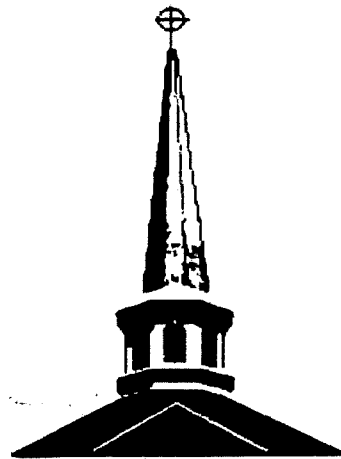
Every year our **Finance Committee** wrestles with how to meet the budget during the Lean giving months when many of us are waiting to pay our pledge at the end of the year. It would be a great help if we would pay all or part of our pledge "in advance." Now, thanks to a recently enacted tax law in 2006 and 2007 those of you over 70 ½ can give up to \$100,000 **tax free** directly from your IRA by your plan administrator to PPC to help make this happen. This means that individuals using a standard deduction can retain it *and* give a tax free deduction. It also provides a way to avoid future taxes on your IRA funds; and for those who want to defer withdrawing income from IRA's the gift applies to the "required minimum distribution." If you have questions, please contact your tax advisor.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2006</h1>						
			1 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. Kerygma Bible Study	2 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4 8:30-3:30 p.m. Session Retreat (At the home of Nettie Propps)
5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	6	7 Election Day 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	8 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Memorial Garden Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	9 12:00-4:00 p.m. Brownie Troop Orientation 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11 4:00 p.m. Fred Clark Memorial Service
12 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	13 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	15 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. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	16 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Christmas Ornament Workshop	18 8:30 p.m. Help the Homeless Walkathon 9:30 a.m. Reformed Institute Board Meeting
19 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 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. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	20 Session will not meet	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	22 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. NO Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	23 ~ THANKSGIVING ~ (Office Closed)	24 (Office Closed)	25
26 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. Combined Youth Groups - Thanksgiving Leftovers Dinner	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. New Officer Training 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4 th Mon.)	28 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	29 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. Kerygma Bible Study	30 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
DECEMBER 2006

KERRY ON...

I wonder if it would make a difference if we really began the New Year on the first Sunday of Advent rather than on January 1? It would be counter cultural to be sure. Christians could truly have a day and season of spiritual significance without any commercialization. The shift in tone would be dramatic as we begin the year waiting for the coming or arrival of Jesus. It is also a time to consider the coming of Christ again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Reflection, longing and repentance would be the themes that mark the days until the celebration of the Incarnation. Each Sunday a candle is lighted until the Christ candle is aflame on Christmas day. We are moving toward "the true light that enlightens everyone." (John 1:9)

Beyond that day the year would unfold with light to the nations on Epiphany, and a second season (Lent) of reflection, longing and repentance leading to Easter. We know that a week called "holy" is coming and a day called "good." Then there is another time of waiting fifty days until the power of the Holy Spirit brings the church into being on Pentecost. The long season of Pentecost follows when we are called to remember that the power of that day enlivens our lives in today's world. This last season of the year is sometimes called "ordinary time." How appropriate for God has promised to meet us in the everyday, ordinary routine of life; in the small joys and sorrows, the small victories and defeats, the grace filled moments.

It might just make a real difference if we began the year with the story of Jesus rather than New Years Eve parties and non stop football on the first day of the year. What do you think?

FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR – DECEMBER 3, 2006

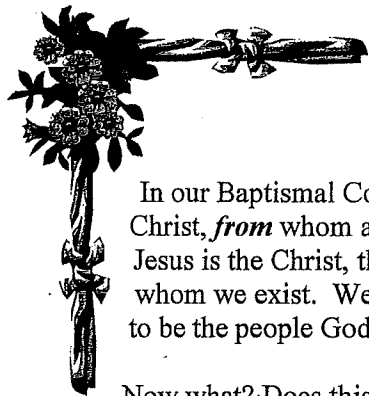
REMINDER: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 31.
The College students will be leading the service on December 31.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 3 | Williamsburg Breakfast |
| Dec. 10 | Robert Drumheller "Israel and Palestine-Can they really learn to live in peace together?" |
| Dec. 17 | Dr. John Yieh, "Old Testament – New Testament – Jesus and Peter" |
| Dec. 24 | No Class |
| Dec. 31 | No Class |

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



Leslianne

The Baptismal Covenant (continued . . .)

In our Baptismal Covenant we profess there is one God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *from* whom are all things and *for* whom we exist. We confess with the Saints that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, *through* whom are all things and *through* whom we exist. We affirm that God's Holy Spirit calls, inspires, equips and empowers us to be the people God calls us to be.

Now what? Does this mean we can all say "amen," and go home to the Sunday New York Times? Ah! I think not. The Baptismal Covenant does not end with these three essential Christian affirmations. Now that we have affirmed our belief in all God has done and continues to do for us, it is our opportunity to respond to God in grateful obedience. How do we say 'thank you' to God? Well, here is what we have promised in our Baptismal Covenant:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

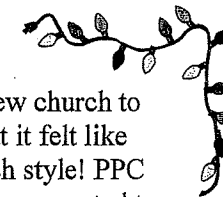
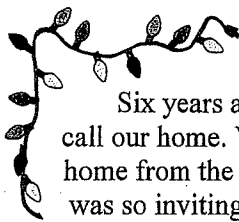
The apostles' teaching and fellowship . . . One of the tenets of the Reformed faith is our belief that God calls us to be the Church – the body of Christ living in covenant community "where people are reconciled to God and to one another." (*Confession of 1967*, 9.20, adapted) It is a community in which we come to know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. In response, we accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. (9.22, adapted)

We are called to live in a covenant community that affirms that "the one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. The Scriptures are not a witness among others, but the witness without parallel. The church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as prophetic and apostolic testimony in which it hears the word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated." (9.27 adapted)

In the breaking of bread, and in the prayers . . . We are called to live in a covenant community that celebrates our "reconciliation with God and with one another by joyfully eating and drinking together at the table of our Savior. Jesus Christ gave us this remembrance of his dying for us sinners so that by participation in it we have communion with him and with all who shall be gathered to him. Partaking in him as we eat the bread and drink the wine in accordance with Christ's appointment, we receive from the risen and living Lord the benefits of his death and resurrection. We rejoice in the foretaste of the kingdom which he will bring to consummation at his promised coming, and we go out from the Lord's Table with courage and hope for the service to which we are called." (9.52, adapted)

(continued on page 3)

DEACON'S CORNER



Six years ago, Cyndy and I were church "free-agents", shopping for a new church to call our home. We came to PPC one Sunday and were greeted so warmly that it felt like home from the first moment. It was, in many ways, love at first sight – church style! PPC was so inviting, so humble and so comfortable that we knew this was where we wanted to be and, even though Alexandra and Matthew were but a hope and prayer at the time, it was, we knew, where we wanted to raise our kids.

Ask someone to describe a Presbyterian church in Potomac, Maryland, and it's not likely they'll start the description with "humble", "diverse" and "spiritual". Yet, that's what we are. I'm amazed everyday by the people of this church and the zeal they bring to serving, giving, and worship. I'm humbled by the work of my fellow deacons, the Stephen Ministers, the elders, our missionaries and the multitude of others who serve the church each day. They each bring so many gifts to this church, to the community and to those they touch.

Recently, I mentioned to someone that I can't listen to the song "Here I am Lord" without getting emotional. The words are so simple, yet so powerful. "Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." Three years ago, when I was called to be a deacon, I accepted the honor, in great part, because I wanted to be a part of what made this church so welcoming to members and newcomers, alike. As I've served, however, I have received ten-fold. It has been an amazing blessing! As I finish my term as deacon and return to "civilian" life, I carry with me the comfort in knowing that I am at home at PPC and that my children will grow and learn here. I pray that each of us continues to hold each other in our heart.

Paul Mamalian



Christmas Caroling

Come carol with us at Manor Care

December 10th at 3:00 pm.

For more information, please call **Judi Miller at 301-949-6865**

Reminder



Jesus
Birthday
Celebration

*Sunday
December 17
7:00 p.m.*



Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, William Hotes, Members of the Armed Forces; Bob Hazard at Loudoun County Hospital; Margaret Fahs recovering from surgery; Merrily Tovmassian's brother, John Minaberry, receiving cancer treatment; Ruthanne Stoltzfus recovering from hip surgery at home; Gloria Leber in intermediate care unit at Johns Hopkins following surgery; Bill Stanton recovering from surgery at home; Pat King recovering from eye surgery; Miriam Conley recovering from surgery at home; Katie McKenna has completed her work with Habitat in India and

returned home for Thanksgiving; The Schelp family whose 12-year-old son, Luke, died recently.

WE REJOICE with Mike and Nancy Haninger that Mike has been cleared by his physician to return to The Republic of the Congo in December.

CONGRATULATIONS to Scott and Amy Knowles on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Elizabeth Knowles, on November 11. Proud grandparents are Jack and Linda Knowles.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Fran Miller and Huseyin Kaya on the birth of their son, Max Volkan Kaya, on September 19th. Proud grandmother is Linda Miller.

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for children in second and third grades. Please pray for their parents and families, too.



Rebecca Chan, Jackie Fasano, Nicholas Mason, Travis Nannen, Sarah Nasson, Noah Pereles, Nicholas Visnich, Meredith White, Isabella Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Nathan Bretscher, Delaney Casten, Katherine Donahue, Bryan Eng, Lauren Eng, Jackson Miller, Dalton Novalis, Alex Page, Dylan Parr, Meredith Srour, Nathan VanBrunt, Jack White.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

On Sunday, November 12th, Pastor Tom Miles shared with the children and the rest of the congregation the many ways that we, each individually, can choose to be the instrument of God in the world through our daily actions. As I listened to Pastor Tom's story of the angel by the side of the road, I thought of the idea of the cheerful giver, and thought of what we can all do through PPC and outside of PPC to give of ourselves cheerfully and in the many ways we can. In our pledges and in our actions in 2007, I pray we can all be an angel to someone.

Matt Spencer



The Wright Note



A Stable Environment - Have any of you noticed the huge plastic bag I have been carrying into church each Sunday for the past month? It has been full of puppets – wonderful animal hand puppets that I discovered at our local toy store and just *had* to have for the teaching of the songs the children are learning for the Christmas pageant. The choirs and I are having such fun using the cow, donkey, sheep and camel as we learn the musical roles these animals will portray in the nativity story.

Our pageant this year will be presented during the 11:00 o'clock a.m. worship service on Dec. 24th. The title is "St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story". The story will be introduced by our version of St. Francis of Assisi. He was a great lover of animals and is credited with the original idea to reenact the birth of Christ in a cave outside of town, creating the very first nativity scene. Our sanctuary will become a stable on Dec. 24th, and the animals will be well behaved and musically prepared to help us experience the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus.

For those children who are not in a choir and who want to participate in the pageant as a costumed shepherd, king, star or animal, there will be a chart in the narthex for volunteers. Parts will be assigned based on age and numbers. Since the children will need to respond to directions and to provide a peaceful, quiet stable setting, I suggest that volunteers be old enough to enjoy this responsibility. Sign-ups will be accepted until Dec. 10th. A dress rehearsal for all participants will be held on Saturday, Dec. 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. I look forward to the coming weeks of preparation for this happy event.

Cindy Wright

Leslianne, continued

This is the community in which we are called to gather in prayer for ourselves, our community and for the sake of the world and by which we are nurtured and equipped for ministry (See 9.24).

As faithful members of this community, the church, "we accept Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of the Church. Our involvement includes proclaiming the good news, taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church, praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church, supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church, responding to God's activity in the world through service to others, living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment." (Book of Order, G-5.0102)

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers? Will you?

Leslianne Braunstein

BETH'S BLURB

When I was growing up we decorated for Christmas much like everyone else, wreaths, trees, outdoor lights, candles, etc, but my favorite part of decorating was getting out the nativity scene (or crèche, as some call it) and setting it up in pride of place in the center of the mantel. Frank Lloyd Wright designed his famous homes around the theory that the fireplace is the central symbol of the family. I would have to agree with him, at least in the winter time. And by placing the crèche in the center of the mantle, we were saying what was central to our family during this holiday season. When I was in college, one of the most special gifts my boyfriend, now husband of 25 years, gave me was my own crèche, so that I could decorate my apartment for the season. My daughter loves to decorate for the holidays, any holiday, but especially Christmas. This year I bought her one for her apartment. As we struggle to not get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas, I am grateful for the reminder that sits on my mantel. As I inch the wise men across the mantel and wait anxiously to place the baby Jesus in the manger, I am pulled back to the wonderful story and the real meaning of the season.

Beth Williams

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS' SITTING SERVICE DECEMBER 2, 10:00 - 2:00

The youth of the church are giving a gift of babysitting to the families of PPC so that parents can get some Christmas shopping done or just have a relaxing time going out to brunch. Leave your children for a day of Christmas games, crafts, stories, and baking. Each child should bring a bag lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please sign-up on the poster in the fellowship hall so that we can plan age-appropriate activities for the children. Or you may register your child(ren) by calling Beth at 301-299-6007 or email beth@potomacpresbyterian.org

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Don't know what to get that person who has everything? Give them an alternative gift. You donate money to the workcamp in their name and receive a beautiful handmade card to give them letting them know about the gift you have made in their name. This is a wonderful way to recognize special people in your life as well as support these young people who will be giving a week of their summer repairing homes for those in need in Oak Hill, WV. Gift Cards will be available for purchase in the fellowship hall on Nov. 26 – Dec. 17.

YOUTH SKI TRIP AT WISP FEBRUARY 16-19

2 Full Days of Skiing!!!! We will depart Friday evening and return Monday afternoon. Costs: Transportation and Lodging for three nights, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners: \$115.00 Plus Lift Tickets and Rentals – see registration form for the specific costs for your needs. In addition you will need money for dinner on the drive up and 3 lunches. Tubing is extra. To register: sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board and turn in a registration form. Space is limited so sign-up now.



LIBRARY NEWS



Have you looked at the library book cart or browsed the shelves lately? We have added so many wonderful new books. You can also use the old fashion card catalog--the one where you manually look at the cards that are interfiled by author, title and subject. The catalog and book return basket are on the shelf under the windows. When you check out a book or video, please take the book card from the item and put the date you take the book/video, your name and phone number on it and put the card in the brown box under the reference books.

I'd like to recommend a couple new books this month. The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism and Western Success by Rodney Stark. It has been said that Stark may be the most influential religious researcher of the past 100 years. Stark asserts "Christian theology is the very font of reason." Lift Your Hearts on High: Eucharistic Prayer in the Reformed Tradition by Ronald Byars is most interesting. Appendix I in his book is a time line for Reformed Liturgies. Ronald Byars provides an extensive historical study of the prayers we use in worship. If you have any suggestions or questions, give me a call, 301-299-3272.

HAPPY READING!!!

Nancy Tietjen



Welcome to the newest members of our church who were received into membership on October 22, 2006.

**Marjorie and Jack Christian, 10867 Deborah Drive, Potomac MD 20854
201-299-1034**

Marjorie is active these days with golf, tennis and bridge groups. She recently retired as a part time office manager for a psychologist and has many years of office management experience with several firms. Jack has a background in magazine publishing and recently retired as a media and marketing development consultant. He is still active as a pro bono marketing consultant for Montgomery County. Both are college graduates interested in national and international affairs and world travel. They have three sons located in Pennsylvania, Maine and Hawaii and eight grandchildren.

Janine and Doug Henderson, 22 Froude Circle, Cabin John MD 20818 301-320-8604

Doug and Janine both grew up in Montgomery County. Doug previously served in the US Marine Corps and is now a stay-at-home father for 5 year old Ava, a kindergarten student at Bannockburn Elementary School, and 6 month old Doug. He enjoys genealogy, health and reading. Janine works for the Department of Energy in the Office of Nuclear Energy and in her spare time enjoys reading and cooking.

Grace and Gratitude from Ruthanne....

Truly I have been graced with many blessings this last month. I am so grateful that such a hard fall on concrete only broke one bone....I have many more that could have been impacted. I am grateful.

I am also grateful for all of your faithful prayers...They made a difference in my care. There was always someone around who put me on different medications...or offered solutions that were just right for my care.

I was so grateful that there was a surgical team at Suburban ready to take care of me that night rather than waiting until the next morning. That was huge and I know that prayers influenced that timing, along with Cindy Wright's maternal advice..."go early to the ER Ruthanne...don't wait until later..it makes a difference". Thanks Cindy, it made a difference.

Thanks for the greeting cards both funny and sweet...I carried one musical card in my wheel chair at Manor Care and would play it at appropriate moments... It always brought a smile. Thanks too for the wishes for a speedy recovery. I am progressing well (for a young person :)) and am very grateful.

Thanks for all of the equipment that came my way, walkers, wheelchairs, crutches...all donated to the cause.

Thanks to the medical folks in our church community who gave additional information and help.

Thanks to the deacons and others who joined them in the 'Ministry of the Meals'. It has been wonderful to have meals come in the --door...along with familiar faces ...all happy to be bringing food.-- We are grateful to be receiving the help. Kerry and I both come from families that equate food with love...THANKS! Kerry gave this ministry an acronym...(M.O.M).

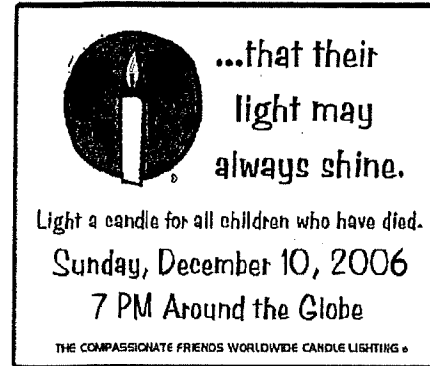
You can be sure that we will be bringing food to others in the future.

I have many stories of "just the right person" being there to make a difference in pain control, comfort, and physical therapy as well as being there to find something funny in the circumstances.

I have memories of individuals who made a huge difference...and they continue with the lives of others still there (at Suburban and Manor Care....and many other places). Folks who are having a hard time adjusting to the current circumstances and challenges of health and living are blessed by their care.

I have always had great respect for the medical community...but now I am in awe of all that they do..and the difference they make. From the joyful young man who delivered meals at Suburban, backing out with blessings and respect (so as not to turn his back on me...) to the aide who greeted my 85 year-old roommate at Manor Care (who has emphysema) with "Good morning Margaret, there is that beautiful smile that I love." Everyone can make a difference...no matter how small or big. I am grateful.

Thank you again. Peace and blessings...Ruthanne and Kerry too.



DECEMBER 10TH 7:00 P.M. LIGHT A CANDLE IN MEMORY OF A CHILD.

Held annually the second Sunday in December, this year December 10, The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe as they light candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor children in a way that transcends all ethnic, cultural, religious, and political boundaries. For more information, go to

www.compassionatefriends.org. Compassionate Friends meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at PPC. On December 5th there will be a simple meal (\$10.00 for two people) with a speaker from Montgomery Hospice and a candle lighting ceremony. If you would like to attend, go to the website www.tcfdcmetro.com/potomac.html or call 301-776-8500 to contact the Potomac chapter.



In Case of Inclement Weather

PPC strives to hold the 11:00 a.m. worship service with rare exceptions. However, this service, Christian education classes and other activities may be cancelled. The Property Committee endeavors to keep the church grounds clear and safe, but in stormy conditions, ice and falling snow may be a hazard. If driving and walking conditions are dangerous, please stay home.

Meetings and programs other than worship services may be cancelled at any time (on Sundays or during the week) if weather conditions become unfavorable. Chairs of committees and/or leaders for events should communicate with their members if meetings and events are cancelled or postponed. The church office may close when weather conditions present a danger for travel. To stay informed in times of inclement weather:

- Call the church's number for a message
- Check the church's website homepage
- Deacons will call their parish members

Advent I



December 3 ~ Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Jesus Birthday Children's Chorus
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
6:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus

12/5 – Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Lord's Table
6:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends

Advent II



December 10 ~ Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Jesus Birthday Children's Chorus
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
3:00 p.m. Caroling at Nursing Homes
6:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus

12/11 – Monday

7:30 p.m. Session

12/12 – Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Christian Living

12/6 – Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Bible Study Brunch
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

12/7 – Thursday

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

12/9 – Saturday

10:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
11:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Men's Chorus
11:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Women's Chorus

12/13 – Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Collingswood
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

12/14 – Thursday

6:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Handbells
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/16 – Saturday

10:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
10:45 a.m. Jesus Birthday Handbells
11:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Men's Chorus
11:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Women's Chorus

Advent III



December 17 ~ Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Jesus Birthday Children's Chorus
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Men's Chorus
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Women's Chorus
12:30 p.m. Christmas Decorating
5:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Band
6:15 p.m. Jesus Birthday Handbells
6:30 p.m. Men's, Women's, Youth
and Children's Choruses
7:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Celebration

Advent IV - Christmas Eve

December 24 ~ Sunday

11:00 a.m. Pageant: *St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story*
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
5:00 p.m. Family Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

December 31 ~

Young Adult/College Student Sunday

11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

12/19 – Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group

12/20 – Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

12/21 – Thursday

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

12/23 – Saturday

11:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
(All participants)

