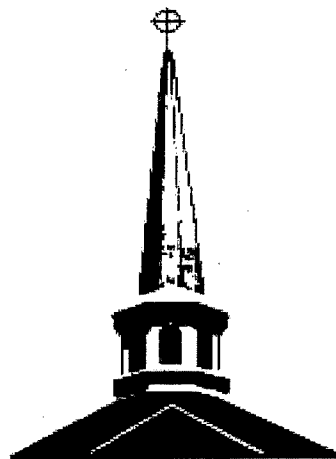


Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200

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*



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

JANUARY 2007

---

## KERRY ON...

As 2007 arrives I would like to share some lines of a poem by Charles Peguy, *The Mystery of the Holy Innocents*. I read it in Martin Marty's column in the December 12 issue of the Christian Century Magazine. In a world that keeps on repeating the horror of King Herod's response to the birth of Jesus this gentle word of hope affirms our faith in a loving and compassionate God.

I am, God says, Master of the Three  
Virtues.  
Faith is a loyal wife.  
Charity is a fervent mother.  
But hope is a very little girl.

I am, God says, the Master of the  
Virtues.

It is Faith who holds fast through  
century upon century.

It is Charity who gives herself  
through centuries of centuries

But it is my little hope  
Who gets up every morning.  
Says good day to us...  
I am God says, the Lord of the  
Virtues.

It is Faith who resists through  
century upon century.  
It is Charity who yields through  
century upon century.

But it is my little hope  
Who every morning...  
Says good-day to us...

### ADULT EDUCATION

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 7  | Katie McKenna – Her Mission Experience with Habitat in India |
| Jan. 14 | Installation Sunday - film                                   |
| Jan. 21 | Dewey Wallace - "The Canonization of the Christian Bible"    |
| Jan. 28 | Dewey Wallace – "The Text of the Bible"                      |

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



# Leslianne

## The Baptismal Covenant (*Continued*)

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

### The next question:

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

“*Simul iustus et peccator* is a phrase used by Martin Luther to describe the Christian who is justified by faith alone and declared righteous in God’s sight, yet who still experiences sin and unrighteousness in the Christian life.”<sup>1</sup> Sin is not a word we hear very often unless, of course, someone is referring to a decadent dessert. Theologically speaking, though, sin is real. It is “the human condition of separation from God that arises from opposition to God’s purposes. It may be breaking God’s law, failing to do what God wills, or rebellion.”<sup>2</sup>

We seem to have lost our awareness of sin’s existence in our lives. Just saying the word, “sin,” makes me cringe. I don’t like the word, and I certainly don’t want to apply it to me. Okay. I know I’m not perfect – but a *sinner*? That seems a little harsh, doesn’t it? I’m not in the habit of breaking any laws (speeding excepted). Heck. I don’t even litter!

But the truth is, Martin Luther hit the proverbial nail on the head. While I know that because of my relationship with Jesus Christ I am in “right relationship” to God; and while I know that by the power of God’s Holy Spirit I am equipped to discern God’s will and to do it, I also know that I will fail. My predilection is to prefer and choose my purposes over God’s. I still experience sin in my life that unseats my right relationship to God.

So, while the Christian life is justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it also is a process of sanctification – a process by which the Holy Spirit transforms us more and more into the image of Christ. The Christian life is a constant process of confession, forgiveness and renewal. None of that is going to happen unless we are honest about ourselves.

Our Baptismal Covenant reminds us that as part of our response to God’s grace in our lives, we are called by God to persevere in resisting the temptation to oppose God’s purposes. The covenant reminds us that we will not always be successful; and, when we fail, we need to make things right with God – to confess our sin and to be forgiven. It is good to be reminded, otherwise I might live my whole life patting myself on the back because I don’t litter.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
Will you? Leslianne Braunstein

<sup>1</sup> Donald K. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p.259

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p.260.



## DEACON’S CORNER

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give!"  
- Winston Churchill

“Few roles afford someone the opportunity to shape and impact a human life quite like being a parent. Elizabeth Everest never had that privilege. Born into humble means, Elizabeth became a nurse and nanny rather than a wife and mother. She looked after the small daughter of a clergyman before accepting the role of caring for an infant named Winston. Eventually, a little brother named Jack arrived.

Though she had few material possessions to share with the boys, she gave them a priceless treasure: her love. She poured her gift of storytelling on them. She painted wild imaginary pictures with words and told cliffhanging tales. She cared for the boys during the trials of adolescence and the tribulation of puberty. She continually shared from her reservoir of love, affection, and nurturing grace with wholehearted abandon.

Elizabeth Everest died in 1895. She never knew the impact she inadvertently had on the young man and on the course of history. The child she nurtured eventually grew up to be Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England who bravely led his nation through the turbulent years of World War II. One woman's love helped shape one of the greatest leaders of all time.”

--excerpt from Simple Acts of Faith, by Margaret Feinberg

We never know how we may affect someone's life by the gifts we give--a meal prepared for the sick or homeless, a house repaired at Workcamp, encouragement from a Stephen Minister to his care receiver, or just simply a phone call to a friend having a bad day. As we start this new year, let us be mindful of the positive impact we can have on the lives of others in the name of Jesus Christ. This "lifestyle evangelism" can produce fruit for many years to come. In 2007, may each of us be filled with a new awareness of God's presence in our lives and make us a blessing to those around us.

Kathy McPherson

## *In the Church Family*



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

*Jack Crawford, Peter Fidler, Pat Stow, William Hotes, Members of the Armed Forces; Bob Hazard at a nursing home in Leesburg; Merrily Tovmassian's brother, John Minaberry, receiving cancer treatment; Gloria Leber at home; the family of Lucille Ferrara who died on December 24; Vivian Teets and family whose mother, Mildred Brearley, died on December 15<sup>th</sup>. She had recently moved from New Jersey to Colorado to live with Vivian and Pete; Louise Plumb, whose mother, Marjoie Kittel died recently.*

**WE REJOICE** with *Mike and Nancy Haninger* that Mike has been cleared by his physician and they could return to The Republic of the Congo to continue their mission work.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Matt and Kathy Clouse on the birth of their son, John Belyeu Clouse, on November 30. Grateful grandparents are John and Carol Clouse.

**CONGRATULATIONS** also go to Abby Clouse for her graduation December 16 from the University of Arizona with a PhD in Comparative Cultural and Literary Studies. Proud parents are John and Carol Clouse.



### **PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN**

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

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



## **ETH'S BLURB**

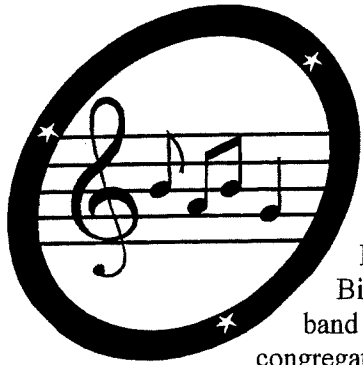
I love the Bible. I love reading the Bible; I love learning about the Bible; and I love teaching the Bible. But as much as I love it, I have discovered, not to my surprise, that I don't read it enough. Life is full and busy and somehow I don't make the time. And that is why I love Kerygma. It is a Bible Study on Wednesday nights that I lead which requires me to spend at least an hour or so each week reading my Bible. I'd like to think that I am not alone, that there are others of you out there who need the discipline of a class or other structure to "force" you to spend more time reading and studying the Bible. If you are one of these, you are invited to join us on Wednesday nights. We are starting a new unit called: **JOB AND THE LIFE OF FAITH on January 10**. The book of Job cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be human. It is the most profound exploration of the life of faith ever written, and wrestles with some of life's most perplexing questions:

- ❶ *Why do bad things happen to good people?*
- ❷ *Is there a correspondence between sin and suffering, obedience and blessing?*
- ❸ *Why should we serve God if there are no guarantees?*

And what is Kerygma anyway you may be asking. Kerygma is a Greek word. [Greek kêrugma, preaching, proclamation, from kêrux, kêrug-, herald.]. Originally it meant the proclamation of a herald who brought the news of the day, or a government official who made state announcements. The early Christian church gave the Greek word a new meaning, and in the New Testament the word kerygma is used to indicate the content of the message announced by the church. Kerygma has since been variously translated as "proclamation" or "preaching" or "word proclaimed."

The Kerygma Program uses the word kerygma as the early church did, and also to indicate the whole biblical message, the gospel that is found both in the Old Testament and New Testament. The Program has taken kerygma for its name because they seek to support congregations in their reading and hearing "The Word" from back then to us here and now. Everyone is invited to join us, you do not have to have participated before. So make it your new year's resolution to read the Bible more, and if you are like me and need the discipline, join us for Kerygma **Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm.**

*Beth Williams*



## The Wright Note

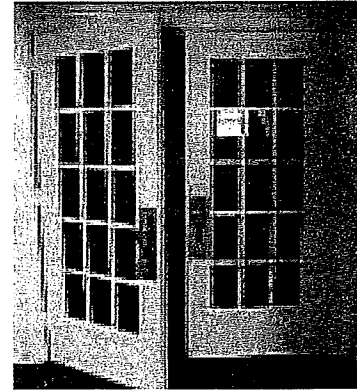
Today is December 16, one day beyond the deadline for this STP article. I am looking into my crystal ball to report on future events that you will recollect when you read this on a wintry January day. I see tomorrow's worship service going well with the handbells ringing strains of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", highlighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Pastor Kerry's sermon series on Advent hymns. I am sure tomorrow night's Birthday party for Jesus will be a meaningful time of celebration for all the band members, choristers, children and soloists and carol-singing congregation. Mary Margaret and Del Smith have organized this event for so many years, and I thank them and all their musical directors who pick up the baton on this occasion.

My crystal ball is getting a little cloudy as I struggle to see the four services on Christmas Eve. I don't think I've ever tackled that many when the first one is a Christmas pageant! The pageant, "St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story", is in the hands of thirteen very talented young singers from the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir and the Sunrise Singers Choir. Melanie mason is accompanying them so beautifully at the piano. Joel Miller, with beard and hood, is sounding more and more like the real St. Francis. The animal singers look so authentic, thanks to the creative sewing of Cyndy Mamalian. Julie McMahan seems busy arranging the stable setting. How could I ever attempt this project without such capable helpers? Thank you. I know this will be a glorious experience for all the participants in worship.

The three Christmas Eve services later in the day seem to be progressing well, each one with a different compliment of musicians. Thanks go to Katherine and Audrey Ling, Derek Smith, George Ligler, Arianna and Jason McFeaters, Laurie Hay Broseker, the Handbell Choir with able substitutes Elysse Meredith and Jackie Williams, and of course, our ever-faithful Sanctuary Choir.

May I say an additional word about the Sanctuary Choir? This group of loyal singers leads our worship every Sunday. When I joined the PPC staff in 1992, we had six people for our first choir rehearsal. We began to grow and eventually gained a good balance of parts and numbered around twenty-six. Then, as the years have gone by, we have lost members due to moves, illness and yes, death. Now we number in the range of a dozen. Many still travel extensively, and some winter in warmer climates. Being located in the rear choir loft, we sometimes are mistaken for a larger ensemble. We need more people who can attend rehearsals regularly and concentrate on meaningful worship anthems for Sundays and hopefully, larger choral works for special observances in the liturgical year. Choir is truly fun, and good for the soul. Some of our members have been quoted as saying, "Choir is my therapy". Consider joining in the New Year.

*Cindy Wright*



## Gifts From the Heart

We are blessed today, and for years to come, with two sets of beautiful doors leading into our sanctuary. They are given in loving memory of friends and family who have gone before us. A special brass plaque honoring them has been attached to a pillar near each door as you enter the sanctuary.

### *To the Glory of God and in Memory of*

Jack and Rachel Dart

Walter P. Maxwell

Barbara Wykert Shamel

Luther and Josephine P. Tucker

*Thank You!*

**CHRISTIAN LIVING** will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am in the parlor. We will be continuing our discussion of Christian Responses to Terrorism. Please join us.



As you are starting to make your **summer** plans please **SAVE THE DATES:**

- College Habitat Trip – **June 4-10**
- Senior High Workcamp – **June 23- 30**
- Vacation Bible School – **July 9-13**
- Local Mission Week – **July 23-27**



**THANK YOU!** Pam Drumheller and Courtney Koonce are grateful to all the volunteers who did such a magnificent job decorating the church. They were: Richard and Gail Cannon, Janet Dunlop, Sherry Johnson, Janet and Calvin Koonce, Scott Koonce, Fran Ligler, Frank and Katie McKenna, Julie McMahon, Cecie Phair, Cal Reid, Carolyn Stump and Karen Wise.

Thanks also to everyone who donated greens, (especially to Mary Margaret Smith for her vast quantities of magnolia branches) and to Beth Williams and the college students of the congregation who took the decorations down.

### IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Lucille Ferrara. 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."



### MISSION HAPPENINGS

#### 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.

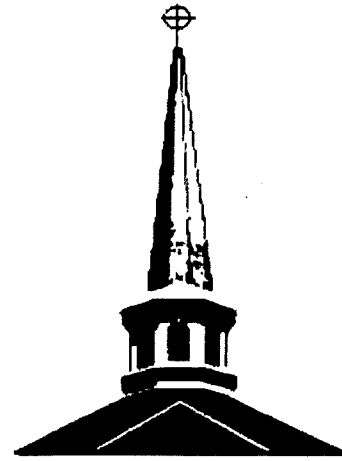
We need your help to provide and serve dinner for the week of **February 4<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. We also need volunteers to make bag lunches during the week, and to shop for miscellaneous supplies the shelter may need. There will be a sign-up sheet during the coffee hours in January for anyone willing and able to assist, or you can call **Richard Cannon** at **(301) 365-8632** or **Linda Knowles** at **(301) 330-8506**. Volunteers will receive further instructions and details.

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2007</h1>						
	<b>1</b> <i>Holiday</i>	<b>2</b> ~ School Begins ~ 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>4</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>5</b> 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Lucille Ferrara	<b>6</b> 8:00 p.m. St. Luke Orthodox Christmas Eve Service
<b>7</b> 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. Combined Youth Groups 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	<b>8</b> 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. Endowment Committee	<b>10</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>11</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Deacon Retreat
<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. New Officer Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Ordination and Installation of Officers 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	<b>15</b> <i>Holiday</i> 10:00-12:00 p.m. DAR Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>17</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>18</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. "Godly Play" training 3:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Girl Scout Event
<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 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	<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. Session	<b>23</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living	<b>24</b> 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. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>25</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 a.m. Reformed Institute Convocation - Max Stackhouse National Presbyterian Church
<b>28</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 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. Kerygma Bible Study			

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

FEBRUARY 2007

---

## KERRY ON...

One night recently, I was driving down a two lane highway at sixty miles an hour. A car approached from the opposite direction, at about the same speed. As we passed each other, I caught the other driver's eye for only a second. I wondered whether he might be thinking, as I was, how dependent we were on each other at that moment. I was relying on him not to fall asleep, not to be distracted by a cell phone conversation. Not to cross over into my lane and bring my life suddenly to an end. And though we had never spoken a word to one another, he relied on me in just the same way.

"A Shared Moment of Trust," Warren Christopher in [This I Believe](#),  
Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, eds.

More often than not we focus on human trust betrayed and this is the stuff of newspaper headlines and breaking TV news stories. Yet most of our lives are lived in the context of shared trust. For every betrayal there are thousands of stories in the human community about relying on one another. We nurture our children by simple everyday demonstrations that they can rely on us. We rely on teachers to get the facts straight and treat every child with dignity. We rely on spouses and they rely on us. We rely on the police, corporations and government officials to do the right thing. When there is a breakdown of trust we have avenues of response that are designed to bring justice and restore trust.

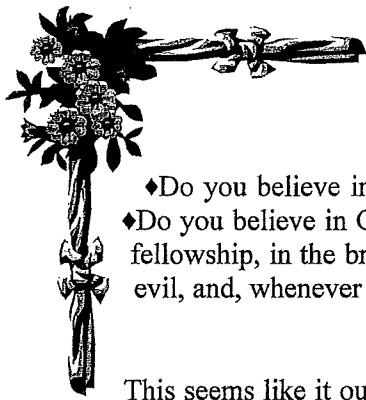
The Christian community in the congregational as well as international context relies on shared trust. Again what usually makes the news are stories of betrayal, scandal and broken trust. We might do well to remember that for every scandal there are thousands of stories of Christians in congregations living out the words of Jesus, "As you have done it to the least of these you have done it to me." For every betrayal there are millions of voices raised in song and prayer to the glory of God. And for every story of broken trust there are countless moments of shared trust in congregations all over the world. We really are dependent on one another.

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

Feb. 4	Dewey Wallace – "The Translation of the Bible"
Feb. 11	Dewey Wallace – "The Interpretation of the Bible"
Feb. 18	Louise Winfield – "Jesus as Creative Lingerer"
Feb. 25	To Be Determined

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



## Leslianne

### The Baptismal Covenant (Continued)

- ◆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? ◆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 Christ?

This seems like it ought to be a “no-brainer.” If we believe all we profess to believe; and, if, relying on God’s grace, we practice the faith as we have promised, doesn’t it seem logical that we would be enthusiastic to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ – that we are empowered by God to be faithful citizens of God’s kingdom here and now?

The problem is, I think, that it is not as easy as it sounds.

During the Deacons’ retreat in January we got into a discussion about how difficult it is to witness to the gospel in the course of our daily lives. It *is* difficult. I haven’t thought about that much lately. As a minister, most folks *expect me* to have something to say about Jesus at any given moment and in virtually every circumstance. They might not agree, but they don’t look at me as if I have four heads for bringing up the subject.

But, if you’re sitting in your office talking with a co-worker; or, if you’re in a classroom or on a playing field, the subject of Jesus is pretty much taboo. We Christians seem to have lost our voice in the marketplace of ideas. Yet, scripture encourages us to “[a]lways be ready to make our defense to anyone who demands from us an accounting for the hope that is in us; we are to do this with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Peter 3:15, *adapted*) And, I suspect we are supposed to do this no matter how uncomfortable it makes us feel.

I think I will have more to say about this next month. The Deacons’ retreat and the deadline for Steeple to People are pretty much on top of each other, and I really want to think about this more. What I would really like, first, and what would be really helpful, is to hear from you. What does it mean to you to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? Are there times when it is easy? If so, why is that so? When it is difficult, and why is it difficult? What can we, as a family of faith, do to help one another be faithful disciples of Jesus? In the meantime,

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

*Ephesians 1:17-19* Amen

*Leslianne Braunstein*

## DEACON’S CORNER

What is your favorite Bible story? Noah’s Arc, David and Goliath, The Prodigal Son, The Good Samaritan, The Christmas Story...

These are but a few favorite Bible stories the Deacons shared and discussed at last month’s Annual Deacon Retreat. With the Bible’s many stories, lessons, and messages, it might be difficult to choose just one favorite. For me, the interesting part of our sharing was listening to my fellow Deacons explain what the story meant to them (... *hmmm, I didn’t think of it that way*) and the personal significance of that story to them.

For some of us, our sharing brought back fond childhood memories of Sunday school and care-free days. Some Bible stories were chosen because they provide a guidepost for better living. Other Bible stories were selected because they are a constant reminder of hope and faith, and that God is always there for us.

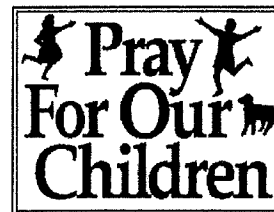
What is your favorite Bible story and hymn?



*Wednesday March 14 at 7:30 p.m. please join the Deacons for a special Lenten program. The theme will be “Tell me your favorite stories of Jesus”. For the past few weeks, we’ve been busy collecting your favorite hymns and scripture passages, all with the plan to incorporate them into our Lenten program.*

*If you didn’t have a chance to **submit** your favorites, please speak with your Deacon now. The list of Deacons is posted in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us at the Lenten program on **March 14**. It’s guaranteed to lift your spirits and revitalize your faith in Jesus.*

*Corey Eng*

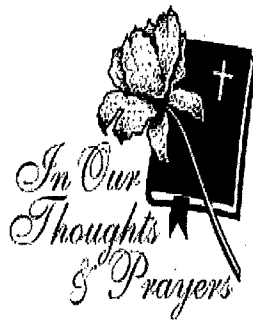


**Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for children in sixth and seventh grades. Please pray for their parents and families, too.**

Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Samantha Klein, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Allison Nasson,

Jacqueline Page, Hunter Casten, Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Stephen Kirchner, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Amanda Lee, Katherine Ling, Molly Miller, Chasen Mindnich, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srour.





## *In the Church Family*

*Our prayers are with....*

*Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Members of the Armed Forces; Bob Hazard at home; Merrily Tovmassian's brother, John Minaberry, receiving cancer treatment; Gloria Leber at home; Cindy Wright's mother, Eleanor, who has recently moved to a nursing home.*

*We rejoice with Mike and Nancy Haninger who returned to the Republic of the Congo on January 10 to continue their mission work.*

*Congratulations to Stephanie Hampton and Mike Kunst on the birth of their son, Matthew Thomas, on December 22. Proud brother is Ryan.*

---

## MISSION HAPPENINGS



### CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PPC is scheduled for a workday at the Linganore Woods construction site in Burtonsville on **Saturday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**! The workday runs from **8:30-3:30**. We will be working with a crew chief who will explain what and how to do whatever is needed that day. No experience is necessary, though you do have to be at least 18 years old. If you are interested in working this date, please e-mail **Susan Mitchell** at [susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com). We need 15 people for the work crew.

If you haven't visited the Habitat ReStore on Gaither Rd. (off Shady Grove Rd. behind the Nordstrom Rack and Men's Wearhouse) in Gaithersburg yet, you should! I visited recently to donate some old light fixtures and was amazed to see the variety and quality of items there - furniture, ceramic tile, bathroom fixtures, and wallpaper to name a sampling. In addition to donating or buying items, you can also volunteer to work in the store.

Visit the Habitat for Humanity Montgomery County web site at <http://www.habitat-mc.org/> to see current photos of the progress at Linganore Woods and learn more about ways you can participate. If you are interested in receiving e-mails about PPC work days and other volunteer opportunities send me an e-mail at the address above.

## BETH'S BLURB

Times have changed. If you ever needed to be reminded of that, look around you; can you go anywhere without seeing someone talking on a cell phone? Cell phones have fundamentally changed the way our children stay in touch with us when they go away to college. When I was in college there was one pay phone in the hallway which 20 girls shared. It was not uncommon for my friends to have a scheduled time to call home, usually once a week, reversing the charges, or they had some system worked out where their parents would refuse the collect call and then call them back. This form of communication works, but the calls you get on the cell phone are so much more "real." Today they can call whenever they want. They call when something wonderful happens, a good grade on a test, an interesting lecture, a fun party; they call when they are sad, a bad grade on a test, stood up by a date, locked out of a room; or they call when it is just something funny like a squirrel who likes to come in the window of their dorm room and sit on their desk checking everything out. In this age of wireless communication there are no barriers to talking to family or friends no matter where you are or what you are doing. Prayer has many similarities to this wireless revolution; you can dial up God and talk as long as you like anytime, anywhere. Richard J. Wagner, the author of *Christian Prayer for Dummies*, says "Prayer is the most universal practice in all of religion. A Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim, and a Buddhist may not agree on the purpose of prayer or to whom to pray, but they do all agree on the need for prayer. The reason for this instinctive drive to pray must be that, in creating humans, God embedded something like a cellular phone in you and me that is equipped with an unlimited calling plan to him (weekends and nights free, of course.)" Prayer is not like the singular phone on my dorm hall, where you could only talk at a certain time and place. Thank God that prayer is like my Cingular phone, and I can use it anytime and anywhere. This way my prayers can be "real." God can hear the good stuff, the bad stuff, and the just down right funny stuff.

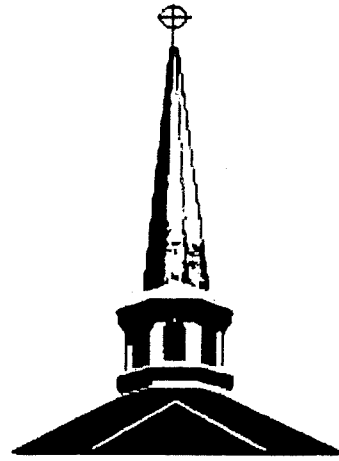
**Save the date for a PPC Women's Retreat, May 18-19 at Meadowkirk.** Meadowkirk, the Camp and Retreat Ministry of National Capital Presbytery, is located on 360 acres of rolling hills and woodland in Middleburg, Virginia- approximately 40 miles west of Washington D.C. You can come Friday night and stay in the Main House or just come for the day on Saturday. This will be an opportunity to spend time with women of all ages in worship, fellowship, and to simply relax in the beauty of God's creation. **The theme for the retreat is "Prayer: A S(C)ingular Experience."** We will discuss different kinds of prayer, how and why to pray, how to discern God's answers, how to overcome hindrances, and how to discover your own prayer style. Watch the bulletin for more information and registration forms.

*Beth Williams*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2007</h1> 						
				<b>1</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 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. Combined Youth Groups 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>7</b> 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	<b>8</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Reformed Institute Confirmation Teachers & Planners
<b>11</b> 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. Combined Youth Groups 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>12</b>  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>13</b>  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>14</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>15</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b>  Youth Group Ski Trip	<b>17</b>  Youth Group Ski Trip
<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>19</b> <i>Holiday</i>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>20</b>  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>21</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 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 worship service	<b>22</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 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. Combined Youth Groups 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>26</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 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. Kerygma Bible Study			

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

MARCH 2007

---

## KERRY ON...

There is an old hymn I used to sing when I was growing up entitled "Count Your Blessings."

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Sometimes we take for granted all the good that has come our way and we need this reminder to count our blessings. Other times we have seen too much CNN coverage or read too many newspapers and we are "discouraged, thinking all is lost." If we take time to count our blessings, it will not only "surprise us what the Lord has done," we will also be assured, "Do not be disheartened, God is over all."

Counting blessings is a comfort in times of trouble and a reminder to be grateful in good times. Yet I believe that there is a second step that God has for us. We are as someone said, blessed to be a blessing. I love the old hymn but I think we need another hymn to complete the blessing. We need to sing an affirmation that speaks of sharing the blessings we have received.

Any suggestions?

I consider Fred Rogers, better known as Mr. Rogers and a Presbyterian minister, a first rate practical theologian. His insights on God's grace were shared with millions of children over the years. On this matter of blessings he said,

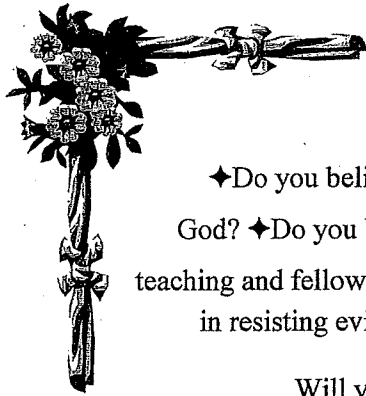
"The real issue in life is not how many blessings we have,  
But what we do with our blessings."

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

March 4	Bruce Douglas – Reformed Tradition in Modern Era
March 11	Bruce Douglas – Reformed Tradition in Modern Era
March 18	Bruce Douglas – Reformed Tradition in Modern Era
March 25	Bruce Douglas – Reformed Tradition in Modern Era

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



## Leslianne

### The Baptismal Covenant (Continued)

◆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?◆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 Christ?

I was a "street preacher" when I was a teenager. Our youth group would occasionally go out on the streets of New York City to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who would listen. Well, I wasn't exactly the preacher, but I sang in a trio with my friends, Gloria and Leonore and I occasionally would give my "testimony" – I would bear witness to (speak about) what God was doing in my life. If my memory serves me correctly, not too many people stopped to listen. Seventh Avenue and 57<sup>th</sup> Street is a pretty busy corner, and I imagine the people passing by on a Sunday afternoon had other things on their mind.

I'm not sure street preaching is the most effective way to witness to one's faith. But, "street preaching" is the image many of us conjure up when we think about witnessing. Even though I know better, when someone says "witness" to me, I think of men in sandwich boards shouting "repent!" as they handed out tracts to passers-by; or that guy with the rainbow wig, glasses, a red fu man chu who showed up at virtually every football game clinging to the sign that said "John 3:16." It gives me the heebie-jeebies. Witnessing, it would seem, is for crackpots. It is no wonder most of us find it difficult.

Yet, as disciples we *all* are called to live as witnesses to God's remarkable and amazing grace and to "always be ready to make [our] defense to anyone who demands from [us] an accounting for the hope that is in [us] with gentleness and reverence." (1 Peter 3:15) As we go about our daily tasks, it is helpful to remember that Christian witnessing is merely sharing our heartfelt faith in Christ - what he has done to change our individual lives. We're not called to argue or debate with anyone. We're merely called to share! It has been said, "The only Bible some people will read is you." The best way to witness for Christ is to live what you believe. If your life shows the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) some people inevitably will want to know why. Then you can give your defense for the hope that is in you because of what Jesus Christ has done in your life.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*Leslianne Braunstein*

## DEACON'S CORNER

I enjoy the opportunity to write for the Deacon's Corner, for it causes me to pause and contemplate my own faith and evaluate where I am in my spiritual journey. As a wife and a mother of four (plus two dogs!), I am often tired with the daily strains and needs within my own home, and at the end of the day I selfishly feel as though I have nothing left to give. Often I find myself going through the physical motions of my so-called spiritual life...closing my eyes in prayer, teaching Sunday School, going to church, doing my Bible Study homework, attending Bible Study...but not really being "present" in those activities and exercises.

The Deacons are working with a beautiful book this year entitled Listening Hearts, and it speaks volumes to what I am experiencing. I have challenged myself this Lenten season to listen to my heart, to "Let Go and Let God", and to live my life with the Holy Spirit as my guide. I am setting aside a specific time for prayer each day and trying to really be in each moment and not just plow through each day just to get by. My life is full of blessings that I am grateful for, and I now look for all the small miracles that occur around me each and every day.

As part of my prayer, I pray for our country and our community at Potomac Presbyterian Church. My hope is that you will all find blessings in your daily routines and continue to grow in your journey with God and your walk in faith.

In closing, I hope you can come to our Lenten program on **Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** It promises to be an evening filled with familiar music and symbolic stories about our savior, Jesus Christ. God bless.

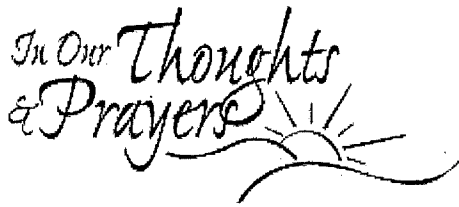
*Wendy Kuhn*

### WOMEN OF FAITH<sup>™</sup> CONFERENCE JULY 13-14

**Women of Faith** will be in D.C. at the Verizon Center **July 13-14, 2007**. Women of Faith is a nondenominational Christian women's conference with nationally known speakers and singers. Featured guest this year is Max Lucado. I'm trying to get a group to sign up by April 15 to qualify for the early bird price. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Olivia Mabeus, omabeus@earthlink.net**.

### Inquirers' Series

For those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at Potomac Presbyterian Church. A three-part Inquirer Series will be held on **March 4, 11 and 18**. The **Sunday morning, 9:45 a.m.** classes, held in the church parlor, are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on **Sunday, March 25**, 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.



**Our prayers are with.....** Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Gloria Leber, Wendy Kuhn, Members of the Armed Forces; Merrily Tovmassian's brother, John Minaberry, receiving cancer treatment; Doug Dunlop's sister, Vicky Dunlop, undergoing rehabilitation in Greensboro, NC;

David Boyd and family – David's father, Earl Boyd, died on January 24 in Texas; Penny Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, upcoming surgery; Ann Hazard, whose husband, Bob, died on February 8; John Hummon at his daughter's home – c/o Jan Westman, 55 Page Rd., Newton, MA 02460; Rachel Johns recovering from kidney stone surgery; Miriam and Bob Conley, whose 16-year old grandson, Ryan Conley, was killed in a sledding accident on Feb. 19; Jackie McMahon who will be traveling to Costa Rica along with University of Richmond healthcare and pre medical students. They will travel to remote areas of the country March 3 to 11 along with physicians and Christian mission personnel to serve local residents, many of whom have never seen a physician.

**We celebrate with joy** the baptism of Douglas Alexander Barbor Henderson, son of Doug and Janine Henderson.

**Congratulations** to Bill and Jane Stanton on the birth of their grandson, Quinn Avery Foa, on February 5. Grateful parents are Rob and Molly Foa. Quinn is the 21<sup>st</sup> great-grandchild of Emajejan Harvie, former PPC member.

### IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Bob Hazard. 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."

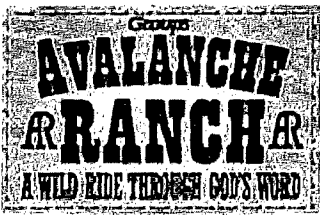


**Please remember to pray for the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for children in eighth grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.**

John Arnold, Julianna Bond, Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Samantha Bretscher, Alexandra Broseker, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Angelica Klein, Blake Kline, Mackenzie Phillips, Meili Sohl.

### Vacation Bible School – July 9-13

Come Join the Herd at Avalanche Ranch! We will have exciting Bible adventures, awesome crafts, tasty treats, cool songs, and amazing games. The wild ride will be one you won't want to miss, so round up your friends and watch for registration forms in the mail or on the web soon.



## ETH'S BLURB

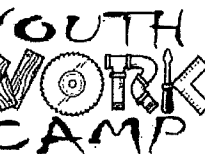


It used to be a tradition at my house, on Super Bowl Sunday I would always make a pot of bean soup to eat during the game. It was my way of having Souper Bowl Sunday. But then I discovered no one in my family but me likes bean soup. So there ended that tradition. Thankfully a new Souper Bowl tradition has begun, that of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you all who supported the youth's Souper Bowl collection this year. The Bears scored \$172.85 to beat the Colts with \$144.75, giving us a total of \$317.60 which we have sent to Manna Food Center. Our youth joined young people all over the country who collected for this special cause. "This God-given idea that began with one church youth group is transforming Super Bowl Sunday into the largest youth-led day of giving and serving in our country," said the Rev. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian minister who founded the Souper Bowl of Caring and serves as its executive director. Smith started the Souper Bowl 16 years ago while serving as a seminary intern at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. He decided to ask parishioners to give \$1 each for the needy as they left church on Super Bowl Sunday. His church's youth group liked the idea and invited other Columbia-area churches to join in. The first year 22 churches participated and collected \$5,700 for ministries that help needy people. **Today over 11,000 groups participated and raised almost 7 million dollars!!!**

"Presbyterians have a rich history and strong tradition of bearing witness of the gospel to the world," Smith said. "The Souper Bowl of Caring is a contemporary example of that." Former President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush as well as former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter are serving as national advocates of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Also serving as advocates are J. Wayne and Delores Weaver, owners of the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars; and Jim and Meg Irsay, owners of the NFL Indianapolis Colts. Presbyterians Bob and Janice McNair, owners of the NFL Houston Texans, who worship at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston, are also national advocates as are H. Wayne Huizenga and family, owners of the NFL Miami Dolphins, who worship at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. I wonder if they like bean soup?

### You are invited to "A Taste of Workcamp"

**March 4** directly Following Worship

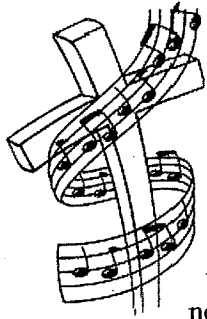


- A Pasta lunch will be served
- Pictures from last years trip to Lockport, New York will be shown during lunch.



- Donations toward this year's workcamp to Oak Hill, West Virginia will be accepted.
- **MINIVANS/SUV'S** are needed with at least 6 seat belts for our Workcamp trip to Oak Hill, WV the week of **June 23 through 30**. Vehicles will be driven by PPC adults. We would be glad to "trade" a car with you for the week. If you can help, please contact Beth Williams.

## The Wright Note



Bravo! You have sung two new hymns this past month. First you reaffirmed the joy of Jesus' resurrection by singing "Celebrate with Joy and Singing", text by Mary Jackson Cathey set to tune name, Evelyn Chapel. You also told the story of Jesus' transfiguration by singing "Jesus on the Mountain Peak", text by Brian Wren and tune name, Mosley. You were able to learn the new tunes because the organ and choir carefully laid the musical foundation. You first heard the tune played and ornamented as a prelude. Then it was developed vocally by the choir. When you as a congregation entered, the results were uplifting praise and new appreciation for texts.

Why sing some of these unfamiliar hymns anyway? Hymns are basically chosen because their texts glorify the scripture lessons and theme of the worship service. Some of the newer hymns have excellent words that relate to the message. And, of course, the same is true of many of the great hymns of the past. This mixture is well represented in our hymnal, and I feel we share a well-balanced, meaningful singing experience within our worship. We may not sing everyone's personal favorites every Sunday, but we may sing a text or tune that touches the heart of someone else sitting in the pew near you.

As we enter Lent, it is my hope that our hymns reflect our faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Cindy Wright*

---

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 5** A simple dinner and special program will be provided to commemorate this very special event. We hope you will come and enjoy this special Lenten program. A signup poster is available in Fellowship Hall.

---



### PPC Provided CMMC Community Based Shelter Meals

Many thanks to all our volunteers who provided lunches and dinners for 31 residents of the Community-Based Shelter in Rockville from Saturday, February 4 through Saturday February 10: Winnie Brill, Gail & Richard Cannon, Diane Chapin, Eun Hee Chung, Miriam & Bob Conley, Kitty Cowie & Keith Rust, Robin Dimock, Janet Dunlop, Gayle Goff, John Sohl & family,

Bobbe & Bill Hartzog, Susan & Tom Hougen, Kathy Jeffers, Fran Ligler, Mary Ling, Sandy & Maitland MacFarlan, Kathy McPherson, Cyndy Mamalian, Melanie Mason, Nancy Miller, Bridget & Fred Newton, Kay Norvell, Wendy & Matt Petti, Louise & Bob Plumb, Jim & Mary Reichley, Sonia & Ray Russo, Beth Scott, Paddy Simpson, Carolyn & David Stump, Janet & Rob Swisher, Karen Wise & Rob Wescott. All efforts were much appreciated by residents and shelter staff!

### Mission News "Thank You, PPC", *continued*

We were overwhelmed by your warmth and Christian hospitality. We feel very blessed and humbled to have you as our mission partners in medical ministry in Tshikaji. Please continue to pray in earnest for the unimaginable suffering of our dear Congolese brothers and sisters. Pray for the thousands of children in Congo who must go to sleep each night with empty, bloated bellies. Pray for these sweet children who are hungry and dying for want of a small serving of simple, nutritious foods." **Dr. Mike and Mrs. Nancy Haninger, PCUSA Missionaries to the Congo**

"For a growing church like ours there are always more dreams than dollars. Thanks for making some of our dreams come true." **Prince George's Community Church**

"...I can't even begin to tell you what your generous contribution means to me... your continued support keeps me going" **Susan Pereles, Cure Autism Now**

"Your part in our progress is so vital...Potomac Presbyterian's gift is making a difference in the lives of many parents and children you will never meet but who are very thankful to you."

**Habitat for Humanity-Montgomery County**

"Thank you for your support in providing hope for the future, strengthening family values, and enabling self-sufficiency." **Stepping Stones Shelter**

"Thank you so much for your gift to help in our recovery. We are making progress....we especially appreciate the prayers...." **First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans**

"I am overwhelmed with your generous...gift to the Wycliffe Bible Foundation in Trace and Karen Bender's name (my nephew and his wife)." **Marilyn Shankland**

"Thank you...needy families in our community go without proper food and shelter, due to a variety of factors. With the generous support of you and your organization we're able to help a few families in Fannin County." **Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ladonia, Texas**

"In this titanic struggle, education seems to be the only way that holds a possibility for improving lives. Education, in a word, is what we are doing here in Equatorial Guinea. We're trying to help this church build a humanizing philosophy of education that will serve the vocations of thousands of children." **Andrés and Gloria Garcia, PCUSA missionaries to Equatorial Guinea**

"Your wonderful donation to **Rainbow Place** allows us to continue to provide a warm, safe and caring environment for homeless women during the cold winter months. This year the need for emergency shelter has reached critical proportions."

"WOW. How fortunate we are to have friends like you. Our families know that their community cares..." **Friends-In-Action, Community Ministry of Montgomery County**

## MISSION NEWS

### “Thank you, PPC”



The Mission Committee has received a dazzling array of thank you notes from all over the world. Invariably, the recipients of our gifts ask us to let our congregation know how much they appreciate PPC. Here is a tiny sampling. Please know how much the Mission Committee, also, appreciates the generosity of everyone who supports our important work. Thanks to all of you.

*Sonia Russo and Tom Hougen, Mission Committee. Co-Chairs*

“We are so grateful for your support of our international mission personnel and the wonderful work they do. Your generosity is a true witness to the community of faith, to shared hope in the resurrection, and the commitment to participate in God’s mission in the world. God bless you.”~PCUSA World Mission Funding

“Good will and generosity such as yours affects thousands of people in Montgomery County---those who are hungry, homeless and friendless. Through your gift, we can make a dent in the tremendous need in our community and offer a glimmer of hope to those who are in despair.”  
**Community Ministry of Montgomery County**

“The Lord’s Table served 14,405 hot meals last year as well as providing additional services for our guests. You are helping to make a difference in many lives.” **The Lord’s Table, Gaithersburg**

“Your generous gift is an investment in the future of the church...May God bless and sustain you and the ministry of your congregation.” **Princeton Theological Seminary**

“Thank you so much for your gracious, generous gift...I believe in seminary’s potential to act as a leading force within the Christian world, helping the church engage culture and the culture to engage Christ. Thank you for sharing this conviction with me and so many others by being a strategic investor in its ongoing vitality in our world.” **Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

“Every weekday morning, nearly one out of ten of the District’s almost 2,000 chronically homeless individuals turn to **Miriam’s Kitchen**....Thank you for your extremely generous support! We couldn’t do it without you.”

“...thank you...for awarding me a scholarship for my studies at Wesley Seminary. It means so much to have the church’s support in this endeavor.... I look forward to every chance to share what I’ve learned with the congregation.” **Sandy MacFarlan**

## Endowment Committee News

The following members will continue to be remembered with thanksgiving as memorial gifts in their name are added to The General Endowment Fund.

- **George and Wilma Boddiger**
- **J. Randolph Dunnivant**
- **Klara Rozner**
- **Donald and Dawn Thompson**
- **Shirley Albee Tietjen**

Gifts of endowment are the gifts that continue to give throughout perpetuity. Proceeds from this fund are spent equally for Special Mission projects, for Special Programs within the church and for Capital items. These gifts are a blessing shared by all members of the PPC family. They allow us to enrich and expand our programs of education and outreach beyond the regular operating budget. The plaque is located in the Fellowship Hall.

We have had several new books added to the library lately. Take a few minutes to browse the



library cart and/or shelves some Sunday morning. It might be of interest to take a look at To Be a Presbyterian by Louis B. Weeks. What does it really mean to be a Presbyterian? Maybe you have read the Left Behind Series. If so, feeling left behind? The Facts Behind the Fiction by LeAnn Snow Flesher would be a great book for you to read. Other new titles are The New Faces of Christianity by Philip Jenkins, Christian Theologies of Scripture edited by Justin Holcomb and Fundamentalism and American Culture by George M. Marsden.

Sign the book card in the back of the book with your name, date book is taken and your phone number. Then put the card in the brown box on the shelf below the reference books. It is a joy to see that so many books are circulating. Please

remember to return any books that you have finished reading.

If you have any suggestions or would like to give a book in honor or in memory of a special person, please give Nancy a call, 301-299-3272.

*Nancy Tietjen*

## SUMMER CAMP IS BACK – MEADOWKIRK in the National Capital

Presbytery!.....check out their web site [www.meadowkirk.org](http://www.meadowkirk.org)

- **Open House, Sunday March 18, 1-4 p.m.** at Meadowkirk
- **Programs for children, youth and families:** Cabin Camp, Rustic Camp, M.A.D. Camp (Music, Art and Drama), Night Owl Camp, Equestrian Camp, Service Camp, C<sup>3</sup>! Creative Creation Camp, High Adventure Camp Leadership Training Camp and Family Camp
- **Cabin Naming Contest-**Meadowkirk is seeking three names in a set or theme that could be expanded to eight names when more cabins are built. Winner will receive a special event for 40 people with hayrides, campfire and pizza. Entries must be in by May 1 and can be e-mailed to [andy@meadowkirk.org](mailto:andy@meadowkirk.org)



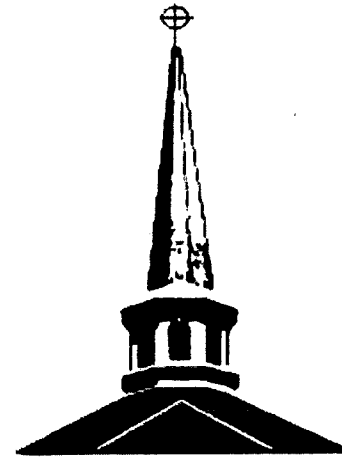
# March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30-3:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Confirmation Class
<b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - 1 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Pasta Lunch/ Workcamp Fundraiser 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>7</b> 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	<b>8</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> <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 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Combined Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>14</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  7:30 p.m. Deacons Lenten Service	<b>15</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Presbytery Session Records Review
<b>18</b> 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 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Combined Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>20</b> 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>21</b> 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. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>22</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 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 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. "Out of the Blue" concert	<b>26</b> 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>27</b>  6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	<b>28</b> 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. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b>  5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	<b>31</b>  5:00 p.m. Wedding (Delgiorno/Butchko)



Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

APRIL 2007

---

**KERRY ON...** We call the week holy and Friday good. It is holy because God sets these days apart for a special purpose and causes what happens to bear eternal significance. The days move from triumph and acclamation to humiliation and death. Then all is quiet until God's great surprise on what we now call Easter morning, the day of resurrection.

How can we possibly call Friday good?

Two thousand years ago, a Jewish man died on a Roman cross. The politicians said there was a logical explanation. They explained that he broke the law of the land. He was guilty of insurgency against the Roman government, end of case. The scientists also explained that due to the nature of crucifixion, he suffocated which caused cardiac arrest, and that killed him, end of case. The psychologists also said there was a logical explanation. They said he had a messiah complex, end of case. But there is another explanation. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

(Gerald A. Little, "Presbyterian Outlook," 12/06, p.16)

In suffering love, God turned the worst that humankind could do into the means of our salvation. It remains a great mystery perhaps because we can never fully grasp or put into language the depths of God's love in Christ. In faith we can only prepare to sing again,

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia

\*\*\*\*\*

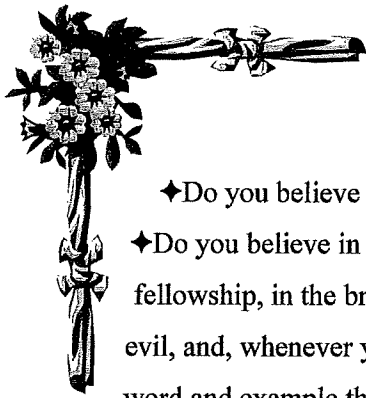
EASTER SERVICES: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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

## ADULT EDUCATION

April 1	Ruthanne Stoltzfus - Grief
April 8	Easter Sunday- Class will not meet
April 15	Bill Malone - In Search of the Original Text of the Old Testament
April 22	Andres and Gloria Garcia - Missionaries in Equatorial Guinea
April 29	Dr. Barry Corey - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Theological Education Sunday

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



## Leslianne

### The Baptismal Covenant (Continued)

- ◆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? ◆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 Christ? ◆Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Perhaps the most basic affirmation to be made concerning the nature of human beings from a Christian perspective is that we are created in God's image. Although we are created of the dust of the earth, just as were the beasts of the field, we are unique among the creatures. We are created in God's own likeness and image; and we are, therefore, able to have communion and fellowship with God.

Now, I know some of you are already scratching your heads. This assertion of Christianity has nothing to do with theories of science, so you can set aside the creation/evolution debate for a few minutes. This assertion has to do with the dignity accorded human beings by our God. The Psalmist asks:

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet. . . (Psalm 8:4-6)”

As human beings we all share imperfectly and finitely in God's nature. We have self-awareness, the ability to choose between good and evil, the capacity to discern truth, increase in wisdom, holiness and justice. We have the ability to relate to our Creator. We have the capacity to love and be loved.

It is precisely these gifts that we honor in one another. We don't always have to agree with others; to be truthful, we don't necessarily have to like everyone we meet. What we are required to do is respect that we all are made in God's image; that we all have the capacity to love and be loved; and, that maybe, just maybe, the other person might be able to shed some light on an attribute of God that is deficient in our own lives.

Acknowledging and honoring the image of God that is in each of us prevents us from doing harm to another. It is how we serve Christ by loving our neighbor.

It is easier said than done.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

## DEACON'S CORNER

**How can we 'serve' as Christians and live as a positive influence to others?**

As you read the sentence above, you may have been thinking that we are not all 'called to serve'. You may also be like me, searching for ways to serve that best meet my abilities or current situation. In the book the Deacons are currently studying entitled Listening Hearts; we learn that God calls all of us. The book goes on to explain that the call to be a Pastor or Missionary is not superior to the call to be a doctor, lawyer, stay at home spouse or salesperson. For those of us that were not called to a higher service, we must let our faith shine in our daily lives. This will make those around us want to know more about our Christian faith.

I was reminded this past month of two examples that we are all called to serve. First, on Girl Scout Sunday when we talked about their Promise; “On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law”. Second, in Pastor Kerry's benediction each Sunday we hear the words; “go in peace and serve the Lord”. It is not easy to achieve this objective in our busy lives. To help us with our journey to become Christian servants and to be positive influences to those around us, I would like to close with one of my favorite prayers by Dr. Robert Schuller called 'Make me a Christian':

Holy Spirit, fill my life by making me a true Christ-In.

A mind through which Christ thinks,  
A heart through which Christ loves,  
A tongue through which Christ speaks,  
A face through which Christ glows,  
A hand through which Christ lifts.

Amen

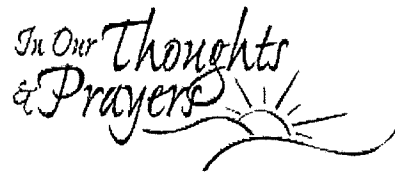
*Doug Baarman*



**EASTER FLOWERS** – If you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones, please fill out the envelope found in the pew rack, enclose a check or cash, and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. All contributions must be received no later than Palm Sunday, *April 1*. Surplus funds are donated to Montgomery Hospice Society.

**USHER OPPORTUNITY!** We are in **need** of ushers for **Easter Sunday**. This is a great opportunity for families. Please contact John Sohl or Dan Dowd if you can help.

**Vijitha**, our Sunday morning nursery worker, is looking for childcare work starting this summer. She has her own transportation and can supply references. If you might be interested in hiring her, please talk to Beth Williams, or Vijitha.



*Our prayers are with....Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Gloria Leber, Members of the Armed Forces; Merrily Tovmassian's brother, John Minaberry receiving cancer treatment; Doug Dunlop's sister, Vicky Dunlop, undergoing rehabilitation in Greensboro, NC; Penny*

*Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, recovering from surgery; Nelia Scioli, whose mother, Janet M. Andberg, died last Sunday in Dallas; Bert Klein's mother and family as she plans for cancer treatment.*

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

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



### **STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER**

#### ***How Does Stephen Ministry Work?***

When someone requests a Stephen Minister, Pastor Leslieanne or Pastor Kerry will meet with that person, explain what Stephen Ministry is, and help determine whether Stephen Ministry is the kind of care the person needs. That person is then matched with one of our available Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Minister will then call the person and begin meeting with him or her for approximately an hour each week for as long as the need is there. Everything a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept confidential. The Stephen Minister doesn't try to solve problems; rather, he or she listens, cares, prays and helps the care receiver find his or her path to healing and wholeness. ***If you would like more information about Stephen Ministers, please talk to Pastor Leslieanne Braunstein or Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus.***

#### ***Who are Stephen Ministers?***

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have gone through 50 hours of training in providing high quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge such as divorce, grief, loss of a job, hospitalization, relocation or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour each week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it.

#### ***Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?***

Everyone benefits from Stephen Ministry. Those receiving the care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit from the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at Potomac Presbyterian Church is expanded. Most of all you benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, co-worker, relative or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes Potomac Presbyterian Church a much more caring place.



## **BETH'S BLURB**

I just got back from celebrating my parents' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful day where we recalled the actual event itself and reviewed all the major moments of their life together over the past fifty years with family and close friends. In confirmation several weeks ago as Kerry was teaching the young people about the sacraments, he had us place our hands in the baptismal water and touch our foreheads and remember our baptism. And because I was baptized in the Baptist church, I was actually old enough to remember my baptism. It was on Easter in the evening. I put on a white robe and walked into a large vat of water. What I remember the most was my surprise that the water was warm for I had braced myself for the shock of cold water. Just as my parents' wedding marked the beginning of their life together, creating a new family, so my baptism marked the beginning of my life in the family of God. And as I look back this Easter and celebrate the anniversary of my baptism, I will remember not just the actual event, but the journey that I have taken since that day and how God has welcomed us all into his family.

*Beth Williams*

### **Communion Class for Parents and Children - April 15, 22, and 29 from 12:15-1:15.**

One of the ways that God welcomes us to the family is by including us in the family feast, the communion meal. The Book of Order states that children "who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity." (W -2.4011b) To help our children better understand the sacrament of communion, we will be having a class for parents and children for three weeks after church on **April 15, 22, and 29 from 12:15-1:15**. A light lunch will be provided. Please do sign-up on the poster on the board in the fellowship hall if you plan to attend so that we can be sure to have sufficient food to feed everyone.



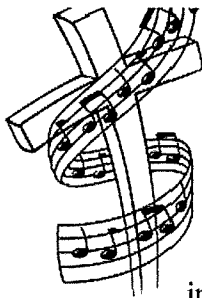
### **Vacation Bible School**

**July 9-13** for ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Older children and youth can participate as helpers.

Registration is now open on line. Go to our church website [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org) and click on the VBS link.

You can also sign-up to volunteer in the different areas, crafts, bible, drama, snacks, etc. So plan on joining us this summer for a wonderful week as we go on a wild ride through God's Word. Any questions call Beth at 301-299-6007.



## The Wright Note


One of my greatest joys of working with children and adults in the musical setting of the church is to compose songs – usually short responses – that help the singers understand a certain season of the Christian year or a passage of scripture that strengthens our faith. Our Wonderful Wednesdays Choir often inspires me because they are not only musically enthusiastic, but they are excited about the life they share in this church.

During Advent they sang a song each Sunday which spelled the word ADVENT and in turn explained the theology of waiting for the birth of Christ. Now that we are in Lent, the children are singing a new song which relates to this challenging time in our journey as Christians. The tune is quite simple, and the children sing the following text, accompanying themselves on a choir chime ostinato:

L is for the life that Jesus gave for me.  
E is for the Easter that we wait to see.  
N is for the name of Christianity.  
T is for the trust that God loves you and me.

The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir is currently working on a short musical play based on the parable of the lost sheep. You may not hear us often in the Sunday worship service, but there is a great deal of worship and meaningful musical fun happening with these six fine children in kindergarten through second grade.

*Cindy Wright*

 **WOMEN OF FAITH® CONFERENCE JULY 13-14** Women of Faith will be in D.C. at the Verizon Center **July 13-14, 2007**. Women of Faith is a nondenominational Christian women's conference with nationally known speakers and singers. Featured guest this year is Max Lucado. I'm trying to get a group to sign up by April 15 to qualify for the early bird price. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Olivia Mabeus, omabeus@earthlink.net**.

**PPC Women's Retreat May 18-19** at Meadowkirk 4:00 pm Friday—5:00 pm Saturday  
Join us for this opportunity to spend time with women of all ages in worship, fellowship, and to simply relax in the beauty of God's creation. The theme for the retreat is **"Prayer: A S(C)ingular Experience."** We will discuss different kinds of prayer, how and why to pray, how to discern God's answers, how to overcome hindrances, and how to discover your own prayer style. Complete a registration form and sign-up on the poster in the narthex by April 22. Make checks payable to PPC and note Women's Retreat in the memo. Place them in the envelope on the sign-up sheet. **Cost for overnight & 3 meals -\$85 or come for Saturday with lunch only -\$25**

### Mission News (continued)

the majority of citizens have health insurance, many immigrants do not and neither do their children.

We spent the next day traveling to the coastal town of Puntarenas and doing 'house clinics'. We walked to individual homes in groups of three, discussing their health with the residents. We had some help from a local guide and a translator. Most of the homes we visited were made of somewhat permanent materials with tarp or scrap metal roofs and dirt floors. A family of six would usually have two beds. Almost every house we visited used the city water for drinking, which is bad for health unless it is purified first. During my group's house clinic, we came across a seventy year old man who had been almost completely bed ridden from four strokes over the past six years. He had a distended stomach from being malnourished and could not move half of his body as he had lost nearly all muscle tissue due to inactivity. We returned the next day with the doctor, and we were able to get him vitamin supplements and teach the family some exercises to improve his strength. During the clinics, we also told a seventeen year old woman she was pregnant; this is about the average age to have children in Costa Rica. The patient even commented it was odd that we were all 20 years old and none of us had any children. We saw people with serious health conditions, such as epilepsy, that had no treatment or support though they had been diagnosed at a hospital. Health treatment and education about prevention are definitely lacking in these poorer communities.

My interest in medicine has always been routed in the hope to practice abroad, in less fortunate areas but this first hand experience prior to med school has made my goal seem that much more important and attainable. The people I interacted with were all such happy people, despite living on less than the necessities. They all had such abounding faith and were so grateful that God sent us to help them. All I learned and witnessed in this experience I will remember for the rest of my life. Thank you, PPC, for helping me have this opportunity.

*Jackie McMahon*

**ADULT ED NEWS....**On the weekend of **April 22** the Mission Committee will be hosting **Andres and Gloria Garcia**, our missionaries in Equatorial Guinea. We have supported the Garcia's work in Central America for many years and are now interested to hear about their new mission work in Africa. The Garcias will be speaking at the Adult Education class, participating in the worship service, and greeting members during the coffee hour. We hope all members of the congregation will have an opportunity to meet the Garcias and hear about their work.

**MORE ADULT ED NEWS....** **Sunday, April 29** Is Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Theological Education Sunday. Our special guest is **Dr. Barry Corey**, Vice President for Education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Barry was last with us for the dedication of the Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship Fund 5 years ago. --- **Be There!!!**

## MISSION NEWS



### PPC WORK CREWS HAMMER AWAY

On a rather cold February 10<sup>th</sup> a group of PPC volunteers worked at the Langanore Woods construction site in Burtonsville. The first 12 of 24 town homes are well along with interior framing nearing completion and electrical and HVAC nearly ready for installation. Most of us were doing interior framing in small teams with a crew leader showing us what to do and helping us when we weren't sure how or what to do. Because there are 12 units exactly the same, once you master how to do something the first time, you get to do it several more times, typically in about half the time it took you to do the first one. In total there were about 25 people there, including two teams from other organizations and several future homeowners. Sincere thanks goes to the following PPC members who were in our work crew: Richard Cannon, Maitland MacFarlan, George Dick, Roberta Meredith, Robert Mitchell, Lynn Wright, Bob Rosecrans, and Frank McKenna.

### OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Even though you don't need any experience to work at the construction site (one work crew was picking up trash), maybe you'd rather volunteer in some other way. There are many diverse needs including working at the Habitat ReStore, picking up ReStore donations, making ReStore donations of your unwanted stuff, office work, and many other various opportunities. Often there are one time needs, or you can simply sign up when it's convenient. If you would like to know about future volunteer opportunities, please send an e-mail to Susan Mitchell at [susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com). E-mails are sent out as opportunities arise and you may sign up for what interests you.

*Susan Mitchell*

### MORE MISSION NEWS...from Jackie McMahon in Costa Rica March 3-11.

First of all, I would like to thank the church and the mission committee for the contribution that helped me make it to Costa Rica for my Spring Break. The past week was one of the best experiences of my life. Sixteen other students at the University of Richmond and I spent the week in San Jose and Puntarenas, Costa Rica where we set up and conducted health clinics in poor communities. Our program was organized through International Service Learning.

On our first day there we spent all day studying the symptoms and treatment of common local health problems including intestinal parasites, diseases spread by mosquitoes, infections, and various other health issues. We also studied home remedies, since many Costa Ricans have faith in alternative medicine and they also have very little money to buy drugs when they do not have access to a free clinic. We spent two days at the one room Sola Fe Lutheran Church in a very poor community outside San Jose, the capital. This is where we set up our first clinic. Although



MAUNDY  
THURSDAY

## WORSHIP

**Maundy Thursday Service – April 5 at 6:30 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 with Jesus as he washed the disciple's feet, instituted the Lord's Supper, went into the garden to pray, and moved into the events of Good Friday.

- † Worship begins at 6:30 pm
- † The fellowship meal is incorporated into the service
- † This service is an intergenerational service; the children will be learning about the footwashing and Peter's denial in Sunday School and will be participating throughout the service.
- † The service will close with Tenebrae readings and the sanctuary being stripped for Good Friday.

There is a sign-up poster in the narthex for those who would like to attend this special service. A simple soup dinner and child-friendly food will be served. A small donation - \$3 for adults and \$1 per child – will be collected at the door to cover the meal. We hope that you will join us for supper, worship, and communion.



Easter Egg Hunt

The children of the church, their friends, and families are invited to the **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, April 8, 10:20 – 10:50 am.** Stay following the 9:00 service or come early before the 11:00 service. Bring a basket

in which to collect the eggs. Search for hidden eggs filled with special Easter treats, chocolates, and reminders of what Easter is all about.

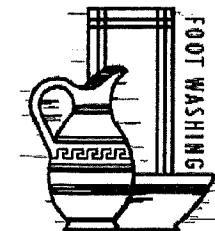
### April 22 – Youth Sunday






Join us for a special service as our young people lead us in worship.



### Workcamp Fundraiser

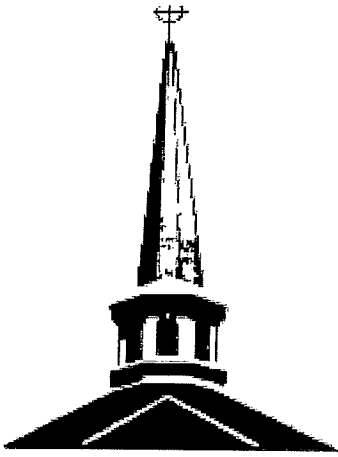
Thank you to all who came to “A Taste of Workcamp.” We enjoyed sharing a bit of our experiences through the slide show, and we raised ~\$750. Our next fundraiser will be a **Dessert and Karaoke Night on April 29 at 7:00 pm.** Join us for a fun time as we attempt to sing along with our favorite tunes. We may not be able to beat Finland who holds the record for the largest number of people singing karaoke at one time, (80 000 people singing Hard Rock Hallelujah after they had won the Eurovision Song contest in 2006), but let's see how many we can get singing together to support our workcampers.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2007</h1> <h2>SUNDAY, APRIL 29 - Theological Education Sunday</h2>						
<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship  12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30-3:30 Youth Group 6pm Confirmation	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>4</b> Bible Study <i>will not meet</i>  7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>5</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Supper and Worship Service 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 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 	<b>9</b> Holiday ~ office closed  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>10</b>  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>11</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>12</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  7:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In and Cosmic Bowling
<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. Youth Teacher Training 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Deacon Coffee Hour 12:15 p.m. Communion Class NO Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>16</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>17</b>  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>18</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>19</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Opportunity International (fellowship hall)
<b>22 Youth Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Communion Class 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>23</b>  3:30-5:30 p.m. Brownies  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 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	<b>26</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Theological Education</b> 8:45 a.m. Childrens' Teacher Training 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Communion Class 7:00 p.m. Karaoke Night - Workcamp Fundraiser	<b>30</b>					

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
 10301 River Road  
 Potomac, MD 20854  
 301-299-6007  
 www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Rockville, MD  
 Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

MAY 2007

## KERRY ON.....

In the April 3 issue of "Christian Century" it was noted that Francis Collins asked Tom Troeger for permission to use the hymn "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"\* at the National Prayer Breakfast. Collins is an articulate Christian and scientist best known for his work with the Human Genome Project. He is also the author of The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief. (Go to <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/resources/Collins20070201.html> to read Collins' speech at the National Prayer Breakfast in its entirety.)

I have long admired Tom Troeger and his wonderful talent for writing hymns that express the wonder and mystery of faith that intersects with the modern world. You may wish to look at some of his hymns in our hymnbook by consulting the Author Index. See especially 287, 336 and 349.

As the debates continue concerning faith and science, I think Tom Troeger shares with us words of wisdom.

Praise the source of faith and learning  
 who has sparked and stoked the mind  
 with passion for discerning  
 how the world has been designed.  
 Let the sense of wonder flowing  
 from the wonders we survey  
 keep our faith forever growing  
 and renew our need to pray:

May our faith redeem the blunder  
 of believing that our thought  
 has displaced the grounds for wonder  
 which the ancient prophets taught.  
 May our learning curb the error  
 which unthinking faith can breed  
 lest we justify some terror  
 with an antiquated creed.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge  
 that our science and our art  
 and the breadth of human knowledge  
 only partial truth impart  
 Far beyond our calculation  
 lies a depth we cannot sound  
 where your purpose for creation  
 and the pulses of life are found.

As two currents in a river  
 fight each other's undertow  
 till converging they deliver  
 one coherent steady flow,  
 blend, O God, our faith and learning  
 till they carve a single course  
 while they join as one returning  
 Praise and thanks to you their source.

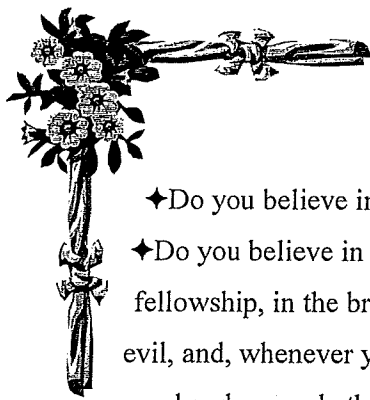
\*From Borrowed Light: Hymn texts, prayers and poems, p.34

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*  
 Leslieanne 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		
May	6	Benders - Missionaries
May	13	Sandy MacFarlan – Isaiah 47 - The Kingdom: Who is Invited?
May	20	Sandy MacFarlan – John 19:25-37 – What Kind of Kingdom Is It?
May	27	To Be Determined

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.





## Leslianne

### The Baptismal Covenant (*Continued*)

◆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? ◆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 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?

Although we generally observe the Sacrament of Baptism during the Children's Worship time at the beginning of the service (so our youngest children can be part of the ceremony), the Sacrament of Baptism traditionally occurs toward the end of the service – after we have gathered together before the Word as the people of God, being called to worship, to sing hymns of praise, to confess our sin and receive assurance of pardon. Baptisms traditionally occur after we have listened to the Word in the readings and anthem and sermon. Baptisms traditionally occur even after we have responded to God's Word in the Affirmation of Faith, the hymn of response and the giving of our treasure in the offering. After all this has occurred, it is then that the Word is "sealed" in the very visual and tactile act of the sacraments by which God's grace is made available to us in a very particular way. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are visibly marked by God and claimed as God's own beloved child. Through the waters of Baptism we take our place in the covenant community.

As I reflect upon this last "article" of the Baptismal Covenant, I wonder how it is we start with, "Do you believe in God the Father?" and end with "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people?" It is significant, I think, that I write this on Yom HaShoah – the Day of Remembrance during which Jewish people all over the world honor the millions who perished during World War II. My husband, Richard's, cousin survived internment in Auschwitz-Birkenau and Mittelbau-Dora. Suddenly the Covenant appears to follow a logical progression from belief to action that cannot be ignored.

If we say we believe in God the Father and that God created all that is, how can we not honor and protect all that God created and entrusted to our care? If we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, how can we not act on his words of justice and peace (see Matthew 7:24-27)? If we say we believe in God the Holy Spirit, how can we not respond to her prompting to be the people God intends us to be?

It seems to me the best way to obey God's call is to be challenged and encouraged in the community of faith to resist evil, knowing it is in that same community that we will be admonished

## DEACON'S CORNER

### *Reflection and Renewal*

As April comes to a close and May is upon us, we look back at an eventful and joyous Easter season. From the Lenten service to Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, and Easter, there were events and services for all age groups to enjoy and celebrate the journey to the resurrection. I hope many of you had the opportunity to join in these wonderful services.

On April 15, the Deacons held one of two Deacon coffee hours they host during the year. These are great opportunities to meet with your deacon and enjoy some delicious treats and good conversation. If you missed it, don't worry, we will be having another in the fall. Keep posted. Another item to keep a watch for in the fall is another fall Deacon event that we are currently in the midst of planning.

In closing, I pray the spring time finds opportunities of renewal for everyone. "...He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having this hope of eternal life" Titus 3:5.

*Eric Van Brunt*



## TWENTY YEARS

Did you know that twenty years ago on May 31, 1987 the building addition and renovation was dedicated? Dr. James Leitch, our organizing pastor, was the featured speaker. It was a grand celebration and we have certainly appreciated the fellowship hall addition, the choir loft and renovated office wing with new library and parlor. We continue to be grateful to our Building Committee chaired by Bill King along with Kitty Albright, Peggy Hawley, Bob Jenkins, Walter Maxwell, Roger Mellem, Kay Norvell, Gene Sharer and Bob Tietjen. We give thanks for all who contributed to the Building Fund and the Committee chaired by Michael Bentzen along with Bill Albright, George Boddiger, Ed Clark, Tom Cookerly, Patty Dunnavant, Betty Endicott, Arthur Heming and Cliff Kendall.

Take a moment to see a display of pictures in the Fellowship Hall.





*Our prayers are with.....Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Gloria Leber, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister, Members of the Armed Forces; Merrily Tovmassian, whose brother, John Minaberry, died recently, Bert Klein's mother, Carol, and family as she plans for cancer treatment; Kathy McPherson's father, recovering from surgery; Mary Ling, recovering from surgery at home; families and friends of victims at Virginia Tech.*



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for children in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. 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, Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahon, Teman Mebane, Thomas Niskanen, Connor Phillips, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, David Scott.



**Graduate Sunday – May 20th**

We will be celebrating the High School graduations of **Christa Sohl**, and **Carole and Walker Dempsey** with a special fellowship on May 20 at 6:00 pm. Help us say congratulations and we will miss you to these seniors as they reach this major milestone in their lives and prepare to move off to a new adventure.



**SUPPORT OUR TEAM for the Komen National Race for the Cure!**

We have a great team participating in the Race this year and we need pledge support from you. It's too late to officially join the team but if you want to register to walk or run with us, there is still time to do that, too. Stop by the Komen National Race table in the Fellowship Hall any Sunday in May.

*(Leslianne, continued)*

and forgiven when we have sinned. It is in this community that we will be refreshed and renewed so that we might continue to tell and live that old, old story once again. And when we truly love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, we will want no less for our neighbor than we desire for ourselves. In fact, when we truly love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, we will want for our neighbor more than we can ask or imagine. We will want them to live in justice and peace, having the respect and honor due them simply because they, too, are created in the image of God. It means we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being – because we believe in God the Father, creator of all that is. Amen.

*Leslianne Braunstein*



**BETH'S BLURB**

I just spent the night on the floor of my office after an evening of Cosmic Bowling with ten middle school girls. And the amazing thing of it all is that I am still here. Not because I am superwoman or even a martyr, but because this is what God calls me to do. Yes, I am tired, who wouldn't be after only four hours of sleep, but it is a good tired. It is the tired of someone who knows that they've done what they are called to do. And this is my calling. It is my cross that I am willing to bear; for there is joy even in the tough times. I believe that we are all called to take up the cross and follow Jesus to wherever he may lead us, even if it is to a Lock-in. I loved the quote from Eugene Peterson that was the preparation for worship several weeks ago; it said "Following Jesus doesn't get us where we want to go. It gets us to where Jesus goes, where we meet him in Resurrection surprise: 'My Lord and my God!'" We are to pick up our cross and go not where we want to, but where Jesus leads us. And I can tell you personally, it may be somewhere you never imagined being, but once you are there, tired though you may be, you will know that you have been a good and faithful disciple and can rest from your labors filled with the joy that only the Spirit can bring. Thank you God for calling me to sleep on floors and . . .

*Beth Williams*



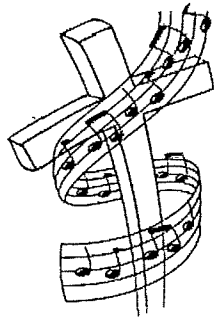
**Vacation Bible School**

**July 9-13 for ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Older children and youth can participate as helpers.

Registration is now open on line. Go to our church website [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org) and click on the VBS link.

You can also sign-up to volunteer in the different areas of crafts, Bible, drama, snacks, etc. So plan on joining us this summer for a wonderful week as we go on a wild ride through God's Word. Any questions, call Beth at 301-299-6007.



# The Wright Note

Cindy, It's Time to Recruit!

That is what my Sanctuary Choir members are telling me these days. They are feeling the pressure of "going it alone" as many regular members have had to take extended leaves from regular singing.

My dilemma is to maintain a high standard of music, but yet offer musical literature that can be presented effectively by a small, and often unbalanced, ensemble. In the meantime, I try to lead a program that is meaningful, challenging and enjoyable to the singers.

Yes, choir involves commitment. I can't deny that. Most worthy things in life do! The Sanctuary Choir meets once a week on Thursdays from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. We work hard, laugh a great deal and steadily improve our music reading and vocal production skills. The music we prepare for Sunday worship increases our appreciation for the scriptural message that we help to present. We welcome new members to join our loyal group of lofty singers.

Plan ahead now to arrange your fall activities so that choir has a place in your schedule. Can't decide? Just ask any one of the following people about choir: Laurie Broseker, Eugenia Lee, Cyndy Mamalian, Marnel Williams, Pat McMillen, Sally O'Neal, Marcia Boogaard, Wendy Petti, Marge Van Egmond, John Hummon, Dave Moquin, Dave Thomas, Alan Beck, Chan Chung, Patty Dunnavant, Jackie Tillson, Kenny Kent or Joel Miller. If you still have questions, please feel free to call me.

I'll see you at rehearsal!

*Cindy Wright*



MINIVANS/SUV'S are needed with at least 6 seat belts for our Workcamp trip to Oak Hill, WV the week of **June 23 through 30**. Vehicles will be driven by PPC adults. We would be glad to "trade" a car with you for the week. If you can help, please contact Beth Williams.

*(Endowment Giving, continued)*

I direct, while perhaps also minimizing the amount of money that may otherwise go for estate or income tax? Do I have a particular ministry at the church that I want to endow: youth ministry, special worship or music programming, mission activities or pastoral care? **What is God calling me to do?**

Pastor Kerry and the members of the Endowment Committee welcome our questions and will gladly assist any of us in thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy of our faith. As the Rev. Billy Graham has said: "We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for giving." Perhaps an endowment bequest or charitable gift is one channel we might wish to consider.



## LIBRARY NEWS

We have added many new library books recently. If you haven't had a chance to see them, please stop by the library and take a look. They are on the top shelf of the library book cart. Two books by the popular writer, Philip Yancey--What's So Amazing About Grace and Prayer: Does It Make a Difference? would be good to put on your "to read list". Tom Wright, author of Simply Christian, wrote Judas and the Gospel of Jesus: Have We Missed the Truth About Christianity? in response to all the "hoopla" over The DaVinci Code and The Gospel of Judas. He makes three points in this wonderful, but slim volume. All who do Bible study will find Manners & Customs In the Bible: An Illustrated Guide to Daily Life in Bible Times by Victor Matthews helpful.

It's wonderful to know that many of you are borrowing books and reading. I know it's hard to remember to return those books but, please, return the books to the basket under the windows when you have finished your reading.

If you'd like to give a book in honor of or in memory of someone, give me a call, 301-299-3272 and we can make that happen.

*Nancy Tietjen*

### ~ Stewardship ~

1st Quarter 2007 Giving Statement

Budget           \$197,400  
Contributions   \$197,759

Annual budget \$622,000

## ENDOWMENT GIVING: HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A LEGACY GIFT TO PPC?

Last September the Endowment Committee welcomed **Karl Mattison, a Development Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation**, to speak to our congregation about the benefits to us and to our church in making lasting gifts as a vital part of our Christian stewardship. He reminded us that these gifts can be as simple as making a memorial gift to the church, *e.g.*, when one of our members dies, or as naming PPC as a beneficiary of a dollar or percentage gift of one's estate in his will or trust. A number of our members have already made such testamentary gifts (details about the gifts are not disclosed); they belong to our Steeple Society.

Of course, in addition to simple gifts or bequests, **there are many other options for creating a legacy that will enrich our church life for generations to come.** Including PPC or the larger denomination through PCUSA or the Presbyterian Foundation, as one of the beneficiaries of a retirement account or of life insurance is one relatively easy possibility that may also have estate or income tax benefits for a church member or her heirs. Likewise, charitable annuities, charitable trusts, or gifts of real estate are other tools. These latter types of "giving" are complex and all require consultation with your legal and financial advisors, as should be done with any estate planning. The benefits, however, can be well worth the effort, resulting in the making of intentional and informed gifts.

Many of us, however, postpone thinking about these types of gifts; we are busy with our daily chores and focused on the process of building our estates. Yet, the better we plan the more effective our current endeavors can be in creating the type of legacies that we want for our families and our church.

An **estate plan** is the process by which we can manage our assets for the present and the future. A will is often a significant part of our estate planning; however, trusts and various investments we have, such as life insurance, 401-k plans and other retirement programs, may comprise much of our wealth. Their disposition, particularly on death should not be overlooked. Simply organizing one's affairs is one of the best gifts to provide surviving family members, no matter how an "estate" is held. Available on request in our church office is a useful booklet, the **Personal Inventory**, published by the Presbyterian Foundation, that can help get church members started in this process.

Questions you may wish to ask yourself in considering including PPC in your estate plan:

**Do I love PPC?** Have I and/or my family benefited from the generosity of past contributors to memorial funds and endowment giving at PPC? Do I wish to be a faithful steward of my church in a lasting and useful way? Can I afford to make a gift now, or can I allocate a percentage or portion of my retirement or other assets to be given to the church at a time when I may no longer need them? **Do I want to manage "my wealth" in ways that benefit PPC and my family in ways**



Welcome to the newest members of Potomac Presbyterian:

**Jim Adams** ~ 8702 Victory Lane, Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-9129

Jim is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after serving as a Special Agent and Supervisory Special Agent for 35 years. Since retiring, he has done tax preparation work for H&R Block and pro bono tax preparation under the AARP volunteer program. Jim's daughter and grandson live in McLean and his son lives in Elkton, MD. In retirement, Jim has enjoyed fishing and cruising on the Chesapeake Bay in his cruiser and playing golf.

**Sarah Higgs** ~ 24 Courthouse Square, #401, Rockville, MD 20850 301-340-1192  
Sarah grew up in West Virginia and came to this area in 1962. Sarah is retired from Montgomery County Public Schools where she was an elementary school teacher. After retiring she went back to school at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education where she focused on ministry for older adults. She served as the Chaplain at the Presbyterian home (now Ingleside) for ten years. Her interests include helping older adults write autobiographies and she volunteers as an ombudsman in the Montgomery County Program for nursing homes. In her free time she enjoys reading, art and being with friends.

**Roy Whitesel** ~ 13115 Hathaway Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20906 301-949-7745  
Roy was born in Washington, D.C. and has lived in the metro D.C. area for most of his life. He worked in intelligence for several agencies of the federal government before he retired. Roy has two grown sons who live in Bethesda and Annapolis and two granddaughters. In his free time he enjoys traveling and gardening.



### Spring Abounds on PPC Property

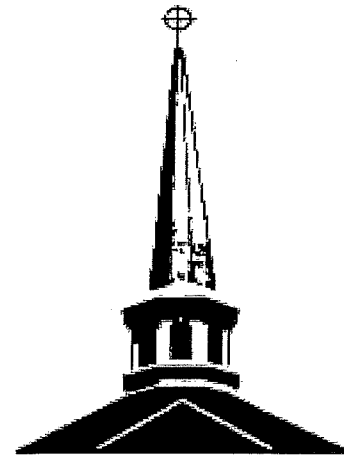
Even the untimely return of old man winter with his cold weather, strong winds, even some snow on Good Friday, couldn't dim the spring beauty of our church grounds and landscape. We were all dressed up for Palm Sunday and Easter and we looked our best. We hope you noticed.

Over the last several years much effort has been expended in improving and maintaining the appearance of our property. This progress would not have been possible without the generosity of an anonymous donor from our congregation. The annual anonymous donation for a number of years has enabled us to employ the professional services of Great American Landscapes Inc., who have provided excellent service and helped enhance the beauty of our church for one and all.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2007</h1>						
		<b>1</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>2</b> 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. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>3</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>9</b> 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	<b>10</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Confirmation</i> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<b>14</b>  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)  7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>15</b> 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>16</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>18</b>  <i>Women's Retreat at Meadowkirk</i> 4:00 p.m. Friday → → → →	<b>19</b>  5:00 p.m. Saturday
<b>20</b> 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 6:00 p.m. Graduate Party	<b>21</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>22</b>  10:00 p.m. Presbytery (Vienna)	<b>23</b> 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	<b>24</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<b>28</b>  Memorial Day ~ Office Closed ~	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  <i>Bible Study will not meet</i> 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 6:00 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>31</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

JUNE 2007

---

**KERRY ON**... Reading for spiritual growth, challenge and enjoyment. I commend the following titles to you for summer reading.

Michael Lindval, The Christian Life: A Geography of God. This book of only 130 pages is an outstanding summary of the components of the Christian life. Lindvall's style is engaging and clear and he uses the journey theme to explore the basics of living faith. I read this book one chapter a day and found it helpful to allow time for reflection.

Malcolm Gladwell, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Make a Big Difference. This is a best seller with fascinating insight on how change occurs in our culture.

Diana Butler Bass, Christianity for the Rest of Us. The results of a three year study of mainline churches that are flourishing. This book tells of "an emerging Christianity that strives for greater spiritual depth and proactively engages the needs of the world."

Philip Yancy, Prayer: Does it Make any Difference? Yancy is a wonderful guide along well worn pathways that we thought we knew. Fresh discoveries wait around each bend in the road. He takes on tough questions about prayer that we all ask and shows us that the questions themselves are elements of honest prayer.

Kathleen Norris, Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith. This is a book I returned to in May for daily reading. Norris writes about the words of Christian faith in fresh and surprising ways. A sample: someone said to her, "I said to a friend who was dying, 'in heaven, everyone we love is there,' the friend replied, 'No, in heaven I will love everyone who's there.'"

Wendell Berry, Hannah Coulter or other novels in this series set in Port William, Kentucky and rich with the nuance of faith and place.

Reynolds Price, The Good Priest's Son or anything by this outstanding writer.

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

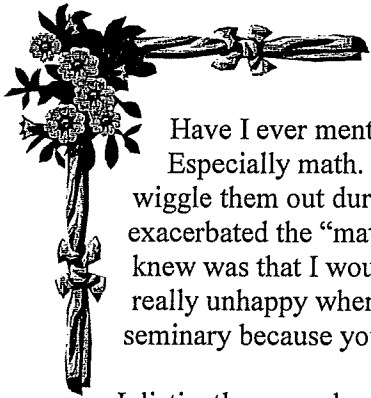
**June 3 Jackie McMahon – Mission Trip to Costa Rica**  
**June 10 Tom Miles – "The Heresy of Faith"**  
**June 17 Summer Schedule Begins - Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00**

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.*

## SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 17

Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00

---



### *Leslianne*

Have I ever mentioned how much I hated school when I was a kid? Oh! It was awful. Especially math. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade I used to protect all my loose molars so I could wiggle them out during math and be excused from the room. Needless to say, that only exacerbated the “math problem,” but for some reason I didn’t make the connection. All I knew was that I wouldn’t get called on for an answer I most likely couldn’t supply. I was really unhappy when all my adult teeth grew in. It is not unusual to hear me say I went to seminary because you don’t have to take math.

I distinctly remember when I graduated from P.S. 31. That was the first time I got to wear stockings (though, I think I still was in Mary Janes). I stood up and thought to myself, “only six more years.” I probably would have tried to drop out at the age of 12, but I knew that wasn’t a very good idea if I valued my life. My parents would not have taken kindly to a 12-year-old dropout daughter.

So, why on earth would I sign up to do a Doctorate in Ministry? I don’t really know, except God has this mysterious way of getting me to do things I could not have imagined when I was 12.

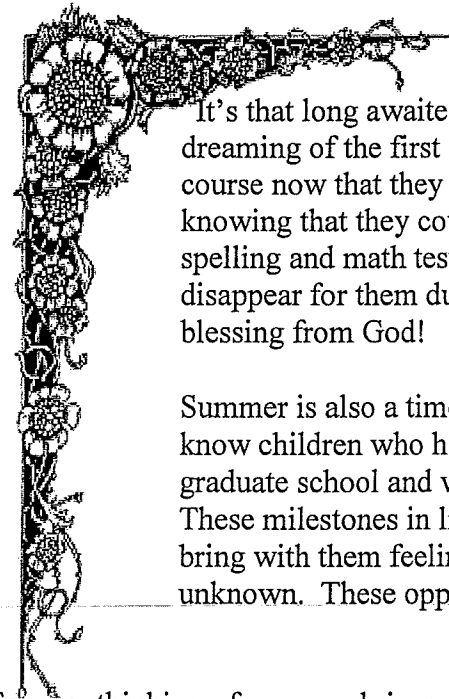
In May I began a course of study called “Spirituality and Story.” This course of study incorporates a specific approach to biblical theology, interpretation and application that focuses primarily on biblical narrative as our way of understanding how we relate to God. This discipline (which technically is known as narrative theology) examines the way our lives and stories intersect with God’s grand story for us and it helps us interpret the content of our faith and call.

I’ve long been fascinated with biblical storytelling – how we tell, how we hear and how we interpret God’s story. What are the elements of the story that resonate with us, and why? What are the aspects of the story we lift up? What are the parts of the story we tend to minimize or leave out? How do we learn to tell the story fully – authentically and faithfully?

The expectation is that all course work and a project thesis will be completed in no more than six years. (Seems like a long time!)

Oh yeah. There’s no math.

*Leslianne Braunstein*



### DEACON’S CORNER

It’s that long awaited time of year. Summer - A time that my children start dreaming of the first day of each school year. They can finally sleep in – of course now that they are able to, they don’t. But, it brings them great joy knowing that they could if they wanted to. The burden of book reports, spelling and math tests and all of the other stresses of elementary school disappear for them during the summer. For my children, summer is blessing from God!

Summer is also a time of endings and new beginnings. Many of us have or know children who have just graduated from high school, college or graduate school and will be preparing for a new chapter in their lives. These milestones in life often bring with them a little anxiety, but they also bring with them feelings of excitement – something to look forward to, the unknown. These opportunities are also blessings from God.

For me, thinking of summer brings to mind many things – it is a tall glass of lemonade, it is a warm night with fireflies lighting up the sky, it is an early morning out on the golf course, it is vacationing at the beach with friends and family. I could go on and on about the many thoughts that come to mind when I think of summer. It makes me realize the many blessings that God has graced me with, and I look forward to sharing these blessings with others throughout the summer months.

I hope that each of you are blessed with a great summer and that you also can share your blessings with others, just as God shares his gifts with us.

*Cathryn White*



**SPLASH** – Combined Middle and Sr. Highs will meet at the Meredith’s on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm beginning in July using a study called “Aslan is on the Move!” based on the C.S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We begin the evening with a shared meal, spend some time with the study, and end with frolicking in the pool. Come when ever you can and bring a friend.



**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 friendships.**

**Graduate Degrees**

<b>Bond</b>	Trevor	Arizona State	MBA
<b>McPherson</b>	Richmond	Pepperdine	Master's in Dispute Resolution
<b>McPherson</b>	Janet	UC Santa Barbara	Ph.D. in Educational Leadership

**College**

<b>Atwood</b>	<i>Carl</i>	St. Mary's College of MD
<b>Bernstein</b>	<i>Joe</i>	Florida Atlantic University
<b>Curry</b>	<i>Amelia</i>	Elon College
<b>Guo</b>	<i>Mira</i>	Princeton University
<b>Knighton</b>	<i>Heather</i>	Carlow University
<b>Meredith</b>	<i>Elysse</i>	Drew University

**High School**

<b>Dempsey</b>	Carole	Churchill	<b><u>Going to</u></b> Dickinson
<b>Dempsey</b>	Walker	Walter Johnson	
<b>Sohl</b>	Christa	Churchill	Salisbury Univ.

# BETH'S BLURB

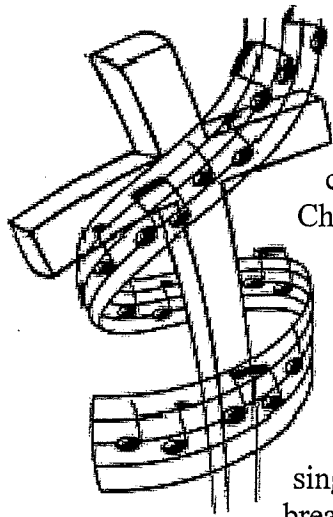
A little while ago I went into the hardware store to buy some paint to paint the interior of my house. I brought an old can with me to match the existing color. My house, with the exception of my daughter's room, is all the same color. The paint person looked at my paint and asked me if I was moving. I said, "No, why did you ask?" And he replied, "Because this is the color that realtors make you paint your house in order to sell it and people can't wait to paint over." It was of course, beige. It matches our carpet. I am not adventurous when it comes to decorating; I like to play it safe. Our theme for Sunday School this year has been God Colors our World. We are not allowed to play it safe in God's creation. God offers a colorful palette in which to live and love. We should not limit ourselves to "safe" colors, afraid to risk a more adventurous or full hued canvas for life. Elisa Morgan, President and CEO of MOPS International whose house is beige too, says it this way, "What if God longs to pour golden joy over me in a new friendship, but I pull back unwilling to take anyone else into my schedule? What if, around a corner of a certain suffering, God is sketching a bold understanding of his care for me especially to color my spirit with hope? What if God wants more for my children than I do myself – and longs to show me in multicolored splendor? In Ephesians 3:20, the apostle Paul sums up a prayer for his friends with a colorful description of God, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...'. What is it that I'm missing when I play it so safe? Just immeasurably more than I ask or imagine. That's all." So she is off to Home Depot to buy a deep chocolate taupe for her powder room. It is a small step, but one I hope I can follow and truly let God color my world.

*Beth Williams*



**End of Year Sunday School Celebration, June 10**

At 9:45 am in the fellowship hall, all the children and youth Sunday School students and parents are invited to come to a colorful party as we celebrate the end of the Sunday School year. This year's Sunday School Offering is being used to purchase crayons for the school supply drive for Interfaith Clothing, helping other children color their world.



## The Wright Note

We are experiencing that time in the church musical year when choir schedules are coming to a close. The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir finished their season on May 20<sup>th</sup> by presenting a short musical drama entitled "The Lost Sheep" during the worship service. This amazing group of kindergarten through second graders has met weekly since September with nearly perfect attendance by all members.

The Sunrise Singers sang in worship on Mother's Day and will sing again on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This children's choir will have their traditional breakfast that same day, receiving attendance and choir service awards. They will also share their talents as instrumentalists and singers.

Our Handbell Choir will ring in the worship service on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will ring from the front of the sanctuary. You will enjoy seeing the various ringing techniques which produce the variety of sounds that will occur. This group of nine dedicated ringers has enjoyed a productive season of learning and fun.

Our Sanctuary Choir will continue to sing through Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Following that date they will enjoy a brief summer recess. But, we hope that some of the members will be serving as soloists or ensemble singers on upcoming summer Sundays. I invite any youth and adults who would like to share their talents as summer soloists to let me know. I am setting up that schedule now.

On Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, we will again have our **Father's Day Chorus**. Singers will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse with me. We will then sing in the worship service that follows. This is such a joy each year. I look forward to seeing a great group of men again this year. Watch for a sign-up chart in the narthex.

*Cindy Wright*

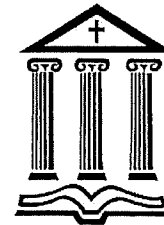


## LIBRARY NEWS

Have you stopped by the library to see all the new books? We've just added more new books in the past month. Another Eugene Peterson book, The Jesus Way, will be a popular book. It is said "that one doesn't simply read or skim Peterson. One ponders Peterson, as Peterson ponders the Bible". Islamic Imperialism: A History by Efraim Karsh has had good reviews. Hazhir Teimourian of Literary Review said, "I could not recommend this magnificent effort of reportage and analysis more highly". One of our members asked about Kierkegaard books, so we now own three titles either about or by Kierkegaard. Once again, I ask you to please return books that you have finished reading to the basket under the windows so the next person can enjoy them.

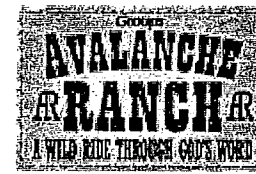
Have a wonderful summer of reading.

*Nancy Tietjen*



**THEOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION**

Dr. Barry Corey, Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, headlined our celebration on Sunday, April 28. In Adult Ed we learned about seminaries' challenges and needs, especially for student scholarships. They are not heading for high \$ positions. Significantly, the Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship surpassed \$36,000 from donations received that day. Now, we are extremely close to \$40,000, which would increase the number of scholarships from 3 to 4! We can and should reach this goal for the 2007-08 academic year. Please e-mail Ed Clark at [ed@edwardjclark.com](mailto:ed@edwardjclark.com) or call 301-520-9166. I will get a transmittal form to you.



**Vacation Bible School July 9-13 for ages 3- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**COWBOY AND RANCH ACCESSORIES NEEDED:** If you have any cowboy hats, boots, saddles, etc that we could use to help decorate the church for our **AVALANCHE RANCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** we would really love to borrow

them. Please make sure your name is on anything you lend us so we can be sure to return it to the proper person. If you have not yet registered for Vacation Bible School, please do so, it is filling up fast. You can register on our website, [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org). Helpers are still needed to shepherd the classes between the different activities. If you can help with VBS or have any questions, please contact Beth.





## MISSION

**Habitat:** Once again we have eight college students who will be going to Avery County, North Carolina to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. We will be gone June 4-10.

**Workcamp:** 10 young people and 5 adults will be leaving for workcamp the weekend of June 23 for Oak Hill, West Virginia where we will be repairing homes, etc. Our last fundraiser for the year will be a **Car Wash on June 3**. 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, Joe Curry, Carole Dempsey, Chris Dowd, Colin Dowd, Virginia Falzon, Sherry Johnson, Will Johnson, Stephen Kent, Donald McMahon, Thomas Niskanen, David Scott, Christa Sohl, Andrew Syin, Beth Williams**

Snail mail letters can be mailed to:

Oak Hill High School  
350 W. Oyler Ave.  
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Attn: Group Workcamper *Fill in the name*

Or you can email them by going to [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com) and click on the "Send a Message to a Camper" link. You'll be directed to a list of camps. Click on our camp location, Oak Hill, WV 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 1**, sharing their experiences and what they learn as they spend a week serving God's world and studying what it means to "Renovate: Jesus Makes New." There will also be an opportunity following the service for parents and students to find out more about next year's workcamp and help determine where and when we will be going.



## Youth Local Mission Week

and the sick. Then, if that isn't enough, we will be going to the movies, swimming, bowling, picnicking and so on. The cost is \$30. Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are on the board in the fellowship hall. 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.

## July 23-27

Youth Join us for a week of service and fellowship, if you will be entering middle school through 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,



***Our prayers are with...*** Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother and family as she undergoes cancer treatment; Blair McMillen at Adventist Rehab; Anita Machlin's mother recovering from surgery; the family of Howard Mills, former member who died on April 28.*

***We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*** Matthew Thomas Kunst, the son of Stephanie Hampton and Michael Kunst.

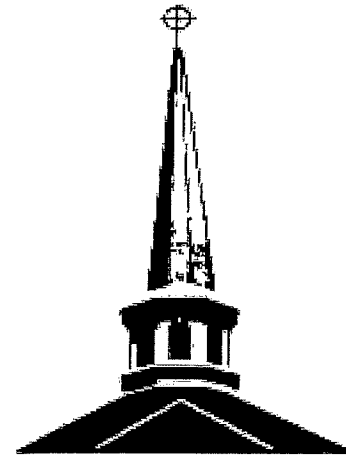
***Congratulations to...*** Sarah Dumont and James Chung who were married on May 26 in Capitola, California; Lindsay Chapin and Alex Alfaro who were married on May 27 in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stoltzfus officiated.

***We celebrate with...*** Alice Smith, 60 years and Meg Augustine, 50 years, in America. Alice arrived in May 1947. "I came to learn English and I am still working on it," she said. Meg arrived in New York, alone, with two suitcases, \$50, a job obtained from a want ad in the NY Times and as she put it, "a heart filled with hope."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2007</h1>						
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunrise Singers Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Youth Worship 9:30 a.m. Workcamp Car Wash 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Teacher Recognition 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Picnic Cookout	<b>4</b> <i>College Habitat Leaves</i>	<b>5</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>6</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class   7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>7</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting   8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Reformed Institute Adult Education Planning
<b>10</b> 9:45 a.m. End of Year Sunday School Celebration 9:45 a.m. Adult Education 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>11</b>   7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>13</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.)	<b>14</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>15</b> 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Father's Day</i> <i>SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS</i>  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	<b>18</b>   7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>19</b>   10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>20</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class   7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Workcampers Leave</i>
<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>25</b>   7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>26</b>   6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	<b>27</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Workcampers Return</i>

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
SUMMER 2007

---

**KERRY ON.....**

## **FAQ about Natural Church Development**

### **Why do we need Natural Church Development?**

Over the past few years our congregation has reached a plateau. Participation, giving and volunteering has leveled off. Worship attendance has declined. A number of active families have moved and some long time members have died. New member growth has not kept pace. Population growth continues in our community and the need for a caring and challenging ministry has never been greater.

### **What is NCD?**

We all want to be part of a healthy and growing congregation and we want to be an inviting and welcoming community of faith. The NCD process is like having a health checkup. Our Dr. may tell us that we are doing fine but there are a few things we need to maximize health and vitality. Most often this involves something like more exercise. So we focus on that area of health and work on getting in better shape. This will have a positive effect on all other areas of our health. Congregations also have an identifiable weak area, or in NCD language "minimum factor", of one of the "eight quality characteristics." Once identified, a comprehensive plan is developed and implemented to strengthen the "minimum factor."

### **How can I learn more about Natural Church Development?**

Go to the website, [www.ncd-international.org](http://www.ncd-international.org) and see especially "Frequently Asked Questions."

### **Who can help us with this process?**

Dr. Ed White has agreed to help us with the NCD process as a consultant. He has been a Senior Consultant for over 15 years with the Alban Institute, a highly regarded resource

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*

### **REMINDER - YOUTH – SPLASH**

continues **each Tuesday night for rising 6<sup>th</sup> – 12 graders.** We meet at **6:00 p.m.** at the **Meredith's house** for dinner, study, and swimming. Elysse is leading a study based on "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepeop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepeop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.*

## KERRY ON, *continued*

for congregations based in Washington, D.C. Prior to this ministry he was General Presbyterian of National Capital Presbytery and a good friend of Potomac Presbyterian Church. Ed will be with us for a special gathering of the congregation on Sunday, September 16, and he will work with the Session and Board of Deacons this fall.

### **What is the survey?**

The survey or questionnaire will be completed by a randomly selected group of active church members. It has been used by NCD in over 40,000 congregations and is designed to measure the eight quality characteristics of healthy churches. The results also identify the minimum factor.

### **What's next?**

Lunch and meeting on Sunday, September 16, following worship. Our consultant, Ed White, will lead us in "unpacking" the survey results and help us begin a process that will strengthen the health and vitality of PPC.

### **Is it important for me to attend the meeting?**

YES! All members have a vital role in the future of our congregation.

### **How long is this meeting?**

We will adjourn no later than 2:30.

### **Are the Redskins playing?**

Yes – 8:30 p.m. at Philadelphia

### **What about childcare?**

There will be childcare and activities for children after lunch. Middle school and high school students are encouraged to participate in the meeting.

### **What are the next steps?**

Planning for the Session and Board of Deacons Retreat, November 3, will be facilitated by our consultant Ed White during September and October. Implementation of our plan will begin in January 2008 and it is anticipated that the cycle will be repeated in the spring of 2009.

### **What if I have additional questions?**

Call me at 301-299-6007 or contact any member of the Health of the Church Task Force: Paul Mamalian, Carolyn Ewels, Pam Mazza, Bridget Newton, Harry Tovmassian or Rob Wescott. Also look for more FAQ's in the next Steeple to People.

## DEACON'S CORNER

One of the first activities at the January Deacon Retreat was for everyone to name their favorite hymn. My mind immediately went blank as I struggled to recall the title to a single song. My palms were beginning to sweat when the floodgates of my brain opened and songs began to pour in. Most were songs I sang as a child, many we sang at the March Advent service. But the one song that played in my mind, one of my favorite songs, just happens to be a hymn. "Amazing Grace". I think of the title and feel compelled to hum, if not sing the tune. The hauntingly beautiful melody brings tears to my eyes every time I hear the soaring notes; the lyrics pierce my heart.

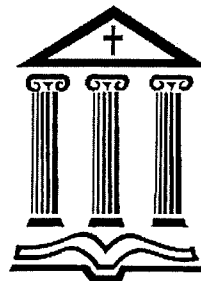
"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound"

God's grace touches every aspect of our lives, opening our minds to learn, our hearts to love, our hands to create. Grace supports our joys, letting us appreciate and bask in the pleasures that surround us. Grace sees us through the depths of despair, guiding us to a place of understanding and acceptance. God's gentle touch promises hope and protection, a beacon in a troubled world.

"We've no less days to sing God's praise-than when we've first begun."

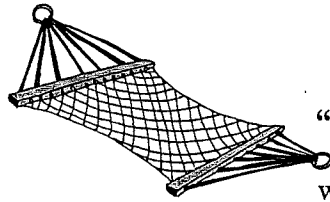
We often begin our journey with Christ as children, nurtured in God's loving hands by the faithful volunteers that steer our early lessons. Singing and praising come naturally. Our challenge is to not become lost in the bustle of everyday life, blind to the bright shining sun that graces each morning. Grace is truly amazing. May your hearts be open to accept this gift.

*Susan Haynes*



**THEOLOGICAL**  
**EDUCATION**

**WE DID IT!** In last month's newsletter I announced that we had surpassed \$36,000 in the Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship Fund at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and hoped that we could reach a goal of \$40,000 for the 2007-08 academic year. Thanks to five contributions, one of which includes a corporate matching grant; *we have surpassed this goal*. This will increase the number of scholarships to grateful seminarians from 3 to 4! Now, we have a great head start toward \$50,000 for 2008-09. Give this your prayerful consideration. Please e-mail Ed Clark at [ed@edwardjclark.com](mailto:ed@edwardjclark.com) or call me at 301-520-9166. I will explain how to contribute through PPC; or if eligible for a corporate matching grant, direct to the seminary. Thanks so very much! *Ed*



## The Wright Note



“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy” -- well, not exactly. Yes, our choirs are taking a rehearsal break, but the business of creating meaningful worship through music continues. Twenty-seven men sang beautifully on Father’s Day. On subsequent weeks you heard, or will soon hear, the following individuals share their musical talents: Laurie Hay Broseker, Joel Miller, the work-campers, Elysse Meredith, George Ligler, Dave Moquin, Zenas Kim (guest trombonist), Kenny Kent, Maggie Scott and possibly two opera professionals brought to us through the efforts of Bill Malone.

I am filing all the music from our past season and busily planning music for the upcoming 2007/2008 season. In doing so, I am trying to determine rehearsal schedules that will allow more of you to participate in our three vocal choirs and one handbell choir. At present I have the Sunrise Singers (grades 3-6) rehearse at 9:00 o’clock a.m. on Sundays, making it convenient for the children to move immediately to Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. The Wonderful Wednesday Choir for grades K-2 has successfully met at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Handbell Choir and Sanctuary Choir have been scheduled on the same Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Some members belong to both choirs. Some have commented that the Sanctuary Choir is too late in the evening. Is this keeping some of you from joining? Please let me know if you have schedule concerns or suggestions for any of the choirs. Please keep in mind that many church activities are planned during the week and on Sundays. Our desire is not to conflict with one another. We want you to participate in as many areas as you desire. Please keep music in mind as you plan for fall.

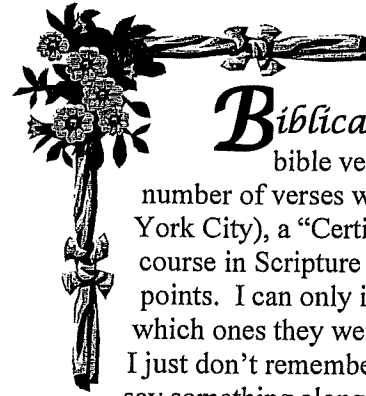
The Sanctuary Choir, in particular, is asking for your consideration. We need more singers in all part classifications to continue our standard of fine music for a variety of worship situations.

*Cindy Wright*



### KOMEN NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> our PPC team of 47 raised \$2730 for the Komen Foundation. We want to thank the congregation for their generous donations and we want to thank our team for the work they did collecting pledges from people outside the church. The following people participated in the 5K walk; Penny and Megan Boyd, Richard and Gail Cannon, Jackie, Jenni and Colleen Cronin, Chris, Sara and Emily Cyrway, Pam Mazza, Ann Eagleson, Dick Gimer, Olivia Mabeus, Scott, Melanie, Kayla, and Nicholas Mason, Frank McKenna, Fred and Bridget Newton, Elsie Reid, Sonia Russo, Nelia Scioli, Ed and Lynda Tennent. Our lone runner was Sandy MacFarlan.



## Leslianne

**Biblical Storytelling.** When I was growing up we used to memorize bible verses, and at the end of the program year we received awards for the number of verses we learned. In 1961 I received from Calvary Baptist Church (in New York City), a “Certificate of Award” declaring that I had “satisfactorily completed the course in Scripture Memorization and was promoted with honor” having amassed 171 points. I can only imagine that meant I memorized 171 verses. I wish I had kept a list of which ones they were. It would be interesting to see if I could still remember them now. I just don’t remember stuff that well – or that long. More often than not you will hear me say something along the lines of, “I know it says something in the bible like. . . .” And, I’ve never been very good at what we called “scripture addresses” – the name of the book, the chapter and verse numbers. If I didn’t have an electronic concordance I’d be in big trouble. If the truth be told, my memory just isn’t that good. I’ve often thought that’s why God invented Palm Pilots with electronic task lists that flash at me, reminding me what I need to do. Unfortunately, I often don’t look at my Palm Pilot until the task is *overdue*. Alas.

My saying this probably comes as a surprise to many of you. You have heard me speak fairly large chunks of biblical text before preaching. The discipline is known as “Biblical Storytelling.” It is a process of learning the stories “by heart” so they become internalized.

There are many ways to be a biblical story teller. Sandra MacFarlan, a member of our congregation, learns biblical stories so well she can tell them from the various perspectives of the characters in the story. Sandra’s telling is not a word-for-word rendering of text. It is, however, a truthful and faithful representation of the biblical story that calls us to be engaged with the story ourselves.

Because I often use biblical storytelling in preaching, I feel it is important for me to grapple more closely with the actual text. My goal always is to be 90-95% accurate to the text. But it is not about memorizing – it is about learning the text by heart. There is a difference. To memorize is to record something in a part of the brain for subsequent recall. My experience is sometimes it sticks, and sometimes it doesn’t. To learn something by heart is to allow something to become a part of you. It is about learning the feelings and images and characters of the story, and responding and interacting with them. It is really difficult to explain how I have become part of the stories I have learned, and the stories have become part of me.

There is nothing magical about the process of biblical storytelling. It is not a matter of memory as much as it is a matter of desire and discipline. If when hearing a biblical story told you have thought “I wish I could,” please talk to me. You can. I would love to work with you.

My prayer is that when I tell these stories you will hear them in a new, engaging and challenging way. My prayer is that you will connect with the stories and claim them as your own. My prayer is that you, too, will be so engaged with the stories you will want to tell them yourself.

*Leslianne Braunstein*



## BETH'S BLURB



**Howdy Partners,** We had a wonderful week of a wild ride through God's Word at our **Avalanche**

**Ranch Vacation Bible School.** We had **82** children who spent the week

hearing Bible stories, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and eating snacks thanks to 25 adults and 16 youth who helped make this week possible. Thank you to:

**Adults:** Patricia Eng, Julie McMahon, Cyndy Mamalian, Karen Wise, Beth MacFarlan, Marcia Boogaard, Molly Singerling, Vicki Dorman, Sandy MacFarlan, Katie MacFarlan, Janet Dunlop, Emily Shook, Bobbi Hartzog, Sherry Johnson, Chris Dowd, Emily Naegeli, Linda Bedingfield, Janet Swisher, Liz Kent, Elysse Meredith, Sarah Gesamy, Penny Boyd, Wendy Kuhn, Susan Pereles, Gayle Goff, Rich McMahon, Rob Wescott, Brian Dunlop, Frank McKenna, Brandon Eng, Tracy Spencer and **Youth:** Abigail Singerling, Hannah Singerling, David McGrath, Kelly McGrath, Michelle Boyd, Haley White, Lia Sohl, Stephen Kent, Jack McGuire, Anna Brickman, Meili Sohl, Carmen Garcia, Tera Gabriel, Aura Chapa, Thomas Niskanen, Kathryn Haynes.

### AUGUST 13 – A DAY AT KING'S DOMINION

We will meet at church at **8:00 a.m.** and return late that night. Sign-up on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall and complete a permission slip. Tickets are **\$29.95.**

## Excerpts from Joe Curry's Workcamp Reflections

Oak Hill, WV "Coalfield Housing Workcamp" June 24-30, 2007

As I've stated in my reflections each year, every workcamp has its own special memories. Each one involves putting faith into action, spending an incredible week of "giving" to others, while building on faith and spiritual values. The chief goal for every workcamp is spiritual growth, which occurs through service to the local residents. It is a week of selfless service, punctuated by the sweat of hard labor, picnic style lunches from a cooler on the work site, crew devotions, bonding with new friends (your 6-person crew) whom you make into your family for the week. It is an experience filled with spontaneous humor, laughter and tears of joy, fun and moving evening programs, and eating cafeteria food. It includes lukewarm showers, supporting one another as needed, writing "care cards" (affirmations to your crew members and others at week's end), and the constant struggle to get comfortable in sleeping on the hard classroom floor of a host school building.

The Oak Hill, WV camp was located in an area suffering under a depressed economy, and was the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive workcamp held at that same location over as many years. Where decades ago it was a thriving mining area, today it has poverty, run-down coal camp houses, and dilapidated trailers. Our 15-member contingent spent an entire week devoted to many forms of

labor in service to residents of Oak Hill to include: caulking windows, installing weather stripping, tearing out and rebuilding porches, painting interiors and exteriors of homes, putting new skirting on trailer homes, and similar repairs. Through their week-long act of community service, our youth and adult sponsors strove to meet the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents.

The workcampers at Oak Hill, WV represented 14 different church groups, from 9 states, some from as far away as Wisconsin and New York. Imagine the magnitude of service by 405 campers and 20 workcamp staff, ably supported by community representatives, school staff, and local Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) volunteers who helped round out the need for Site Coaches – the result was the forming of 68 different crews of 5 or 6 persons each (every member of a crew being from a different church group), performing work on 64 different sites. Their efforts totaled **10,935 hours of community service** in 5 days to those in need in Oak Hill, WV and the surrounding area. That is simply AWESOME!

Personally, it has always been a joy for me in getting all members of our youth group to the nearest Dairy Queen at least once during workcamp, as in years past (a tradition for our church's workcampers every trip). My goal was to ensure that everyone got the most fun out of workcamp as possible!

Oak Hill, WV constituted my 7<sup>th</sup> workcamp over the years, and my 3<sup>rd</sup> time as a volunteer staff member (this time as a cafeteria host). Once again it was a great adventure and memorable mission experience. In fact, it was perhaps my finest experience of all due to the blessing of an extremely cohesive staff group, and it provided more opportunities than ever before to interact with all the workcampers.

Workcamp offers many benefits to youth and adults! It's a mission opportunity, an act of selfless service, whereby you spend a week repairing, repainting, and refurbishing the homes of the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged. You are a "servant" of sorts to your fellow man, in the same way as Jesus was, and you will grow in faith with the workcamp's evening programs, daily crew site devotions, and evening devotions with the church youth group. There is no sufficient way to describe the experience, as many who have been to workcamp will tell you.

The choice to serve is up to you ... come prepared to serve with an open mind and an open heart. You'll be glad you did, and cherish the memories forever more!



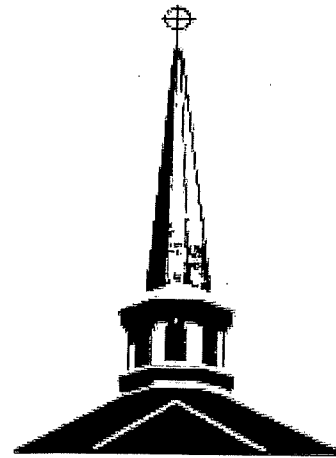
**Our prayers are with....***Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein and family, as she undergoes cancer treatment; Bert, Cassidy, Angelica and Samantha Klein as they move to Hong Kong; Anita Machlin's*

*mother, Anne Marie, recovering from surgery; Mary Ling, at home; Merrily Tovmassian's mother, Marge Minaberry, at home;; Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus' nephew, Brian Wilson, working as a civilian in Iraq.*

**Congratulations to Michael and Susan Leber on the birth of their daughter, Lillian Rosemary, on June 28 in New York, NY. Proud grandparents are Charlie and Gloria Leber.**

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
SEPTEMBER 2007

---

## KERRY ON..... More FAQ about Natural Church Development

### Has the survey been completed?

Yes. A randomly selected group of 30 active church members have completed the survey and we expect to receive our church profile in two weeks.

### What happens next?

Our Consultant Dr. Ed White will lead a briefing with the Session and Task Force on September 6.

There will be a lunch and meeting for the congregation on Sunday September 16 following worship. Dr. White will lead us in “unpacking” the survey results and help us begin a process that will be designed to strengthen the health and vitality of PPC. Childcare will be provided and we will adjourn no later than 2:30.

### How will we be using the results of the survey to become a healthier church?

We will have a better understanding of the strengths of our congregation. We can be grateful for the blessings that we share and the faithful ministry in which we are engaged. At the same time we will learn about our “minimum factor” and begin to work on an action plan to improve and strengthen that factor. We will be seeking and welcome congregational input as we prepare for the Session and Deacon retreat on November 3. Let’s change the name of that meeting to Session and Deacon “Advance.”  
Continued on page 10

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday September 9**  
**9:45 Christian Education      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

#### In the Library.....

Sept. 16 Dewey Wallace

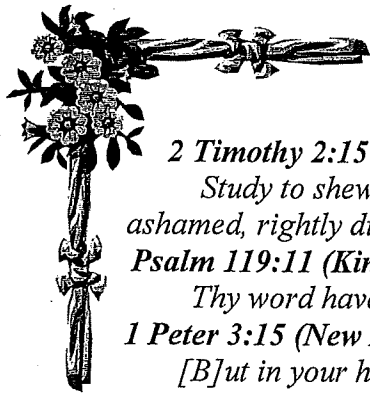
Sept. 23 Dewey Wallace

Sept. 30 Dewey Wallace

#### In the Parlor.....

“Spiritual Gifts” – 8 week study

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepoop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepoop@hotmail.com) or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.



## Leslianne

*2 Timothy 2:15 (King James Version)*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*Psalms 119:11 (King James Version)*

*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

*1 Peter 3:15 (New Revised Standard Version)*

*[B]ut in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;*

**ANCHORS** Those ports in the storm that keep us in place when the winds of change swirl around us. Sometimes our anchor is family. Those people whom we love and who love us back, even though we're not sure why. They remind us who we are when storms of inconstancy assail us and we lose our moorings.

Sometimes the daily routine of getting up and going to an office every day provides the anchor – the stability we need to live with the uncertainty that surrounds us in other arenas of our lives.

For some reason I have lately been contemplating the puzzle of how it is I have been called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. It still is a surprise to me (as it probably is to some of the people who “knew me when . . .”). The only answer I can come up with today is: Anchors. Those sources of security and stability that kept me on course, even during times of extreme instability. And, my primary anchor is the Word of God that comes to us in Scripture.

I don't know if my father remembers this, but when I didn't want to go to Sunday School, he would sometimes quote 2 Timothy 2:15 or Psalm 119:11. When you're a kid, it is really difficult to argue with the kind of logic that comes straight from the Word of God as we know it in Scripture. (As an adult one might try the argument, but I'm not sure how successful it will be!)

Little did I know, in those early days, those verses would become for me an anchor – words that would remind me of who I was in Christ – even when I didn't feel like it or act like it. Even in those years when I wasn't a particularly faithful disciple, Scripture was an incredibly important part of my life. Somehow I always knew that I would find what I needed to calm the storms of my own life in the words of Scripture.

And look at me now – hopefully living out the precepts of 1 Peter 3:15.

As we look forward to this new program year, my prayer is that you, too, will find an anchor for your life in the Word of God; and, that through it you will “have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

*(Ephesians 3:18-19)* Grace and peace, **Leslianne Braunstein**

## DEACON'S CORNER

September, a time of *new beginnings*, the end of Summer, a new school year, the return to “normal” church activities! For many, this time may be a major milestone; some of us may be starting a new family, changing jobs, retiring, moving, or any combination of these or other major life events. Of course some of us may be just looking forward to another day of sunshine, fresh air, and the freedoms we have as Americans. Each day, we experience something new, with the potential to change our lives in unexpected and profound ways; how we adapt to these *new beginnings* is extremely important to our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. As individuals, we can observe, orient, decide, and act, as we see fit. As Christians, we can turn to God for guidance and support to help us make the right choices as we adapt our lives to the ever changing, and complex world in which we live.

As I look forward to what this new season may bring, I am reminded of a simple wooden plaque that was hung on the wall of a friend's home. Its message was simple, logical, and applicable to many circumstances, and I was greatly impressed by this piece of “arm chair” wisdom.

**“We cannot control the wind”**

**“We can adjust the sails”**

How profound this simple message is, particularly when we apply it to our daily lives as we experience change and *new beginnings*.

On Sunday, September 16, we have the opportunity to experience a *new beginning* as we learn about Natural Church Development (NCD), and how we can all play a vital role in enhancing the health of Potomac Presbyterian Church, and our own lives as individuals. Our journey into the NCD paradigm represents a *new beginning* for our church that builds upon the excellent legacy of PPC, and provides the process and tools to help us enhance the overall experience of Christian fellowship at PPC. There are many opportunities for growth, new perspectives, and new horizons. The *new beginning* that NCD offers is very exciting, and like our own lives, will be both enlightening and challenging, requiring a strong reliance on God to show the way.

As we all experience the *new beginnings* ahead, may the simple message on that wooden plaque remind us that when we put our faith and trust in God, all things are possible. That God will continue to be the “wind” that moves us through life's many transitions, and that through Him, we will know how to “adjust the sails” to experience the many blessings He provides. **Dave Boyd**



**Our prayers are with.....** Jack Crawford, Peter Fidler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister, Members of the Armed Forces, Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein, and family, as she undergoes cancer treatment; Anita Machlin's mother, Anne Marie, recovering from surgery. Prayers of

Thanksgiving for Brian Wilson, the Stoltzfus' nephew who has returned safely from civilian service in Iraq. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Allison and Kevin Payne on the birth of their son, Gabriel, August 26, 2007. Proud grandfather is Dave Moquin. **WE CELEBRATE WITH JOY** the baptism of Olivia Rose Blake, daughter of Michael and Susan Blake.





## The Wright Note Can't Wait to Sing - or Ring!

It's time to get our choirs going, and I can't wait. It is always such fun to join together, making new friends and renewing old ties as we rehearse and learn new music together. The following schedule reflects the choirs and rehearsal schedules for the

2007-2008 season:

Sanctuary Choir	Starts Thurs., Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Wonderful Wednesdays (Grades K - 2)	Starts Wed., Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunrise Singers (Grades 3 - 6)	Starts Sunday, Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
Intro. to Handbells (for new ringers)	Thurs. Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> Please sign up in advance.	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir	Starts Thursday, Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

I invite everyone to consider sharing the joy of choir participation. I especially invite mature youth and adults to come to Sanctuary Choir. Our numbers are down this year. We really need more singers to continue the fine program we have established through the years. Please contact me if you are considering joining a choir or if you have any questions or suggestions. My home phone is 301-926-7015.

*Cindy Wright*

### KERRY ON, continued from page 1

#### How can I be involved in this new venture?

Put the date of Sept. 16 on you calendar and plan to participate. Be ready to provide additional input and be open to being involved in the action plan that will be implemented beginning in January 2008.

#### How can I learn more about Natural Church Development?

Check out the website [www.ncd-international.org](http://www.ncd-international.org) Also contact members of the Task Force: Paul Mamalian, Carolyn Ewels, Pam Mazza, Harry Tovmassian or Rob Wescott.

**INSTALLATION OF CHAIR-LIFT:** The Session has approved the installation of a chair-lift from the narthex to the staff wing to help members and visitors who have difficulty with stairs. If you would like to make a contribution to help with the cost of the chair-lift, please contact Kerry Stoltzfus, Ed Ebert or Gary Niskanen for more details.

## 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 earned \$553 last 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, fill in the information on the form below and mail it to me, e-mail it to me, give me a call, or drop it off in my box at the church office.
- That's all there is to it! Thank you for supporting our workcampers! *Karen Wise*

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

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

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

**Have I signed you up in the past? Great! I saved all your information, and will just renew you automatically again this year. You don't need to do anything!** Thank you for all you do for our workcampers! (Questions about the escrip program or want to sign up for yourself? Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)) Karen Wise 9812 Clydesdale Street Potomac, MD 20854 [karensuewise@hotmail.com](mailto:karensuewise@hotmail.com), 301-299-2826.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Heartfelt Thanks to the PPC Community

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cure Autism Now 5K Run/1 mile walk was a huge success. Over 2,000 people ran, walked or volunteered on a spectacular holiday morning. With your help, we raised over \$215,000 and donations continue to come in. In addition, we surpassed the \$1 million dollar mark in dollars raised over the last seven years.

Congratulations to Courtney Parr who placed in her age group. Over the course of the morning, I saw so many familiar faces from the PPC community. In fact, over 40 of you (both adults and children) joined us for the festivities as part of TEAM PPC. A special thank you goes out to the Sohl family for heading up the team, yet again. I would like to thank all of you who participated that morning and also those who were unable to attend but still sponsored individual walkers or runners at the event. A special thank you to Janet and Rob Swisher for a very fine job coordinating event registration. The Mission Committee is a great friend to this cause and this event and for that I will always be very grateful. The efforts and support of the PPC community will surely make a difference as researchers search for a cure for autism. *Susan Pereles*



## BETH'S BLURB

Do you remember trying to get to sleep the night before the first day of school each year? If you were anything like me, it was really difficult. There was all the uncertainty of whether or not I would like my teachers, would my friends be in my class, would I find my way around the building. But even more powerful was all the thoughts, goals, and hopes that this year I would do things differently: I would work harder, practice my instrument more, get more rest so I could get up on time, and on and on. For me, this was really the time for "New Year's" resolutions. I am hoping that that same feeling of hopefulness and anticipation touches you in regard to all our Christian Education programs that are kicking off this month. **Rally Day is September 9** and we will be starting off the year with an international celebration reminding us that Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. And there will be a **special meeting for the youth and their parents to discuss youth programming including Youth Group, Workcamp, and Confirmation on Sunday, September 23 at 6:00 pm.** This year, don't just resolve to participate more, do it! Be sure to read the centerfold to see all the opportunities that will be offered. Take it out and put in on your refrig so that you don't miss any of the dates. The church calendar is on the reverse side. *Beth Williams*

### WELCOME TO PPC!!!

During worship on August 12, 2007 we welcomed the following new members:

- **Charles (Robb) and Anne Cookerly Hill**

**9008 Quintana Drive Bethesda, MD 20817**

**301-365-1193**

Robb is the CTO of Knowlegis, a company which provides software for lobbyists and associations, located in Fairfax, VA. Originally from Ft. Worth, TX, Robb attended University of Texas, Arlington. He likes to scuba dive, is a space buff and is enjoying (most of the time) learning to play golf. Ann is the Director of Membership and Development at the Flight Safety Foundation in Alexandria, VA. Originally from Bethesda, Ann attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. She, too, is learning the game of golf but also enjoys gardening, reading and snorkeling.

- **Jackie Williams Bucknell University 701 Moore Ave. C-1850 Lewisburg, PA 17837**

Jackie will be a junior at Bucknell University this fall where she is double majoring in History and English. She has helped with PPC Vacation Bible School and Enrichment and has attended the college student Habitat week for the past two summers. In her spare time she enjoys reading and many outdoor activities, especially hiking and ice skating. She is excited about her plans to study in Scotland spring 2008.

- **Kristen Williams 4106 Walnut St. Apt. 3-R Philadelphia PA 19104**

Kristen will be a senior at the University of Pennsylvania this fall where she is majoring in English and Political Science and serves as Editor-in Chief of the university feminist literary magazine. Kristen has been active in the Presbytery and Synod of our denomination in recent years having attended several General Assembly and Trienium meetings. She has also served on the Presbyterian Youth Council and currently she serves on the Speer fund review committee for the Synod. Kristen enjoys dance and has shared her talents as a liturgical dancer with the PPC congregation on several occasions. Kristen and Jackie are the daughters of Beth Williams, our Director of Youth and Christian Education, and Mike Williams.

### MISSION HAPPENINGS:

#### PPC PLANNING JANUARY WORK TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

A rich and wonderful new mission opportunity has recently been approved by our Session. PPC is planning an **intergenerational, week-long, post-Katrina work trip to New Orleans on or around January 5 through 12.** Pastor Kerry has already signed up and several college students have expressed serious interest. This invitation is to **all adults and college students in the congregation.** We need a minimum of 10 participants to proceed. Here are the facts:

- We will most likely travel by air and leave and return on a Saturday.
- We will be staying at the **First Presbyterian Church**, a beautiful historic church which suffered significant flood damage and is still on the rebound. Go to [www.fpcno.org](http://www.fpcno.org) for great pictures and more information.
- The **Mission Committee of PPC** has been helping First Church since 2005 with financial donations. Their pastor, **Dr. Cliff Nunn**, spoke at PPC in the summer of 2006. PPC members have also worshipped at the church.
- FPC-NO has reached out to its community, local as well as farther out, in many significant ways. Our projects will be directed by Dr. Nunn and a Disaster Assistance professional from PCUSA, according to the needs at the time of our visit. There is no lack of meaningful work and all the tools are readily available. **All participants have reported that their week at FPC-NO has been a transforming experience. Parents sharing the experience with their young-adult children have found it particularly rewarding.**
- There will be opportunities to enjoy the **cuisine and fun of New Orleans** outside of work times.
- **Cost:** if possible, individuals are asked to pay their travel expenses. There will be no lodging fees. As much as possible the Mission Committee will try to help with food expenses. Like Workcamp or College Habitat, participants' contributions will be kept as low as possible. Details will follow as we gather more data about the level of PPC interest. **Please do not decline this opportunity for cost reasons; we have funds to help!**
- **For college students, this trip does not replace our already-scheduled return trip in June, 2008, to Avery County, N. Carolina!! Hopefully, many will do both!**
- **Please give this your prayerful consideration and contact Beth Williams [Beth@potomacpresbyterian.org](mailto:Beth@potomacpresbyterian.org) or Sonia Russo [soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com).** More information will follow. *Sonia Russo, Mission Committee Co-Chair*

#### CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE: MISSION AT POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The new, revised, expanded, full-color, photo mission booklet, **Caring for God's People: Mission at Potomac Presbyterian Church** will be mailed to PPC families by September 25. Look for it! It has been six years since the last booklet showing where PPC's mission dollars, hours and passion go. The Mission Committee thanks the PPC donors who made this publication possible.

# Christian Education 2007-2008



## 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 9 !!! at 9:45 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate a new year of Christian Education. 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 9 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 12.

The *Sunrise Singers* for Grades 3-6 meets on *Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.* Rehearsals start on September 16.

## 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 15-16  
at 6:30 p.m.

We will kick off the year with a Lock-in for all youth ages 6th-12th grade. The youth will spend the night at the church, planning upcoming youth group activities.

**Parent's Meeting** for information on Youth Group, Confirmation, and Workcamp will be at 6:00 pm on September 23.

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, June 21-28 and our Local Mission Week, July 21-25.

## Adult

### Sunday Mornings 9:45 a.m.



### In the Library

Weekly guest speakers and/or members of our congregation lead this lecture and discussion class for adults of all ages. The classes begin on September 16 with Dewey Wallace and "The Evangelical Tradition." Pick up an Adult Ed Brochure for a complete listing of classes.

### In the Parlor

The Bible Study class begins the year with an 8 week study called "Spiritual Gifts." Each of us is unique. And each one of us has been created and invited by God to participate in his kingdom work. Yet many times we hesitate to serve, uncertain of our gifts and of God's purpose for our life. In this study we will learn how to recognize our own spiritual gifts as well as those of others, and how to practically use them to glorify God in our relationship, our work and the world.

### 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 October 28- November 18

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The study for this fall, led by Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, will be "The Lord's Prayer for Today." The first class is on Wednesday, September 5, at 9:30 a.m.

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

This year's study will be "The Bible and Theology." We will explore eight major Christian doctrines, examining the Old and New Testament texts that inform belief and exploring how the church has formulated that belief as doctrine.

**1st Session -The Trinity & Christology,  
Who is God and Who is Jesus Christ?**  
Sept.12 - Oct. 24 7 weeks

### Christian Living

**2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am starting September 11** This year we will be using studies from *The Thoughtful Christian: Faithful living in a complex world.* The studies encourage participants to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.

### Book Groups

**Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.** Starting September 18 with *The Victory of Reason* by Rodney Stark.

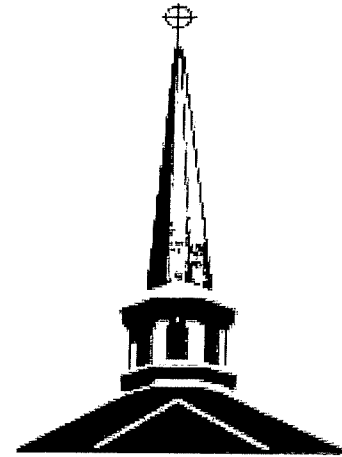
**Women's 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am or 7:30 pm.** Starting September 25 with *Acts of Faith* by Philip Caputo, winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

NEW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2007</h1>						1
<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	<b>3</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> ~ Office Closed ~	<b>4</b> 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>6</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Special Session Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (1st)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 RALLY DAY</b> 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremonies 11:00 a.m. Worship/Teacher Dedication 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	<b>10</b> 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. RI Program Committee 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study (1st)	<b>13</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship Kick-off Lock-in
<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers (1st) 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00-2:30 p.m. Lunch and NCD Presentation with Dr. Ed White	<b>17</b> 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>18</b> 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	<b>19</b> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	<b>20</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Introduction to Handbells for new ringers 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 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. Parent's Meeting 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	<b>24</b> 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National) 10:30 a.m. OR 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.)	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>27</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Introduction to Handbells for new ringers 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 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 Group Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth						

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
OCTOBER 2007

---

**KERRY ON...** Eugene Peterson wrote in his recent book, Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places,

“The two terms, “spiritual” and “theology,” keep good company with one another. “Spiritual” keeps “theology” from degenerating into merely thinking and talking about God at a distance. “Theology” keeps “spiritual” from becoming merely thinking and talking and writing about the feelings and thoughts one has about God. The two words need each other, for we know how easy it is for us to let our study of God get separated from the way we live; we also know how easy it is to let our desires to live whole and satisfying lives get disconnected from who God actually is and the ways he works among us.”

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...

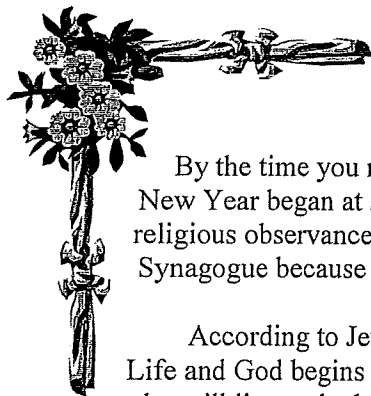
October 7 Dewey Wallace – The Evangelical Tradition  
October 14 To  
October 21 Be  
October 28 Determined

Parlor Class...Spiritual Gifts through Nov. 4

I like this notion of keeping company. It means that we are intended to have an ongoing conversation and space for challenge and affirmation, discovering and reflecting. Learning about God in Scripture and our faith tradition is a sign of growth. We are energized by a deepening understanding of the parables of Jesus and the moral imperative of the Sermon on the Mount. Our horizons are expanded as we delve into the relation of religion and science. At the same time knowing God is meant to be a companion of knowing about God as we journey through life.

Spiritual theology has to do with all of life and our awareness of God’s presence and activity in the world. Simply taking a few moments at the end of the day to ask a few questions may be a path to greater spiritual awareness; Questions like, I felt close to God when... I felt really alive when... Something I think made God sad was... Something I think made God happy was... (From, Presbyterians Today, “God’s Daily Presence,” September 2007, p. 6) Why not come up with some of your own questions?

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepoop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepoop@hotmail.com) or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.



## Leslianne

By the time you read this the Jewish New Year observances will be over. The Jewish New Year began at sundown on September 12<sup>th</sup> with Rosh Hashanah – a two day religious observance. For observant Jews, most of the two days are spent in the Synagogue because the new year is a penitential season.

According to Jewish tradition, the first day of Rosh Hashanah God opens the Book of Life and God begins inscribing the events of the coming year. In the Book, God will note who will live and who will die. The judgment entered in the Book will be sealed on Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement – the final day of the New Year Observance.

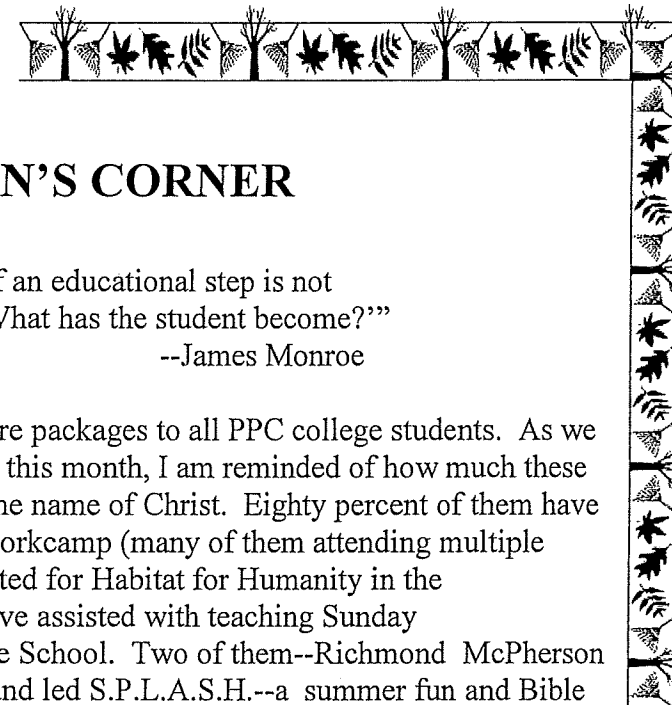
The ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are known as the “Days of Awe.” They are days of personal reflection and introspection. People reflect on the sins of the past year and they repent. If at all possible, any wrongs committed are made right; attempts are made to mend broken relationships. All this is done in the belief that God will see the sincerity of the heart and will inscribe for the person a sweet year to come. In fact, a traditional New Year greeting is, “May you be inscribed and sealed for a sweet year.”

It would seem that our New Year’s traditions are very different – except for one thing. New Year’s resolutions. What I like about the Jewish New Year is that resolutions are intentional about living a life that is pleasing to God. The reflections of the Days of Awe which include repentance, prayer and charity, are resolved to be continued in the coming year. The resolutions are meant to be a “returning” to a fuller relationship with God. The Hebrew word, *teshuvah*, means, “to return,” but it is often translated as, “repentance.”

I’ve been thinking about this lately because (believe it or not) we’re already thinking about Advent – our New Liturgical Year. Advent is for us a penitential season. While we consciously think of Advent as a time of excited and busy (frenetic?) anticipation for Christmas, as a liturgical season, it is intended to be a season of reflection and introspection as we prepare our hearts for Jesus. It is a time when we prepare to return to a fuller relationship with the living God.

I’ve been thinking about this lately because as a church we are beginning to take an intentional look at ourselves to see who we are in Christ and to discern how it is God is calling us to be in the days and months and years ahead. As we begin this process, it might be profitable for us to think of Advent as a time of *teshuvah*. A time of repentance and prayer and grace. A time of returning to God to ask God for guidance, wisdom and courage for the living of the days to come.

Leslianne Braunstein



## DEACON’S CORNER

“The question to be asked at the end of an educational step is not ‘What has the student learned?’ but ‘What has the student become?’”

--James Monroe

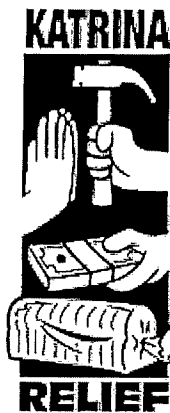
Each Fall, the deacons send care packages to all PPC college students. As we gather to assemble some 50-odd boxes this month, I am reminded of how much these young people have given to others in the name of Christ. Eighty percent of them have helped those in need through Group Workcamp (many of them attending multiple years). They have hammered and painted for Habitat for Humanity in the mountains of North Carolina. They have assisted with teaching Sunday School, Enrichment and Vacation Bible School. Two of them--Richmond McPherson and Elysse Meredith--have organized and led S.P.L.A.S.H.--a summer fun and Bible Study event for PPC youth.

There is no limit to what these young people can do with God's help and our encouragement as their church family. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers throughout the year.

Undergraduates: Paige Appleby, Brittney Bernstein, Lauren Branning, Kelli Cissel, Kimi Cissel, Amelia Curry, Jennifer Dart, Carole Dempsey, Walker Dempsey, Carolyn Dorman, Damon Dowd, Brian Dunlop, Anna Ferrara, Michael Griswold, Rachel Johns, Geoff Johnson, Trevor Johnson, Liz Kent, Kathy King, Jeremy Knighton, JoJo Kovacs, Megan Lau, Beth MacFarlan, Jenny Machlin, Jeff Machlin, Abby McKenna, Tim McKenna, Megan McKune, Jackie McMahan, Katherine McPherson, Haddon Mindnich, Kyle Newton, Peter Rosecrans, Meggie Rudnic, Peter Russo, Katie Scott, Christa Sohl, David Wescott, Jackie Williams, Kristin Williams.

Graduate Programs: Erin Dunlop, Mira Guo, Liz Johns, Heather Knighton, Adam Ligler, Allison Lyons, Erin Lyons, Richmond McPherson, Elysse Meredith, Sharon Reid.

Kathy S. McPherson



## MISSION HAPPENINGS: INTERGENERATIONAL WORK TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS: JANUARY 5-12, 2008

The Mission Committee has had a good initial response to the idea of an inter-generational work trip to First Presbyterian Church-New Orleans, January 5 to 12, 2008, and with God's help, we will go! Twelve people have expressed serious interest, and there is room for more. One PPC member wrote, "This trip is an answer to my prayers. I've been fighting with myself for not going to New Orleans, but gave the excuse of-- I don't want to go alone. I'm definitely interested..." Perhaps you feel the same. Please continue to give it your prayerful and thoughtful

consideration, and talk to your college-age son or daughter and convince them to come, too.

The need for help continues to be great. Dr. Cliff Nunn, the pastor of FPC-NO, has a long list of homeowners seeking help, and the requests continue to come in, so much so that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent a full-time site coordinator, Leroy Harbauer, to coordinate the work of those staying in the church and working on houses in the area. We will be well supervised. Our specific duties will become better known as the time draws nearer. Even if you can't paint, hammer, or dry wall, we can use your help in the kitchen, with driving, organizing daily schedules, or any number of necessary tasks.

In his Second Katrina Anniversary letter, Dr. Nunn writes, "There is a bit of optimism in the air in New Orleans, and at our church. But much remains to be done....First, we need your prayers. Prayers and our faith are really what have sustained us these many months. People coming to help have provided spiritual support and hope for the future. The Living Christ has been among us! Second, we need you to keep coming and volunteering and helping us rebuild homes. This effort will continue about two more years. There are many, many people still living in FEMA trailers working on moving back into their homes. Third, we need your financial assistance. We have spent almost \$100,000 on buying supplies for these homes..." For more information and great pictures which tell the story, please go to the Katrina recovery link at [www.fpcno.org](http://www.fpcno.org).

We will provide an update on the recruitment response and plans-to-date during Worship on September 30<sup>th</sup>. In the weeks afterward, we will address matters related to cost, travel, food, medical and legal forms, and job descriptions. Lodging is provided by First Church. Please contact Beth Williams [Beth@potomacpresbyterian.org](mailto:Beth@potomacpresbyterian.org) or Sonia Russo [soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com) if you can participate in this vital ministry. For sure, you will be transformed in the experience.

*Sonia Russo, Mission Committee Co-Chair*

## BETH'S BLURB

I would like to thank everyone who contributed and "bought" a prophet for Godly Play. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to expand the stories that we can share in Godly Play. When I was a young child, I played house. I had a pink kitchen set, a cradle, and many dolls. I loved being the mommy and taking care of my baby. As I got older, I played Barbie and Ken. We did not just play house with them, we went camping too. I had a bright orange Barbie Winnebago complete with camp stools and sleeping bags. It was in the play that I got to practice what I wanted to be when I grew up. Godly Play does just that for our children today. They get to play at being Samuel and David, Jeremiah and Isaiah; and in the play, they get to practice what it is to be a person in a relationship with God. And they don't even have to wait to grow up to be that. They can be that today!

*Beth Williams*

OCTOBER 7



WORKCAMP FUNDRAISER - FOR TRIP TO  
SHELBY, MICHIGAN

Leave your keys while you are in Sunday School or worship and come out to a shining clean car. Stop in the fellowship hall for goodies and treats at the bake sale. Donations welcome !!!





## The Wright Note

I recently had a conversation with a sales person who was trying to set up an appointment with me to discuss replacement windows for our home. Wanting to accommodate my schedule, he said, "Do you work?" I said, "Yes." When he asked me where, I told him I was the director of music and organist at the Potomac Presbyterian Church. He quickly replied, "Scheduling a time with you will be easy; you only work on Sundays."

Those of you who know me can just imagine my reaction to that statement! It takes many mid-week hours to choose repertoire, practice the organ, organize, plan and rehearse four choirs and generally run the music program of the church. Sunday worship is the climax of that preparation during the week. At this time, I direct our dedicated singers, ringers or other instrumentalists who serve as worship leaders through their music.

Where am I going with all this? A musical director needs participants for this system to work. I can spend hours planning, but without a balance of people to execute the plans, we cannot grow and further our musical mission. Right now the Sanctuary Choir is in just that frustrating position. We have been back to our fall schedule for several weeks and have been averaging seven singers at rehearsal. Since most of our singers are not soloists, they feel stressed at the extra responsibility on individuals to carry a vocal line sometimes alone. I respect this and try to gear the musical selections to our limited ensemble. But wouldn't it be more enjoyable if we had a few more singers so that we could have a broader repertoire? Besides, it is just more fun when more singers participate.

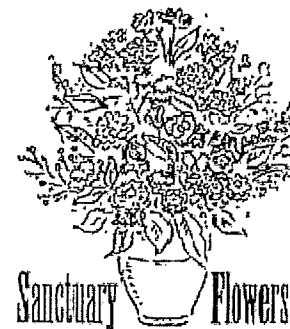
The Sanctuary Choir sits above and behind most of you during worship. I am afraid that many of you don't realize how our numbers have dropped because you don't see us each week to count. My emphasis has always been on quality versus quantity. But part balance is vital. **We particularly need altos and sopranos right now. Please consider sharing your musical gift. Let me know of your interest. The choir and I would love to see you on Thursday night at 8:00 p.m.**

*Cindy Wright*



## LIBRARY NEWS

Many new books were added to the library over the summer. I hope you will stop by the library and browse through them. They are on the book cart so it will be easy for you to locate them and maybe find one you would like to borrow. In response to a request for some books about and by Kierkegaard, some titles were added. You might want to start with Kierkegaard For Beginners by Donald Palmer. Eugene Peterson is a popular author and his Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians is the most recent addition. Sunday School teachers may find 3,458 Bible People & Places: a guide to Who's Who and Key Locations in the Bible to be a useful resource. There isn't space to list all the wonderful titles; so I encourage you to come to the library to see for yourself. If you want to check out a book, just put your name, phone number and the date on the book card in the back of the book and leave that card in the brown box on the shelf. If you took a book out for summer reading, please return it to the basket under the windows. If you'd like to give a book in memory of or in honor of someone, let me know and I'll suggest a few titles. Give me a call with suggestions or questions, 301-299-3272. *Nancy Tietjen*



## WORSHIP

Make a flower donation to honor or remember your loved ones. Donate one arrangement for \$35 or two arrangements for \$70 (per Sunday). Please write your dedication in one or both slots on the flower chart in Fellowship Hall. Pew envelopes are provided to make your payment.

**GREETERS NEEDED** on *Sunday mornings – 10:40 – 11:05 a.m.* Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall for one Sunday this year.



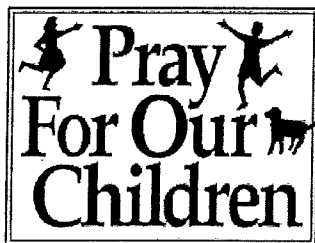


*Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein and family as she undergoes cancer treatment; Anita Machlin's mother, Anne Marie; Gail Cannon's nephew, Bud Moore; Maggie Fahs recovering from hip replacement surgery; Pat King, whose brother-in-law, George Erwin, died recently; Jean Granum's daughter-in-law, Orna, hospitalized with pregnancy complications; Eileen Crawford in rehab at Wilson Health Care Center at Asbury.*

**Congratulations** to Cyndy and Paul Mamalian on the birth of their daughter, Juliette Anna, on August 24. Proud siblings are Alexandra and Matthew.

**Congratulations** to Sara Hougen and Erik Bates who were married September 1, in Georgetown, with Pastor Stoltzfus officiating.

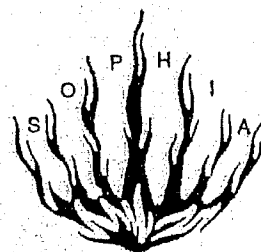
**Congratulations** to George and June Dick on the birth of their son, James Alan, on September 11. Proud family members are his brother, Grant; grandmother, Judy Dick; aunt & uncle, Greta and Eric VanBrunt; and cousins, McCartney and Nathan VanBrunt.



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

Alexander Alarie, Blake Conway, Grant Dick, James Dick, Doug Henderson, Preston Kuhn, Ryan Kunst, Matthew Kunst, Juliette Mamalian, Sebastian McFeaters, Courtney Spencer, Charles Trenkamp, Kevin Young, Lindsey Bedingfield, Margaret Koonce, Eileen Lee, Robert Trenkamp, Roman Conway, Matthew Mamalian, Max May, Haley Phillips, Aiden Propps, Jack Swisher.

**NEW ADDRESS:** Paul and Lorna Young  
Country Meadows  
1900 Trolley Road, Apt. 306  
York, PA 17408 (717) 779-2276



New Sophia House Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Sophia House is a congregation and community supported shelter that provides rehabilitative services for homeless women in our community. PPC volunteers deliver meals for 30 homeless women on the first SUNDAY of every month. The Mission Committee seeks a new volunteer to spearhead this effort. Please contact Tracy Spencer for details (tracyspencer@comcast.net or 301-251-9340).

**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 earned \$553 last 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, fill in the information on the form below and **mail it to me, e-mail it to me, give me a call, or drop it off in my box at the church office.**
- That's all there is to it! Thank you for supporting our workcampers!

*Karen Wise*

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

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

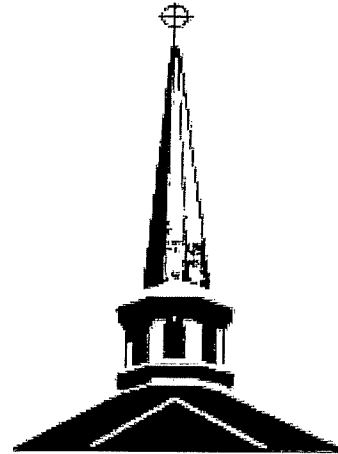
Safeway Club Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ (11 digits)

**Have you signed you up in the past? Great! I saved all your information, and will just renew you automatically again this year. You don't need to do anything!** Thank you for all you do for our workcampers! (Questions about the escrip program or want to sign up for yourself? Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)) Karen Wise, 9812 Clydesdale Street, Potomac, MD 20854, 301-299-2826, [karensuewise@hotmail.com](mailto:karensuewise@hotmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2007</h1>						
	1	2 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	3 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	4 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	5	6
7 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 11:00 a.m. Worship - World Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Bakesale 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	8  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	9 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)  7:00 p.m. Wooton H.S. Music Honor Society Event	10 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	11 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12	13
14 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	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	16 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	17 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 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	18 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	19	20 <i>Potomac Day</i>
21 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Sponsor Training 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	22  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	23 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.)	24 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. Kerygma Bible Study	25 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	26  Youth Group Cluster Lock-In → → → →	27
28 <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-I 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg.	29	30	31 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  Kerygma <u>will not</u> meet			

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church

---

NOVEMBER 2007

---

## **KERRY ON... *Passionate Spirituality: Common Themes***

### **The response to God's grace in Jesus Christ**

All pride in spirituality as "my response" is swept away by the pervasive giftedness of the entire process. (Sager p. 76)

The spiritual life, the pursuit of God's presence, the longing for a personal relationship with God are human responses to the divine invitation. Contrary to popular misunderstanding, the opposite of spiritual is not physical, but lifeless, dull, and monotonous. (Rice p. 197, 198)

### **Lived squarely in the context of daily life**

Spirituality is the pattern by which we shape our lives in response to our experience of God as a very real presence in and around us. (Rice p. 45)

A life embracing living in depth day to day living out of the relationship with God we have in Christ; a Christ centered orientation to God, nature, society and self. (Sager p. 24, 25)

As abstraction "spirituality" frequently obscures the very thing it is intended to convey – God alive and active and present. Living, living fully and well, is at the heart of all serious spirituality. (Peterson p. 29)

### **Great diversity in how it is pursued**

While there is deep and foundational unanimity among Christians as to the goal of Christian spirituality, there is a remarkable diversity within the Christian tradition when it comes to the question of "how" this pilgrimage should be most meaningfully pursued. (Tyson . 3)

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...**

**November 4 Ann White "Marriage – Covenant to Contract"**

**November 11 Ann White "Marriage – Covenant to Contract"**

**November 18 Rob Wescott "Taking Care of God's Planet – The Economics of Global Warming"**

**November 25 Beth Williams "Journey through Advent"**

**Parlor Class... Spiritual Gifts**

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepoop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepoop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

Anyone who insists on approaching God in some particular way will likely “get the way” rather than God. (Sager p. 78)

### Thinking about God and knowing God

“Theology” is the attention we give to God, the effort we give to knowing God as revealed in Holy Scripture and in Jesus Christ. “Spiritual” is the insistence that everything that God reveals of himself and his works is capable of being lived by ordinary men and women in their homes and workplaces. “Spiritual” keeps “Theology” from degenerating into merely thinking and talking about God at a distance. “Theology” keeps “spiritual” from becoming merely thinking and talking and writing about the feelings and thoughts one has about God. (Peterson p. 5)

### Participation in the means of grace

The path toward godliness leads through participation in the “means of grace” (such as Word and Sacrament) and “spiritual disciplines” (such as prayer, fasting, and Christian service). (Tyson p. 3)

Because the Reformers insisted on the centrality of grace as God’s freely given gift, any spiritual practice that could suggest that grace could be earned or deserved came under utter condemnation. (Rice p. 49)

We will have to recognize (in accordance with NT analogies, Phil 2:12) that the life of grace is cultivated, nurtured, and grown over the span of a lifetime. (Tyson p. 46)

### A delicate balance between the individual and the community

Christian fellowship and community have long been considered essential to the development of Christian spirituality. (Tyson. 33)

We are redeemed as a community, and not merely as lone individuals. We gather not just to receive from community, but also to give of our strength, faith and encouragement. (Rice p. 53)

Allan Sager, [Gospel Centered Spirituality](#)

Eugene Peterson, [Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places](#)

Howard Rice, [Reformed Spirituality](#)

John R. Tyson, [Invitation to Christian Spirituality](#)

## DEACON’S CORNER

The annual Deacon’s tailgate party was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> outside and in the Fellowship Hall. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the communion of parishioners as we consumed “Deacon Dogs” and “Holy Hamburgers”. Everyone (including God) did their part to make this a joyous occasion. It was a sunny and cool autumn day.

The good weather was something that I welcomed and had been looking forward to after a blistering hot and muggy summer. These kinds of days are not as frequent as I like. Soon I might be complaining about the frigid conditions outside. Weather is only one thing that I complain about. I have a whole litany (pardon the pun) of things to complain about. I’m impatient in overcoming the mundane rituals of home maintenance, bills, appointments, the “job”, the “wife”, and the “kids”. That covers it.

Now I’m putting pencil to paper and hoping to offer something worthwhile for you to reflect upon. Maybe you’re like me and forget about the good things in your life and the things to praise God for. I like to keep busy. If you know me, you know that I have a lot of energy even despite my age (I am the oldest deacon). For instance, I did an Iron man triathlon this past summer. Thank God I have the health, stamina, and endurance to accomplish that feat. Thank God that I am still valuable to my employer, NASA, as a project manager and that my job by definition means there are problems and you have to solve them. OK I can still gripe a little. Thank God for Emily and Lizzy and Joe. What would I do without them?

How about you? What’s your beef? Do you have anything to praise God for? If this little reminder helps you to reflect on your good things, then I’ve done my November Deacon Duty. Mind you I’m still learning this Deacon biz or I wouldn’t be in the class of 2009. You know there’s really nothing special about us Deacons. You could be one too if you wanted to.

*Chuck Naegeli*

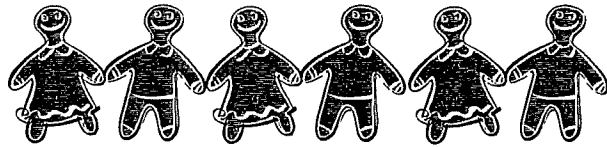


### *Get Trained and Save a Life!*

No one is immune when it comes to sudden illness. It can happen anywhere to anyone. Let’s make the survival odds better by taking a course in First Aid, CPR or AED. One of us is eventually going to need someone who knows how to save a life. It may be your own life that is saved, or that of a loved one, by someone who has had this training. Suburban Hospital is close by and offers several courses targeting health and safety. The next available dates in 2007 for CPR courses are Nov. 7 and Dec. 4 and 5. I am sure they will be scheduling others in 2008. Please do yourself a favor and go to this website, [www.suburbanhospital.org](http://www.suburbanhospital.org), today and sign up for one of these classes. If the time is not right to do this now, keep checking. They are always updating their site. Make this a present you give to yourself and others this year!



*Take yourself, and even better, take a buddy!!*



## Join us for a Holiday Cookie Exchange

*It's the time of the year  
when best cookies are made.*

*What fun to make extra in order to trade!*

*Please come on Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

*bring cookies, your best -*

*Exchange yours for others and so will each guest.*

*Bring as many to trade as you want to take home -*

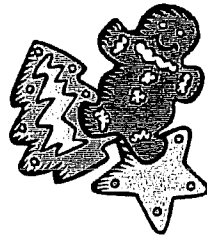
*And some for the table for we're sure*

*not to roam,*

*Until we've had coffee, tea and a chat*

*and welcomed the season -*

*There's reason for that!*



*Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2007 Time: 7:00 p.m.*

*Location: Potomac Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall*

*RSVP: Sign up in Narthex - or call Karen Karch, 301-330-0633*

*Guidelines: 1. Bring as many cookies as you would like to exchange.*

*2. You may want to create recipe cards to share.*

*3. Bring a container for collecting your cookies.*



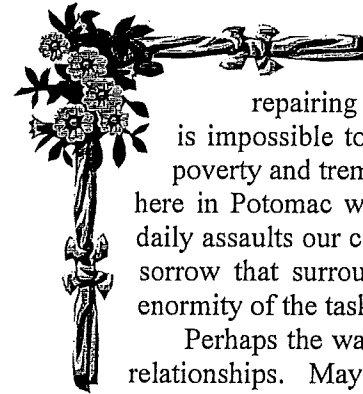
### Updates to the directory...

Brittney Bernstein  
[britb72@aol.com](mailto:britb72@aol.com)

Mark Shalaby  
[Mark.shalaby.professionita@mail.wind.it](mailto:Mark.shalaby.professionita@mail.wind.it)

Jo Jo Kovacs  
318 Highland Road  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
[jjk58@cornell.edu](mailto:jjk58@cornell.edu)

## Leslianne



*Tikkun Olam* is a Hebrew phrase that encompasses the concept of repairing the world. You've probably noticed that the world is pretty broken. It is impossible to pick up a newspaper and not be struck by the amount of disease and poverty and tremendous want that is the excruciating reality of the world we live in. Out here in Potomac we're generally pretty insulated from the hunger and homelessness that daily assaults our cities. But, I know we are deeply touched by the grand scale of pain and sorrow that surrounds us. *Tikkun Olam*. How do we even begin to contemplate the enormity of the task?

Perhaps the way to start is *not* to think of the world, but to think of ourselves and our relationships. Maybe first we need to contemplate what is going on in our own hearts. What are the ways in which my fears keep me acting out of an attitude of scarcity, rather than an orientation of abundance? When has my "head swelled" way beyond its size, causing me to alienate other people? What are the ways in which I have not been the person I needed to be in the world - the ways in which I haven't been the person God calls me to be? How *do* I contribute to the peace and harmony of the lives that intersect my own?

It would seem there is enough work to do with myself without even beginning to think about the world. And that, I think, is where *Tikkun Olam* begins. The transformation of the world starts with the transformation of the self.

This is a journey of faith; it is the Christian journey. It begins in our relationship with Jesus Christ and the transformation of our own lives as we embrace with gratitude what God has done for us. It begins with us not being conformed to the attitudes and idolatries of this world but by our being "transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 1:22) *Tikkun Olam* begins with our "letting the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness." (Philippians 2:5-7a)

The difficulty of this journey is that there are no shortcuts. It means discovering and rediscovering and pursuing disciplines that will help us encounter God in new and deeply meaningful ways. It means grappling with the Bible and other Christian texts to learn the desires of God's heart and make them our own.

The challenge of this journey is that it is never ending. We didn't learn all we had to learn by the time we got to Confirmation. Just as God's mercies are new every morning, so is God's message in the words of Scripture.

The joy of this journey is that we do not do it alone. We do it with one another in this community of faith, sharing our joys and sorrows, our questions and our insights so that we might be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

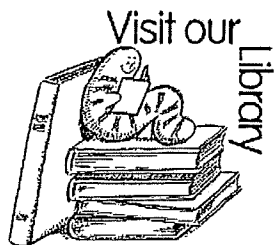
I am grateful to God to be here at this time in this place sharing this journey with you. Together we will discern the desires of God's heart that will contribute to *Tikkun Olam*.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

# BETH'S BLURB

As we move forward with the Natural Church Development, I am sensitive to many of the comments that I heard from members of the congregation, particularly the concern of how do we do this without changing our identity as a church. I couldn't help but think of that this weekend. My daughter was going to Charlottesville to visit friends at UVA for her fall break. Now my daughter is what I would call a city girl, she goes to school in the city and thrives on the bustle of the metropolis. Her friend, Jen, made plans to entertain Kristin while she was visiting, plans to go . . . apple picking! Needless to say, Kristin was not looking forward to it. It was not her kind of thing. So Sunday night when I got home and got a chance to touch base with her, I asked about her weekend, and particularly about the apple picking. She just lit up, it was so much fun she said. She and her friends had a wonderful time, and it was the highlight of the weekend. So what does this have to do with NCD? Is Kristin still a city girl? Yes. But by being open to something beyond her comfort zone, she was able to experience life more fully and engage with her friends more intimately. NCD can be our apple picking. By being open to the Spirit, but still remaining ourselves, we can experience our faith more fully and engage with God at a more intimate level. Wouldn't it be great to light up when we talk about our faith? Now that would be passionate spirituality!

*Beth Williams*



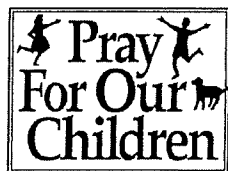
Visit our  
Library

It's so exciting to see that many of the books we have are being checked out. I am also excited about the new books that have recently been added to our collection! I wish I could name them all; but because of limited space, I'll pick just a few. The Unwanted Gift of Grief by Tim VanDuivendyk is a "passionate, practical guide through the grieving process". This book has had great reviews and is a guide not only for those who are grieving, but also for those who sojourn with them. Karen Armstrong, author of A History of

God says of Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally by Marcus Borg, it is "profound, challenging and engrossing". Borg makes familiar stories read like new.

I didn't want to put A Short History of Christianity by Stephen Tomkins down after reading the preface. He is a delightful author who makes key stages of Christian development a page turner. If you've sent a child off to college, you might enjoy Letters to Ellen by Gilbert Meilaender. This is a slim volume of letters that one might write to a child about what it means to live as a Christian. Next month, I'll tell you about some of the other great books we have. If you can't wait until then, ask me what's new.

*Nancy Tietjen*



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our kindergartener's and first graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too. *Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Patterson Koonce, Chandler Kuhn, Abigail Spencer, Christian Alarie, Emily Cyrway, Ava Henderson, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Alexandra Mamalian, Gavin May, Matthew Visnich.*



COME DECORATE THE CHURCH – SAT. NOV. 24

**Have some fun and get to know other church members!**

Join us to decorate the church for the Christmas holidays. We will begin at **9:00 a.m.** on the

**Saturday** after Thanksgiving, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. No experience required—only a cheerful disposition. Coffee and

doughnuts provided.

**NEEDED:** Greenery, especially magnolia and pine boughs. Please, no holly—the berries stain the carpets. Leave on the patio any time between **Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.**



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE- DEC 2- WILLIAMSBURG BREAKFAST

Once again at the Williamsburg Breakfast, the Mission Committee will have a Christmas Gift Giving Tree to provide gifts for needy children in our community. Each year we ask members of the congregation to buy gifts for the children of Community Ministry's Friends in Action and Interfaith Housing Coalition programs and for the children of the families in the Stepping Stones Shelter. Our Christmas tree will have tags with the names and ages of the children and a suggested gift. Members may also choose to provide a food basket for the children's families or to make a \$20 donation to supply Christmas turkeys.

**Members should bring their gifts and food baskets to the Fellowship Hall on or before the next worship service on Sunday, December 9.** Mission Committee members will then distribute the gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the underprivileged families in our midst and to teach our children the joy of giving. Please contact Kay Norvell (301-330-2468) if you have questions.



*Jack Crawford, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein, and family as she undergoes cancer treatment; Anita Machlin's mother, Anne Marie Kongelbeck; Eileen Crawford in rehab at Wilson Health Care Center at Asbury; The family of Bud Moore, Gail Cannon's nephew who died recently; Winnie Brill, whose mother, Mildred Adams, died recently; Susan Haynes recovering from surgery.*

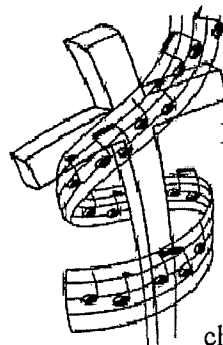
**Congratulations** to Steve and Becca King on the birth of their son, Robert Lewis King, on August 9. Proud grandparents are Bob and Cheryl King. **Congratulations** to Jim and Orna Swensen on the birth of their twin daughters, Claire and Amber. Proud grandmother is Jean Granum. **Congratulations** to Charlie Shamel and Shirley Bacet who were married\*October 14 in Georgia with Pastor Stoltzfus officiating.

## MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS UPDATE

January 5-12, 2008

The Mission Committee is proceeding with plans for a PPC **intergenerational work trip to First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans** ([www.fpcno.org](http://www.fpcno.org)) to repair or build homes which were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Please give your most prayerful consideration to participating in this wonderful opportunity to serve God's children in need, to enjoy PPC fellowship, to meet other volunteers and experience the unique culture and cuisine of New Orleans.

- 1) **College Students and other PPC Adults: there is still room for more.** We are aiming for a team of 20. Eight, including Pastor Kerry, have already purchased their plane tickets. Nine more are seriously interested. We need you! Please **sign up now!**
- 2) If you are unable to come, please consider making a **donation** to help support others who are going. Thanks to those who already have!
- 3) **If you think you are going, we recommend you book your flights** through [www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com) ASAP as follows:  
Depart Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, 9:40 AM from Baltimore (BWI)  
on Southwest #2101 nonstop to New Orleans (MSY)  
Return Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, 8:25 AM from New Orleans (MSY) on Southwest #432 nonstop to Baltimore (BWI)  
Flight changes can be made without penalty on Southwest. Also, in case you have to cancel, Southwest will grant credit for up to one year for another Southwest Airline trip. *We recommend you act quickly in order to get seats and the best prices available.*
- 4) **If you can't commit to coming for the entire 7 days, please consider coming for just 4 or 5 days.** We will work with you.
- 5) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007,** there will be an **informational meeting** in the church library for all who have signed up, or who are interested but undecided. *We will do our best to keep out-of-town college students informed by e-mail. We will make arrangements later to meet with them when they are in town for the holidays.*
- 6) **FINAL DECISION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007,** but the sooner you let us know, the better for all concerned. Thank you!  
*Sonia Russo, Mission Committee Co-Chair [soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com)*

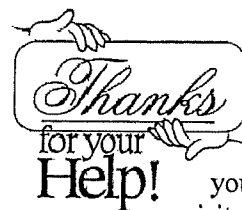


## The Wright Note

I don't often quote Shakespeare, but "Parting is such sweet sorrow" seems to fit the mood in the choir loft this month. Our wonderful friend and exceptional baritone, Dave Moquin, is moving to Ocean City, MD. Recently retired from faithful teaching and coaching in the Montgomery Public Schools, Dave is now ready to move forward with plans to live life to the fullest with water and a fishing boat just outside his back door. We will miss his loyal participation in choir, his mellow solo tones sung for special occasions and summer worship, his constant state of optimism, his generous spirit, his sense of humor, and yes, his work ethic – no task is too much for Dave!

Not only are we losing Dave this fall, but we recently said good-bye to Lorna and Paul Young, loyal tenor and alto members of the choir. A few months prior to their move, we had to say good-bye to our wonderful alto, Ann Hazard, who now resides in Virginia. I could continue flipping back the pages of the calendar and listing other beloved singers who have moved or have had to resign from the choir due to physical restrictions. These changes are all expected in the course of living this life. As a choir director, I cry. As a church, we miss them just as much. But just as these loyal folks move on to service in new church locations, we will welcome new members who will find that their love of singing is fulfilled in the loft at PPC.

In the meantime, we continue with the joy of the music that is planned for the seasons ahead. Mark your calendars for Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, All Saints Sunday. We have the privilege of hearing Chuck Seipp, guest trumpeter. His reputation with the Army Band and his solo and ensemble appearances in concert halls and cathedrals, keep him in great demand. He will accompany our own Laurie Broseker as she sings Handel's "Let the Bright Seraphim", as well as playing during Communion, joining the choir for two anthems and sharing a solo postlude. *Cindy Wright*



It has been a little over a year since I had my back surgery at Johns Hopkins which resulted in a two month stay in the hospital due to major complications at which time it was questionable as to my recovery. My husband Charlie and I cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are to you and how much we feel you contributed to my recovery through your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards. We also were the recipients of many dinners provided by "you", which were organized by our wonderful deacon, Eric Van Brundt. You will never know how much my husband and I looked forward to and loved those dinners and, also, having you stop by to give us words of encouragement.

Again, we thank each of you who came into our life to help us heal during this very difficult time. Thanks to "you" I have almost completely recuperated and am able once again to be with "you", my "Church Family".

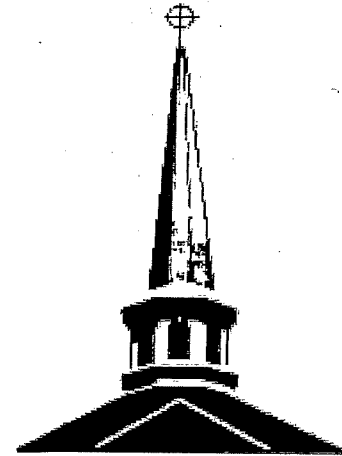
*Gloria and Charlie Lieber*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>NOVEMBER 2007</h1>						
				1 8:00 a.m. Boys Only Retreat 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	2	3 8:30-4:00 p.m. Elders and Deacons Retreat At PPC
4 <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-II 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	5	6 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	7 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	8 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-III 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	12  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	13 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	14 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.)	15 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New members meet with Session 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism New Members Received 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	19  Session will not meet	20 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	21 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  4:00 p.m. NO Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  7:30 p.m. NO Kerygma	22 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  ~ THANKSGIVING ~ (Office Closed)	23  (Office Closed)	24
25 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	26 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. New Officer Training 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	27 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.)  6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.)	28 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	29 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	30	



Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Rockville, MD  
Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

---

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
DECEMBER 2007

---

## KERRY ON... Kathleen Norris writes

Advent is a time of preparation for celebrating Christ's Incarnation  
(better known as Christmas.)

Just about anyone can celebrate Christmas in a multi-cultural, multi-faith world as long as we stick to gift giving, family gatherings and festive meals. I wonder whether as Christians we have a real opportunity to focus on Incarnation during the days of Advent.

We can ponder the voice of the prophets, who expressed the longing of the people of God,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
As the hours of daylight lessen we may consider the continuing darkness of our world and sing the plaintive words,

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.  
As we wait we can hear the words of a 4<sup>th</sup> century liturgy,  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.  
What an audacious claim we make in a pluralistic world,  
O come O come Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear  
We keep company with a wild eyed prophet calling sinners to repentance and baptizing in the Jordan River.

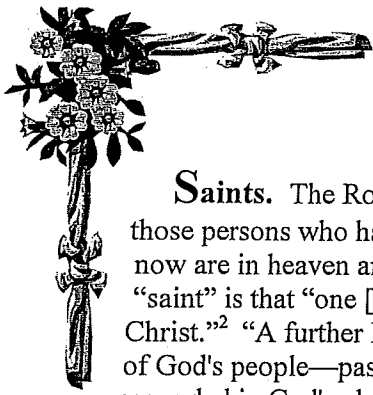
On Jordan's stormy bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Our memory is awakened to the angel visitor,  
To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.  
"Behold I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.  
And then as Christmas draws near and we have pondered Incarnation,  
O Lord how shall I meet You, How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight.  
O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

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...		
December	2	Williamsburg Breakfast – No Class
December	9	Leslianne Braunstein and Beth Williams
December	16	will lead us on the
December	23	“Journey through Advent”
December	30	No Class

*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepleop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepleop@hotmail.com) or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.



## Leslianne

**Saints.** The Roman Catholic Church uses the term Saint (with a capital "S") to refer to those persons who have distinguished themselves by heroic virtue during their lives and who now are in heaven and thus are honored by the Faithful.<sup>1</sup> The Protestant understanding of "saint" is that "one [is] separated from the world and consecrated to God; a believer in Christ."<sup>2</sup> "A further Reformed emphasis, however, is that the saints are the *whole* company of God's people—past, present, and future. This is a comprehensive picture of "church," grounded in God's election."<sup>3</sup> In other words, we who are chosen by God and who profess Christ as savior are among the company of saints.

This comes to mind particularly since we recently observed All-Saints day. We remembered those of our faith community who died in the past year. I know when we name those who have recently died, all whom we have loved and who have gone before us come to mind. It is, perhaps, the one day in the year when the notion of the "company of saints" becomes real to us and we understand our own lives in the context of God's expansive story with all humankind.

If the truth be told, I love to hear about saints. I think their stories are inspiring. They all started out as "normal" as I did. They were infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Many of them were quite rebellious, and I'm sure some of their parents had nearly given up hope that they would ever amount to anything. But at some point in their lives, their hearts were transformed by God, and they sought diligently to walk according to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Some of the Saints went on to do extraordinary things. Saint Augustine was a great Doctor of the Church; Saint Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland; Saint Mary Magdalene was one of several women who followed Jesus and ministered to him in Galilee. Martin Luther posted the notice of an academic debate on indulgences that would lead to what we now know as the Reformation. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was the pastor of two small congregations in London, but nonetheless was a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, the center of Protestant resistance to the Nazis.

You won't find them in any book (yet), but Saints Al and Dotty Kruse were my youth group leaders and they were very much instrumental in my spiritual formation when I was a teenager. Much of what I know of Christian hospitality I learned from Dotty and Al. And I know many of you have met Saints Mom and Dad, who promised to bring me up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and who were most faithful in that promise.

Perhaps one of the best things we can do is share the stories of the saints who have made a difference in our lives. I believe it was Kathleen Norris who said in one of her books that she loves to hear the stories of the saints because they remind her that the Christian life is, indeed, possible.

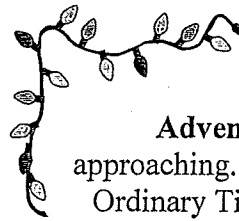
Thanks be to God.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

<sup>1</sup> [www.saint-mike.org/apologetics/QA/Answers/Faith\\_Spirituality/f0205140017.html](http://www.saint-mike.org/apologetics/QA/Answers/Faith_Spirituality/f0205140017.html)

<sup>2</sup> Easton, M. (1996, c1897). Easton's Bible dictionary. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc..

<sup>3</sup> McKim, D. K., & Wright, D. F. (1992). Encyclopedia of the Reformed faith (1st ed.) (76). Louisville, Ky.; Edinburgh: Westminster/John Knox Press; Saint Andrew Press.



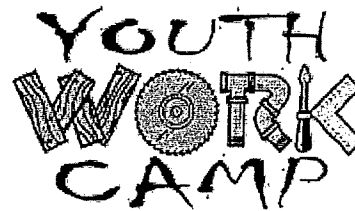
## DEACONS CORNER

**Advent**, that season of anticipation, excitement, hope and wonder is fast approaching. Our spiritual journey through the church calendar moves quickly from Ordinary Time to Advent and we can easily get lost in the activities, both religious and secular. The cooking, shopping, traveling and preparing for guests during the five weeks from Thanksgiving to Christmas can sometimes seem overwhelming. There is never enough time. We worry that our children will not understand the true meaning of Christmas. We sometimes feel we are losing it ourselves.

Sometimes the secular stresses of the season make it easy to forget the simple fact that with the birth of Jesus, God brought light into the darkness of our life. The lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath is one of my favorite traditions. The candles symbolize hope, joy and peace while the Christ Candle reminds us that the birth of Christ is the heart of the season. Every week it reminds me that Christ is central to the Christmas season.

The Deacons are planning an exciting kickoff to Advent at the **Williamsburg Breakfast on December second**. We have a very special guest who will help us all understand the spirit of Christian giving, how to joyfully receive a special gift and how to keep Christ in our hearts during Advent.

Peace and grace to you and your families during this very special season. *Linda Lyons*



## FUNDRAISERS

**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 Shelby, Michigan. Gift Cards will be available for purchase in the fellowship hall on **Nov. 25 – Dec. 23**.

**Buy a beautiful wall calendar with photos of God's Creation** accompanied by scripture. Buy one for yourself or as a gift. The workcampers will be selling these in the fellowship hall during December.





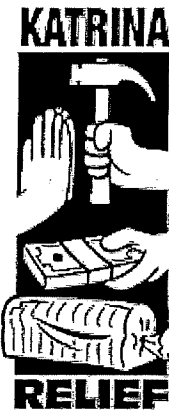
**YOUTH SKI TRIP at WISP**  
February 15-18

**2 Full Days of Skiing!!!!** We will depart Friday afternoon and return Monday afternoon.

Costs: Transportation and Lodging for three nights, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners: **\$166.00** 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. **Registration deadline: Dec. 2**



**MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS**  
JANUARY 5-12, 2008

**HERE COME THE (PPC) SAINTS!** Ann Barber, Marcia Boogard, Janet Dunlop, Robb Hill, Liz Kent, Pat Maxwell, Pat McMillen, Tom McPherson, Dave Moquin, Tom Reilly, Peter Russo, Sonia Russo, Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, Lynda Tennent, Lynn Wright, Gail Yates.  
**THANK YOU, TEAM PPC!**

**ATTENTION UNDECIDED COLLEGE STUDENTS:** We will fit you in, even at this late date. Please contact Sonia Russo at [soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com) if you can go.

Thank you, members, who have **donated funds** in lieu of participating. We will gratefully accept more checks from folks wishing to help our team members and to purchase building supplies for our work projects.

We extend, also, a heartfelt “thank you” to **Andy Gomer, CEO, N.E.S. Associates, LLC, Washington, DC**, for underwriting the rental of minivans for the team in New Orleans.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The next information session for this trip will take place after worship in the library on **Sunday, December 16, 2007.**

**OUT-OF-TOWN PARTICIPANTS:** Information from the December 16 meeting will be sent to you by e-mail or U.S. mail. Please be on the look-out for forms which will have to be returned.

*Sonia Russo, Mission Committee Co-Chair*



**BETH'S BLURB**

When I was growing up Advent wasn't done in the church; the only way we celebrated it was at home with an “Advent Calendar.” This consisted of a picture with 24 windows that opened, one for each day of December ending with Christmas Eve. Each year the picture would vary, but rarely had anything to do with the real Christmas story. These are still available in many forms and behind the window there are a variety of things to be found including chocolate. But Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas. And if our culture is to be believed, the countdown would have to start as early as the day after Halloween. Trees and decorations go up earlier and earlier each year, often to be discarded a day or two after Christmas Day. People today are not sure when Christmas begins or ends. Unfortunately, many people seem as confused about the meaning of Christmas as they are about the timing. Some folks have a fuzzy notion that wishing or praying for peace is the religious part of Christmas. In the view of many, all that Christmas has to do with Jesus, is that it is his birthday party.

In Adult Ed on Sunday mornings, Leslieanne and I will be leading an **Advent Study** which will help us understand what Advent is really meant to be. This study claims that “The recovery of the Advent season in and by the Church may be all that saves Christmas. What is the celebration about? Why did Christmas develop in the Church in the first place? What is the theology; what is the message of God that we focus on at Christmas? How does peace come if it comes at all? Why did Jesus come? What, if anything did his coming accomplish? The people of our churches need to take a step back, remain calm, turn down the Christmas carols, and listen to the biblical texts which the Church has picked to guide us toward the deep meanings of Christmas.” **Everyone is invited to join us Sunday mornings in the library at 9:45 am for this special Advent Study. Bring your Bibles.**

**Nov. 25** “Watchful Expectancy”

Isaiah 64:1-9, Matthew 24:36-44, Luke 21:25-36, Romans 13:11-14

**Dec. 9** “John the Baptizer”

Isaiah 11:1-10, Isaiah 40:1-11, Isaiah 61:1-4, Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:1-18

**Dec. 16** “The Fulfillment of All Promises”

Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 17:1-9, Isaiah 2:2-5, 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16, Luke 1:26-38, 46-55, 67-79

**Dec. 23** “The Dawning of Day”

Isaiah 9:2-7, Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-18, Titus 2:11-14

**REMINDER:** No Sunday School on Dec. 30. The College students will be leading the service on December 30.

*Beth Williams*

### Get Trained and Save a Life!

No one is immune when it comes to sudden illness. It can happen anywhere to anyone. Let's make the survival odds better by taking a course in First Aid, CPR or AED. One of us is eventually going to need someone who knows how to save a life. It may be your own life that is saved, or that of a loved one, by someone who has had this training. Suburban Hospital is close by and offers several courses targeting health and safety. The next available dates in 2007 for CPR courses are Nov. 7 and Dec. 4 and 5. I am sure they will be scheduling others in 2008. Please do yourself a favor and go to this website, [www.suburbanhospital.org](http://www.suburbanhospital.org), today and sign up for one of these classes. If the time is not right to do this now, keep checking. They are always updating their site. Make this a present you give to yourself and others this year!

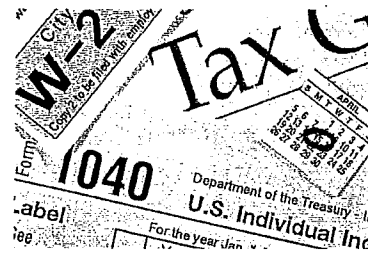


*Take yourself, and even better, take a buddy!!*



### 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.



### STAIRLIFT CHAIR

The Property Committee has applied the 2007 annual endowment fund monies of **\$1,894** toward the purchase and installation of the Calver Stairlift Chair which cost **\$3,400**. We have received individual contributions of **\$750 to date**. Please contact Ed Ebert, Gary Niskanen or Kerry Stoltzfus if you would like to make a contribution this year to help defray the costs of this important addition to the church facilities.



### Updates to the directory...

Mark Shalaby

[Mark.shalaby.professionista@mail.wind.it](mailto:Mark.shalaby.professionista@mail.wind.it)

(correction)

Corey Eng

[corevseng@gmail.com](mailto:corevseng@gmail.com)

Compton Jones

[jonesr7@gmail.com](mailto:jonesr7@gmail.com)

Ed and Beth Rudnic

[erudnic@middlebrookpharma.com](mailto:erudnic@middlebrookpharma.com)

[brudnic@hotmail.com](mailto:brudnic@hotmail.com)

Steve Rudnic

[strudnic@cvty.com](mailto:strudnic@cvty.com)

Jackie and Robert Tillson

10812 Whiterim Dr.

Eric Van Brunt

[eric.vanbrunt@gmail.com](mailto:eric.vanbrunt@gmail.com)

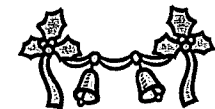
Dave Moquin

28 Brookside Road

Berlin, MD 21811



### The Wright Note



Advent is here. What a joyous time of preparation. Today I would like to write particularly about the pageant that will be presented during the worship service on **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. The children in the Sunrise Singers and the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir will be sharing the aspects of the nativity story in a musical play called "The Christmas Reunion". The reunion is unique in that it is a gathering of the animals from the stable. The humble mouse, chickens, cow, donkey and sheep will reminisce about the events on the night Christ was born.

The choirs invite other children from the Sunday School to participate in non-singing roles as shepherds, kings and the star. A poster will be placed in the narthex for volunteers to sign up. These individuals will be asked to come to only the final practice which will be **Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.**

Since the pageant is early this year, and since rehearsal time is so limited before Sunday school, I am requesting that the Sunrise Singers come to the Wonderful Wednesdays rehearsals on **Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** For the Sunrise Singers, I will still have our **Sunday 9:00** practice time as well.

May your celebration of Christ's birth be enriched by the music we share in our church.

*Cindy Wright*

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

## JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

*Sunday December 23*

7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

HEAR:

Jesus Birthday Band

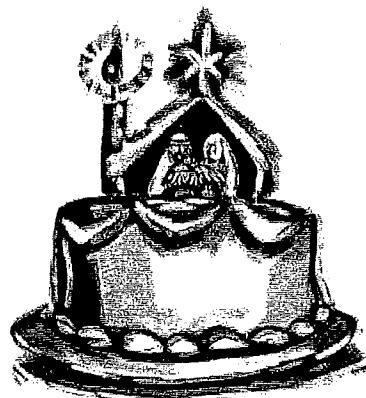
Men's Chorus

Women's Chorus

Youth Chorus

Children's Chorus

Soloists, Duets, and Ensembles



PARTICIPATE:

Sing Christmas Carols

Make this Birthday Celebration a part of Your Christmas!

Join Your Church Family!

If you would like to participate in the Band or any chorus, please call Mary Margaret Smith at 301-299-3331

\*\*\*\*\*

BE A PART OF JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION- DEC 23, 7:00 P.M.

*\* Do you want to be part of an old-fashioned Christmas music program? \* Do you want your children to participate in LIVE Christmas music in a casual setting? If the answer is "YES" then JOIN one or more of the performing groups for the JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.*

Rehearsals will be as follows:

Jesus Birthday Band (Saturdays: December 8, 15 & 22 10 AM)

Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus (Saturdays: December 8, 15 & 22 11 AM)

Youth Chorus (Sundays: December 2, 9, 16 & 23 NOON)

Children's Chorus (Sundays: December 2, 9, 16 & 23 11:45 AM).

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



Our Prayers  
are with...

*Jack Crawford and Eileen Crawford at home, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein, and family as she undergoes cancer treatment; Anita Machlin's mother, Anne Marie Kongelbeck; Jean Granum's infant granddaughters, Claire and Amber Swensen, in intensive care; Karen Wise's mother, Virginia Wise, at home; Alyce Tamzarian, recovering from hip surgery at home; Patricia Eng's mother, Ching Hwa Chang, recovering from surgery; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox, recovering from surgery; the family of Hal Newell, Jr., who died last week in New York. Hal's mother is Ruth Newell and sister is Molly Singerling; The family of Eleanor Frank, Cindy Wright's mother, who died last week in Ohio; The family of Roger Mellum, who died last week. He and his wife, Nancy, were former PPC members from 1969-1989; The family of David Fleming, Wendy Kuhn's father, who died last week.*

### IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Bob McMahon, Clerk of Session from 1993-2006. 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."

*Congratulations* to Emily and Mark Shook on the birth of their daughter, *Morgan Hope*, on October 16 in Ohio. Grateful grandparents are Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus, and sisters Madeline and Marissa.

*Congratulations* to Rob and Kara Trenkamp on the birth of their son, *Thomas Daniel Trenkamp*, on October 24. Thankful grandparents are Bob and Karen Karch, and brothers Bobby and Charlie.

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

*Robert Lewis King.* We rejoice with Robert's parents, Steven and Rebecca King, and grandparents Bob and Cheryl King.

*Shane Richard Fifield and Simon Porter Smith.* We rejoice with Shane's parents, Christopher and Mary Fifield, and with Simon's parents, Peter and Sarah Smith. Grandparents are Dick and Cathy Singleton and great-grandfather is Ed Shipley.

*Quinn Avery Foa.* We rejoice with Quinn's parents, Robert and Molly Foa. Grandparents are Bill and Jane Stanton and great-grandmother is Emajeane Harvie.



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

Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Charlotte Koonce, Zachary Nannen, Megan Reilly, Samuel Spencer, Meredith White, Jackie Fasano, Nicholas Mason, Travis Nannen, Noah Pereles, Nicholas Visnich.

---

## *Advent I*



### **December 2 ~ Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast  
11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion  
11:45 a.m. Jesus Birthday  
Children's Chorus  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus  
4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth

### **12/4 – Tuesday**

10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group  
1:00 p.m. Lord's Table  
6:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends  
7:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange  
7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group

---

## *Advent II*



### **December 9 ~ Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Jesus Birthday  
Children's Chorus  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus  
6:00 p.m. Joint Youth Groups –  
Grinch Party at Bradley Hills

### **12/10 – Monday**

7:30 p.m. Session

### **12/11 – Tuesday**

9:30 a.m. Christian Living  
7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

---

### **12/5 – Wednesday**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study Brunch  
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  
& Sunrise Singers  
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

### **12/6 – Thursday**

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

### **12/8 – 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

---

### **12/12 – Wednesday**

3:00 p.m. Collingswood  
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir  
& Sunrise Singers  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry  
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

### **12/13 – Thursday**

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

### **12/15 – 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  
11:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal  
(All participants)

---

## *Advent III*



### **December 16 ~ Sunday**

9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11:00 a.m. Pageant  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus  
3:00 p.m. Caroling at Nursing Homes

### **12/18 – Tuesday**

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

---

### **12/19 – Wednesday**

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

### **12/20 – Thursday**

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

### **12/22 – 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

---

## *Advent IV -*



### **December 23 ~ Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Jesus Birthday  
Children's Chorus  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Youth Chorus  
5:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Band  
6:30 p.m. All chorus warm-up  
7:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Celebration

---

### **December 30 ~**

### **Young Adult/College Student Sunday**

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

---

## *Christmas Eve*

### **December 24 ~ Monday**

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

