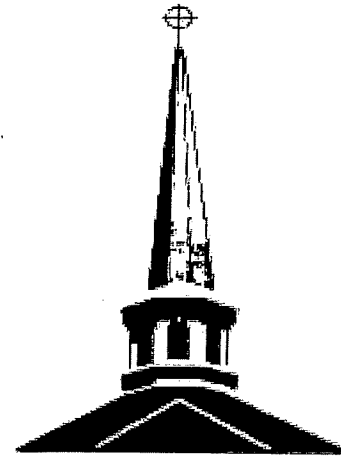


Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-6007  
[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY 2008

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**KERRY ON...** Some thoughts for the New Year...

Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God.  
I Peter 1:17 The Message

There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle.  
Albert Einstein

If you haven't got all the things you want, be grateful for the things you  
don't have that you don't want.  
Unknown

As I express my gratitude, I become more deeply aware of it. And the  
greater my awareness, the greater the need to express it.  
Brother David Steindl-Rast

You have not lived until you have done something for someone who  
can never repay you.  
John Bunyan

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, a baby born in a manger, the love of  
God who gave the greatest gift and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit who  
makes Jesus present with us now be with you all in the New Year.

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...

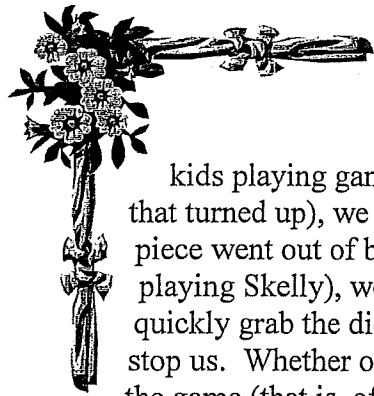
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

Louise Winfield-- New Wine in Fresh Wine Skins—

A Study in Discipleship from Matthew

Parlor Class...Beginning January 13-Nurturing the fruit of the  
Spirit of Christ in our lives

*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

**I**t's a do-over! Do you remember that phrase? When we were kids playing games, if the dice fell off the board (and we didn't like the number that turned up), we would immediately shout, "*it's a do-over!*" Or, if our playing piece went out of bounds and was officially unplayable (as often happens when playing Skelly), we would immediately shout, "*it's a do-over.*" We would then quickly grab the dice or playing piece and try again – before someone had a chance to stop us. Whether or not we got that second chance largely depended upon the rules of the game (that is, of course, assuming there were any), the whim of our opponents or whether or not there was time to play out the game before we had to go in for dinner.

**I**t's a do-over! We've entered into that season of do-overs. Of course, now that we're grown-ups we call them New Year's resolutions. It is the season when the diet centers are full to overflowing and we have to wait for our favorite machine at the gym – even at six o'clock in the morning! It is the season when the "Anonymous" groups experience a spike in attendance, résumés are dusted off and beefed up and acupuncturists and smoking cessation clinics record a sudden surge in income. It is the season when financial planners and debt consultation services are required to extend their hours. Even if we don't do New Year's resolutions, the month of January cannot go by without at least thinking about the fact we haven't done any. It is the season when we try to change our lives – for the better.

**I**t's a do-over. What parts of our lives are 'out of bounds' and need amending? What new habit(s) of improvement can we cultivate in the coming year? The joy of the Christian life is that we don't restrict our "do-overs" to a specific season of the year. For us, every day is a "do-over." Only we don't call our "do-overs" resolutions; we call them confessions. Every day we have the privilege of examining our lives in light of what God has done for us, and in light of what God requires: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Every day we have an opportunity to tell God the truth about our lives – to share with God our failures as well as our successes. And, every day we have God's own assurance that if we confess our sins, our God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). And, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been given everything needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). In other words,

**I**t's a do-over. Thanks be to God!

*Leslianne Braunstein*

## DEACONS CORNER

"God has given us two hands--one to receive and the other to give with." --  
Billy Graham

How appropriate this quote is as we complete the Christmas season. No doubt we were all "recipients" and "givers" of holiday gifts, cards, and best wishes. As I consider being a deacon, however, the meaning goes much deeper.

Jesus calls us to live in a community of faith. Of course, we should constantly seek to have a personal relationship with God. Yet Scripture guides us to come together as a community of believers. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20).

For me, this community has been ever-apparent within the serving members of the PPC deacons. We have been like a family to one another--challenging, supporting, teasing (yes, we do have FUN), and spiritually nourishing each other. Through our service together, we are strengthened to live as God's people and to "reflect" God's image in our calling.

Our "fearless leader" Leslianne equips and encourages us for Christian service. Our monthly meetings are grounded in devotion, prayer, and discussion of a book entitled Listening Hearts. As we "center" ourselves in Christ's love, we are able to be more attentive to what needs abound within our church. From this discernment comes our service to you.

It is indeed a privilege for all of us to serve our church family as your deacons. We are more than just servers at coffee hour each Sunday (although that's quite important too). We are God's instruments in "caring and sharing".

I have been blessed for two years by the "family of deacons". As we begin 2008, may God provide each of you a person you can see, visit, email, write or call who will partner with you in the nourishing of your spiritual life. God bless you and Happy New Year.

*Kathy McPherson*



## Meals for the Homeless

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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. Three volunteers are needed each evening to provide either a side dish, the main course or a dessert. 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 **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.



## FROM COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS POTOMAC CHAPTER

The Compassionate Friends Potomac Chapter, grief support group for families who have lost a child, thanks Potomac Presbyterian Church for allowing us to meet monthly through the year at the church. Our Chapter has had a good year culminating in a Memorial Candle lighting Dinner and Program on December 4 which was really beautiful. More information on the Organization is available at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

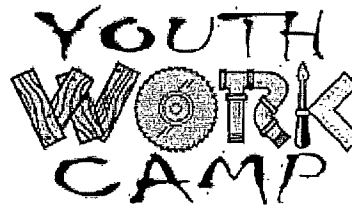
## PPC Providing Meals for Community Based Shelter

The PPC Mission Committee is honored to assist the Community Ministry of Montgomery County with their



## ETH'S BLURB

As I once again am late for the Steeple to People, and as I am thinking about the beginning of a new year and how quickly time passes, I can't help but wonder if Jesus was ever late to anything. Of course they did not have the same sense of time that we have today. I remember an episode of the television show, *Hercules*, where one of the characters who was an entrepreneur tried to sell people a version of a sundial that you wore on your wrist, and they said it would never catch on. I can't help but wonder if we are not too fixated on time in our culture. What do we miss out on when we fill every minute of every day? Do we miss God? Or am I just making excuses for being late?  
*Beth Williams*



## Workcamp Silent Auction Fundraiser

On several Sundays in February the workcampers are sponsoring a Silent Auction. The proceeds will be used to support the trip to Shelby, Michigan, June 21-28, 2008. We will be helping to repair and improve homes by doing carpentry work, roof repair, painting, drywall, building wheelchair ramps and any other home repairs the resident cannot do for themselves.

If you would like to assist in our fundraising effort by contributing an auction item (merchandise, a gift certificate, tickets, or a service) please complete a Silent Auction Donation Form and return it to Beth Williams by **January 27, 2008**. Forms are available in the rack in the narthex or in the church office.

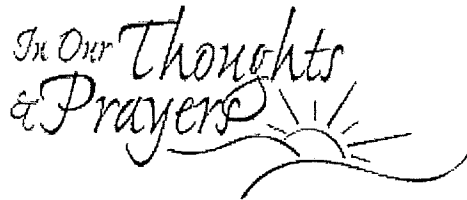




## *The Wright Note*

Thanks for the shepherds who came in on cue,  
Thanks for the kings who knew just what to do,  
Thanks for the angels with heavenly voices,  
Thanks for the bright star whose light still rejoices,  
Thanks for the family whose name now is holy,  
Thanks for the helpers whose duties were lowly,  
Thanks for the singers in puppet disguise,  
Thanks for their message, both youthful and wise,  
Thanks for the carols that rang out from the pew,  
Thanks for "A Christmas Reunion" with you.

*Cindy Wright*

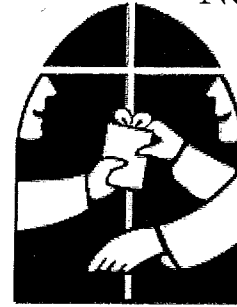


*Our prayers are with...Jack and Eileen Crawford at home, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Bert Klein's mother, Carol Klein, and family; Anita Machlin's mother, Anne Marie*

*Kongelbeck; Jean Granum's infant granddaughters, Claire and Amber Swensen, in intensive care; Alyce Tamzarian, recovering from hip surgery at home; Patricia Eng's mother, Ching Hwa Chan; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Kay Mitchel recovering from pacemaker surgery, (Kay's address in Florida is: 688 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. North Naples, FL 34108); Jon White and his family in the death of his grandfather, Rudolph Picard; Kathy McMahan and the family of Bob McMahan who died on November 25; Jim Jochum's mother, Maureen, recovering from hip replacement surgery.*

**Congratulations** to Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on December 23!

**Congratulations** to Ben and Wendy Jenkins on the birth of their son, Aaron Kai Jenkins, on November 14. Grateful grandparents are Bob and Joyce Jenkins.



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

New members were received on November 18.  
Don't forget to update your directory:

**Julianna Maglathlin**  
1109 Havencrest St. Rockville, MD 20850  
301-330-5360

Julie moved to this area from New Hampshire. She grew up in New Hampshire and attended Middlebury College in Vermont. She is divorced with two daughters, Katie in Philadelphia and Becca in San Francisco. She works at Lockheed Martin and in her free time enjoys traveling, global issues and entertaining.

**Audrey Phillips**  
11301 Gainsborough Rd. Potomac, MD 20854  
301-299-9752

Audrey is a math teacher at Churchill High School. She is the mother of Connor, a senior, and Mackenzie, a freshman, at Churchill and Haley who is 5. Mike Phillips, her husband, is a Montgomery County Police officer but is currently on active duty with the Navy in Virginia and expects to be deployed to Afghanistan early in 2008. Audrey joins her mother, Jean Granum, and daughter, Mackenzie, who are already members of PPC.

**Lori Vanscoy**  
10109 Colebrook Ave. Potomac, MD 20854  
301-424-4182

Lori grew up in West Virginia and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. She recently moved to the area from Baltimore and is a Pediatric Pulmonologist at the National Naval Medical center in Bethesda. She is married to Snehal Patel and is the proud mother of Kayla Patel.

### **In Case of Inclement Weather**



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

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

To stay informed in times of inclement weather:

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

### **THANK YOU FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The cost of the stair-lift has been covered by the individual gifts of several of our members. On behalf of our congregation, the property committee wishes to acknowledge and give thanks for the donor's generous response in improving our sanctuary church facilities.

### **PARLOR CLASS BEGINNING JANUARY 13**

To be spiritually mature is to show the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. These nine Bible studies from Old and New Testament passages highlight each quality and inspire us to nurture the Spirit's fruit in our lives.

### **PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN**



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

Isabella Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Katherine Donahue, Bryan Eng, Lauren Eng, Jackson Miller, Alex Page, Dylan Parr, Meredith Srouer, Nathan VanBrunt, Jack White, Sara Cyrway, Grace Pereles, Jordan Reilly.

### **Save the date:**

### **Women's Retreat to Meadowkirk April 25-27**

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.



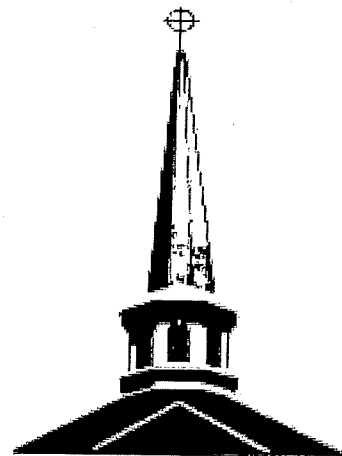
**MANY THANKS** to all the volunteers who participated in decorating the church, and also to those who kindly donated their greens. We made very good use of all the donated greens and were especially grateful to have such a generous amount of magnolia. Thank you!

Our wonderful and willing volunteers were: Dan Dowd, Janet Dunlop, Susan Houggen, Janet and Calvin Koonce, Scott, Courtney, Charlotte, Patterson and Margaret Koonce, Fran Ligler, Julie Maglathlin, Julie McMahon, Merrily and Harry Tovmassian, and Karen Wise.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2008</h1>						
		<b>1 HOLIDAY</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>  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir	<b>3</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Mission Trip to New Orleans
<b>6</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 Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	<b>7</b>  7:30 p.m. Church Health Team (1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	<b>10</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mission Trip back  8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Deacons' Retreat (at the home of Kathy McPherson)
<b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. New Officer Breakfast with Session 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>14</b>  10:00-12:pm D.A.R. Meeting  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)  7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<b>15</b>  9:30 a.m. Christian Living  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  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>17</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Sr. High Lock-in
<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism/ Communion 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. Confirmation Class	<b>21</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>22</b>  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.)	<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. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  9:00 a.m. Reformed Institute Convocation at National Presbyterian Church
<b>27</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 6:00 p.m. Cluster Church Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>28</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</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>31</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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FEBRUARY 2008

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**KERRY ON...** I began pastoral ministry in the 1970's and when preachers, that's what we were called in Tennessee, got together the conversation soon turned to questions about how many. How many did you have in Sunday School, Worship, Bible Study, Women of the Church Circles? Another question was, are you in a building program and how is the fund drive going or what is your budget this year? To me there was something not quite right about these questions as if growth and faithfulness could be measured by numbers alone.

The other popular option was to join a support group of pastors facilitated by a counselor and such questions and topics were not discussed. Rather we focused on issues of pastoral care, difficult relationships and conflict management. I found this approach more helpful especially for a young minister starting out but it was centered on the pastor as an individual practitioner and not the congregation as the locus of ministry and mission.

As the years have passed the conversation has shifted. Today when pastors get together we often talk about mission, the hands on dedicated involvement of our congregations in reaching out with the Good News in word and in deed. We talk about mission trips for high school and college students, as well as adults. The conversation comes alive as we tell about trips to New Orleans to rebuild houses, Habitat for Humanity projects, youth work camps. We tell about long and steady, often unnoticed serving in soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Stories are shared about doctors and engineers and business men and women being sent out by congregations to serve around the world. It's not the size of the congregation that matter most. It is the extent to which the congregation is giving itself away. This was exemplified for us by First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, devastated in numbers and dollars after Katrina, but a shining beacon and facilitator of mission in their community.

Growing in mission is what I talk about with colleagues when they ask about Potomac Presbyterian Church. I believe we are moving along this journey called faithfulness. There is so much need and we have great potential to keep on growing. Thank you all for allowing me to talk with others about PPC with profound gratitude.

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

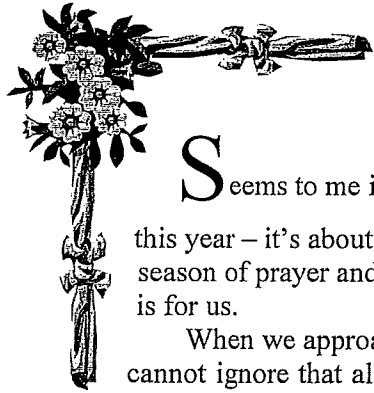
### Library Class...

Feb. 3, 10, 17 – Marilyn Johns – The Church in the Twenty-first Century

Feb. 24 - Bruce Douglass – Always Being Reformed – The Meaning of Reform in the Reformed Tradition

Parlor Class... Through March 2 - Nurturing the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives

*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

Seems to me it was just Christmas, and here we are, preparing for Lent! Lent is early this year – it’s about as early as it will ever be. But, it probably never is too early to be in a season of prayer and reflection; a time of soul-searching and repentance. This is what Lent is for us.

When we approach Lent sincerely and honestly, we cannot escape our brokenness. We cannot ignore that all creation groans – awaiting the day when God’s purposes are fulfilled and we live in full reconciliation with God, with one another and with all God has created. When we approach Lent sincerely and honestly, we cannot help but recognize we all need the healing touch of the Master’s hand.

The Deacons Lenten service on February 27<sup>th</sup> will be a Service of Wholeness and Healing. It will be a time for us to reflect on our need for God’s amazing grace that fills us and empowers us to grow in our relationship with God. A grace that deepens our commitment to a way of life rooted in our baptism. This service of Wholeness and Healing will center in on prayer – spoken and sung – and will include a service of anointing as well as the Lord’s Supper.

This is not a new activity for the church. Healing services are an ancient and accepted practice that is experiencing revival in the church today. We recognize in our busy, over-subscribed lives that indeed, we all sin and come short of the God’s glory. The healing we need is not always only physical. We often find ourselves approaching God’s throne of grace emotionally spent and sometimes spiritually bruised. Where else can we go to find the balm that heals our sin-sick souls?

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. *James 5:14*

The laying on of hands and the anointing with oil show the power of touch, which plays a central role in the healings recorded in the New Testament. The Directory for Worship reminds us that “Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community. Anointing with oil is an act invoking the healing love of God. The oil points beyond itself to the action of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the healing Christ who is God’s anointed one.”

Deacon Kathy McPherson, Elder Dan Dowd and I attended a Service of Wholeness and Healing at Georgetown Presbyterian Church not too long ago. It was a moving experience that highlighted for us the realization that spiritual healing is God’s work of offering persons balance, harmony and wholeness of body, mind, spirit and relationships through confession, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Our prayer is that you will be part of this movement of God that extends to us an opportunity to experience God’s love in a new way.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

## DEACONS CORNER

### Reflection

“Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?” This was the question assigned to me during my ordination as Deacon three years ago, which opened my heart, soul and mind to a whole new world! *The office of DEACON as set forth in scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Order.)* Having just participated in my last Deacon Retreat, I was filled with many emotions and feelings, and I was asked to reflect on my experience.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve my parish and Christian family at PPC. I have been inspired by the dedication of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and I have grown spiritually in my own relationship with God and in my fellowship with other Christians. It is my prayer that all those serving as Deacons be touched as much as I have been and we as a church, and congregation as a whole, continue to grow and be energized in our faith and to strive to serve and support one another in any way we are called. *“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually” (Psalm 105.4).*

I am reminded that I have been ordained as a Deacon for a lifetime, so although my initial commitment of three years has come to an end, I continue my journey as a discerning Christian dedicated to service. *“The whole body is fitted together, every joint adding to its own strength.” (Eph. 4:16).* As I ponder my original Ordination question, and all of life’s challenges and questions, my answer will always be: “Yes I will, with God’s help.”

Peace be with all of you,

*Wendy Kuhn*



## Inquirers’ Series

For those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at Potomac Presbyterian Church. A three-part Inquirer Series will be held on **February 24, March 2 and 9.** 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 16, and then be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact **Julie McMahan, 301-869-4639, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007,** with any questions.





Jack and Eileen Crawford at home, Peter Fisler, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Carol Klein, Bert Klein's mother; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Anne Marie Kongelbeck, Anita Machlin's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; Jean Granum's infant granddaughters, Claire and Amber Swensen, in intensive care; Alyce Tamzarian, recovering from hip surgery at her daughter's home in Colorado; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Kay Mitchel recovering from pacemaker surgery, (Kay's address is Florida

is: 688 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. North Naples, FL 34108); Jim Jochum's mother, Maureen, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Pat King recovering from hip replacement surgery; Pat McMillen recovering from surgery at home; Nettie Propps recovering from knee replacement surgery at Shady Grove Rehabilitation Hospital; Kathy McPherson, whose uncle, Wayne King, died last week.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of James Alan Dick, son of George and June Dick.

### PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

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

Shannon Baarman, David Fasano, David Hay, Audrey Ling, Courtney Parr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl, McCartney VanBrunt, Haley White, Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Jacqueline Page, Gwen Shaw.



**Maundy Thursday Meal and Program Thursday,  
March 20 6:30 pm**

*"On this very night, years ago in Jerusalem, the night before he was killed, Jesus . . ."*

We hope that you will join us for this special service of supper, worship, and communion. A signup poster will be available in the narthex for all of those who would like to attend. A small donation will be collected (\$3 for adults, \$1 for each child) to cover the cost of the meal. More information will be coming next month.



Just a reminder that Dine with Nine groups should be scheduling a get-together soon if you haven't already. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop friendships as we dine together in the comfort of our homes. Rotate host/hostesses as you wish when you meet several times during this year.



## BETH'S BLURB

The other day I had a meeting at an old stone church on a traffic circle in DC. Well, it turns out there are two old stone churches on the traffic circle that look a lot like each other. Of course - I went to the wrong one. But it made me think, what makes a church look different and stand out among other churches? It surely is not the architecture. A study showed that the number one reason people join churches today is for community. Do we demonstrate a community that stands out? Do we welcome and invite others into our community? When they step through our doors do they know this time they got the right church?

**Souper Bowl of Caring - Sunday February 3** Our youth will hold soup pots at the church doors on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2007, over 14,000 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$8 million dollars. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year our Souper Bowl collection will be going to Martha's Table. Martha's Table's mission is to serve the needs of the less fortunate in the Washington, DC community through food, learning, healthy living, recreational and family support services.



### Silent Auction February 24 – March 2

On two consecutive Sundays, February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, our workcampers will be hosting a **Silent Auction** during the coffee hour to raise funds for this year's workcamp to Shelby, Michigan.

We are asking for your help and support for this event. **In addition to inviting you to participate in the Silent Auction by bidding on items, we would also like to invite you to donate items to the auction.** The

possibilities are limitless. All sorts of items will make the auction fun and successful. Here are just some of the types of items our "shoppers" will like: original artworks, tickets to sports or cultural events, handmade crafts, products, a week or weekend at your vacation home, home cooked dinners, baked goods for future delivery, services, etc. Be creative!

You should have received a donation form in the mail and more are available in the rack in the narthex. All donors will receive an acknowledgement letter and a copy of the form. In order to prepare our auction listing we would appreciate your response by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

The list of all the auction items will be posted on the church website for preview shopping. Also, we will be accepting bids via email at [ppcauction08@gmail.com](mailto:ppcauction08@gmail.com) during the week between the two Sundays of the auction; so even if you cannot be here in person you can still take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support the youth mission trip.

*Beth Williams*



## PPC'S "NEW ORLEANS SAINTS" COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL REBUILDING MISSION TRIP

January 5 -12, 2008

We came from near and far, the young and the old, and we spent one week together at First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, doing our part to help with post-Katrina recovery. The "PPC New Orleans Saints" are: Ann Barber, Marcia Boogard, Janet Dunlop, Robb

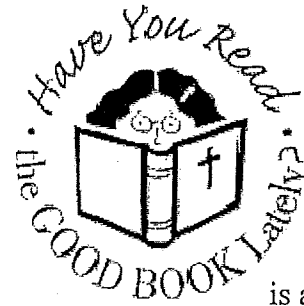
Hill, Liz Kent, Pat Maxwell, Tom McPherson, Dave Moquin, Tom Reilly, Peter Russo, Sonia Russo, Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, Lynda Tennent, Lynn Wright, and Gail Yates.

Without a doubt, the consensus is that the team's inaugural mission was a tremendous success. Thanks be to Team PPC, and to all those who supported this endeavor!

On Sunday, January 13, the team members sported their "Rebuild New Orleans" hats and "PC-USA: Out of Chaos, Hope" T-shirts, and marched into church to tell their tales of destruction mitigated by hard work; despair tempered by acts of caring; and manual labor punctuated with Christian fellowship, sumptuous New Orleans cuisine, and legendary jazz outings. The Scripture readings that day sang praises for God's care (Psalm 147) and spoke eloquently of faith in action (James 2: 14-18). Kerry and team members Peter Russo and Janet Dunlop shared the team's story with the children and with the congregation through their poignant and heartfelt reflections of the New Orleans experience.

Peter spoke of his deeply ingrained family connection to the city of New Orleans, and of "... the generosity that this mission trip uncovered. Strangers, acquaintances, and close friends sent donations and well wishes when they couldn't send their bodies.... At the work site, the next door neighbor, a security guard at a local school, would smile at us on his way to work. I was astonished by the power of a warm smile from a passerby who took notice of us. His hope passed to me through that smile. In one motion, it showed grace and thanksgiving...

Why does New Orleans matter? Where else can individuals from all over the country come and form a bond sealed by joy and grief? Before this mission trip, I barely knew many of the people in the group. They were just faces at Coffee Hour... Now... I feel like I've made a friend in every member of the group. It's an unlikely union of college student and members of an older generation. And I have New Orleans to thank for bringing us together."



**LIBRARY NEWS**  
We have an anonymous person (s) to thank for CD lectures produced by The Learning Company. "The Story of Jesus" is in two cases of 12 lectures each. The other set is "Jesus and the Gospels" which is 3 parts of 12 lectures each. They come with a course guidebook and lecture transcripts. Luke Timothy Johnson is a professor at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He is an author of over 20 books and has twice received the "On Eagle's Wings Excellence in Teaching" award.

We have also added some new titles. In God's Time: The Bible and the Future by Craig C. Hill has had some outstanding reviews. It is about the book of Revelation and of Jesus' own words in the Gospels about the End Times. Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning and Living by Cornelius Plantinga Jr. is said to be written with clarity, humor and balance about the broad reaches of Christian theology.

Please remember to return books that you have borrowed. There is a white basket on top of the card catalog by the windows for them.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or want to help in the library give me a call, 301-299-3272

*Nancy Tietjen*

\*\*\*\*\*

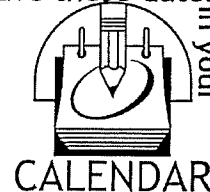


### Women's Retreat April 25-27

"Being Passionate about our Spirituality" What in your life do you feel passionately about, your family, your job, . . . maybe chocolate? On this wonderful getaway weekend at Meadowkirk, we will be exploring what it means to be passionate about our faith and discovering ways to increase our passionate spirituality. You can come for one night or two. A sign-up poster and registration forms are in the narthex.



Save these dates



**College Habitat Trip June 2-8**  
**Vacation Bible School July 7-11**  
**Youth Local Mission Week July 21-25**



# The Wright Note

A year ago I remember writing an article about a magic moment of creativity that turned a smaller than usual children's choir rehearsal into a memorable time of musical discovery and musical composition.

Well, it has happened again! This time it was on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the first rehearsal of the Sunrise Singers after the New Year. I decided to teach the children Helen Kemp's rhythmic setting of the seasons of the Christian year.

In a somewhat sing-song speech style in four-four time, we started chanting the season names: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter alleluia and a Pentecost event. Not only did I want to teach the name of the liturgical seasons, but I wanted the children to learn the rhythmic note values which formed a framework for this speech exercise.

When all was proceeding quite well, I decided that the children might like to compose a tune to further highlight the text. A simple third space C to middle C octave on half notes emerged for Advent and Christmas. Then the light bulb came on! Why not introduce the song with the word Gloria on a dotted quarter, eighth note, half note pattern? Then Noah Pereles started improvising a jazzy rhythm pattern following the Gloria and between each statement of a different season.

We began adjusting rhythms and pitches to work in a four-four structure. Our tune stayed fairly simple using mostly octaves and fifths. Hurray! The children were singing in clear, head-voice tones on the upper C's. We also added some inventive sound effects to climax the rest marking at the end of the Pentecost segment.

By 9:40 a.m., the three sleepy singers who had reluctantly crawled out of bed to come to a 9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal, were sitting on the floor (me, too), enthusiastically "jamming" an original interpretation of the liturgical year. As the children exited, I could hear Grace singing her way down the hall and saying to her brother, Noah, "This was **really** fun!"

Another magic moment in teaching had occurred. How grateful I am to have served as a guide on that morning of Christian musical fellowship, learning and discovery. *Cindy Wright*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## First Annual Pancake Breakfast February 3 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

To prepare for the Lenten season, we invite you to participate in the First Annual Pancake Breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come anytime between 9:00 and 10:30 and share in the fellowship and the beginning of this special season.



## NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP, continued

Janet Dunlop spoke of how her perceptions had been challenged and altered during the trip. Where she had seen destruction and devastation, the locals saw revitalization and progress. Where she had seen a beautiful sanctuary devoid of members, "The members of First Presbyterian Church measured the church's revitalization by the number of children's voices hearing the children's message rather than in the number of pews that still remained empty." Where she had seen, by Potomac standards, a wreck of a home barely worth repairing, she saw Maria, a homeowner, whose entire family's hopes and dreams lay in that house. "When I met Maria, I knew immediately why we had been sent to New Orleans." Finally, Janet said,

I must admit that when I first heard about this trip I wondered whether the money that it would cost to send us to New Orleans couldn't be better spent by simply sending the money to the Presbyterian Disaster fund and allowing them to hire professionals to do the work. After all, I thought what could a team like ours really hope to accomplish in a week? And although many of the team members may have shared this concern in the beginning, I do not believe they share it now. In Matthew chapter 5 verses 13-14, we read, "*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*" Too often I think that we let fear, fear of inadequacy, fear of failure, keep us from using the talents that God has given us in his service to demonstrate the power of God's love to others in need. So we traveled to New Orleans and we reconstructed a porch roof, we pulled up a floor, we replaced rotten framing, we pulled thousands of nails, we reorganized a tool shed, we landscaped a church, we cut ceiling tiles, we spackled and we painted, but most importantly we served as a beacon of God's light to remind this devastated community that they were not alone and that they were not forgotten.

The next time we are called to do mission work, whether it be in New Orleans, Ecuador, Botswana, Bangladesh, or in Sophia House, Miriam's Kitchen, or anywhere else near or far, will you "come marching in" and "want to be in that number?"

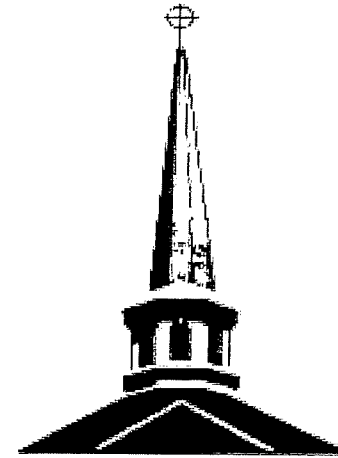
Thanks be to God for your generous hearts.

*Sonia Russo, Co-Chair, Mission Committee*  
[soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2008</h1>						
					1  Confirmation Retreat	2  Confirmation Retreat
<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>4</b>  7:30 p.m. Church Health Team	<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 Ash Wednesday</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. Ash Wednesday service with Communion	<b>7</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		
<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Youth Cluster Activity 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>11</b>  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	<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 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>14</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>15</b> Youth Ski Trip	<b>16</b> Youth Ski Trip
<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care  Youth Ski Trip	<b>18</b>  Youth Ski Trip (back)  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 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>21</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Bradley Hills Deacon Retreat  9:30 a.m. Reformed Institute Board Meeting
<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Teachers' Meeting 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/ Silent Auction 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>25</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>26</b> 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.)	<b>27</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. Deacon Lenten Service of Wholeness	<b>28</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>29</b>	

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
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[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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MARCH 2008

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**KERRY ON...** In preparation for Easter I invite you to read and reflect on three scenes in the life of Peter.

Matthew 16:13-23

Peter's Affirmation

Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Only Peter responds and this is the crucial turning point in each of the Gospels. From that moment as the writers say, "Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem." There is no turning back yet Peter and the disciples resist for they have their own ideas of what a Messiah is supposed to be like.

John 18:15-27

Peter's Denial

In this scene some folks are gathered around a charcoal fire in a courtyard while inside Jesus is undergoing a religious trial. Peter is nearby his Lord but he wants to blend in and the other disciples have all run away. The echoes of another affirmation in the upper room still ring in his ears. Will the big fisherman be up to the challenge offered by a servant girl? Three times everything is on the line.

John 21:15-19

Peter's Calling

Again there is a charcoal fire, breakfast is cooking and Jesus is the host. This morning there will again be three questions and this time they are only addressed to Peter. The horror of the Friday we now call good is still raw and the reports of women at the tomb on Sunday seem too good to be true.



**EASTER SERVICES 9:00 and 11:00**

March 23, 2008

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...

March 2, 9, 16 – Bruce Douglas – **Always Reforming: The Meaning of Reform in the Reformed Tradition**

March 23 – Easter – No Class

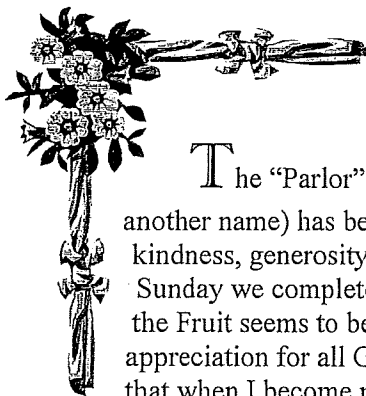
March 30 – Bill Malone – **Younger Brothers in the Bible**

### Parlor Class...

Through March 9 - **Nurturing the fruit of the Spirit of Christ**

March 16 – June 8 – **Christian Community**

*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 "Parlor" Adult Sunday School class (someday we need to come up with another name) has been studying the "Fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (*Galatians 5:22-23*) Last Sunday we completed the lesson on kindness, and it occurred to me that the root of all the Fruit seems to be gratitude. At the root of the Fruit is living in thankfulness and appreciation for all God has done and for all God will do. I've got a sneaky suspicion that when I become more attentive to what God is doing, I will inevitably discover that God has been doing a lot of stuff in and through other people that I just haven't noticed.

I know I should know better, and do better, but I just don't spend every waking moment thinking about the things I should be thankful for. What would happen if I spent more time in my day dwelling on the things that are true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise? (See *Philippians 4:8*)

- Maybe I would actually notice the good in things that happen rather than complaining about the negative stuff. If noticing the good stuff became a habit, maybe I'd start *looking* for those good things that happen all around me. (Joy and Peace!)
- Maybe by searching for the positive aspects of *all* events I would start to learn lessons from those circumstances I perceive to be obstacles. (A little patience and self-control maybe?)
- Maybe by focusing on the wonderful things I have to be thankful for, I will be more kind and loving to the people I come in contact with each day. (Generosity, kindness, love, joy)
- Maybe, if I paid more attention to God's grace in my life, I'll be more likely to follow Christ's own teaching to "do to others as I would have them do to me." (*Matthew 7:12*) (Faithfulness, patience, kindness, gentleness?)

Maybe, maybe, maybe. I know this sounds a bit hokey, but cultivating an "attitude of gratitude" is easier said than done, and I need a little help. So, I've decided to take the "no complaint" challenge. Perhaps you've heard of it. Rev. Will Bowen, a pastor in Missouri, challenged his congregation to swear off complaining, criticizing, gossiping or using sarcasm for 21 days. People who joined in the challenge were given little purple bracelets saying, "A Complaint Free World," as a reminder of their pledge. If they caught themselves complaining, they were to take off the bracelet, switch it to the opposite wrist and start counting the days from scratch. Believe it or not, this has turned into an international movement.

I think the hardest part of this, at least for a while, will be catching myself. So, if you catch me being less than gracious in my dealings, would you please tap me on the shoulder and let me know? I'll need to move my bracelet and start counting all over again.

Thanks. P.S. If you'd like to join the "no complaint" challenge, I happen to have a supply of the bracelets in my study. Just let me know.

*Leslianne Braunstein*



## DEACONS CORNER

The Deacons are continuing to work on strengthening the fellowship, community and faith of our church family. In an effort to help our members on their journey of faith, one of our goals for 2008 is to focus on the fellowship of our individual Parishes. We want to make sure each member knows what Parish they are in and who their Deacon is so that we can be there for each other. The first step is to change our Parish names. Currently, the names are based on geography. Over our 45 year history, the church has grown and changed and the geographies sometimes do not match the member (i.e. my Parish is Bethesda, but many of my parishioners are from Potomac and Gaithersburg).

We decided to base our new Parish names on Biblical cities:

New Parish Name	Former Parish Name	Deacon
Zion	Potomac Village, North	Chuck Naegeli
Gethsemane	Avenel	David Boyd
Nazareth	Churchill	Kathy Jeffers
Patara	Kentsdale	Susan Haynes
Bethlehem	River Falls	Cathryn White
Galilee	Country Place	Ann Hill
Antioch	Bethesda	Doug Baarman
Canaan	Gaithersburg	Olivia Mabeus
Jericho	Foxhill	Eric VanBrunt
Shiloh	River Road	Kathy Mc Pherson
Galatia	Rockville	Kathy Mc Pherson
Ephesus	Potomac Village, South	Linda Lyons

You will be learning more about your new Parish name and why it was selected from your Deacon shortly. In addition, we will be holding a coffee hour April 13<sup>th</sup> that will be the official roll-out of your new Parish name. Please put this date on your calendar for an enjoyable coffee hour interacting with your fellow parishioners. May God bless each of us and our church family in 2008.

*Doug Baarman*

### IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Peter Fisler. 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."

FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET FOR PPC MISSION TRIP  
to  
NEW ORLEANS, JANUARY 5-12, 2008

**DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) Private Donations to PPC Mission Committee, 15 individuals, total:                       | \$3,076.00        |
| 2) Corporate Donations to PPC Mission Committee<br>(Andy Gomer, NES Associates, LLC):       | \$1,408.55        |
| 3) Donations from PPC Team members to First Presbyterian Church<br>in New Orleans (FPC-NO): | \$1,100.00**      |
| 4) Sunday Worship Offering for FPC-NO/New Orleans Relief, 1/13/08                           | 602.00            |
| 5) Transfer from General Endowment for Mission Trip   | 894.00            |
| <b>TOTAL DONATIONS:</b>   | <b>\$7,080.55</b> |

**EXPENSES:**

Includes: minivan rentals; airport shuttle rentals; fuel for cars; groceries; restaurant lunch and dinner for team members on Jan. 5, 2008, and miscellaneous expenses such as tips, maps, etc.

**Special Notes on Expenses:**

- 1) Individual team members paid for their own airfare to/from New Orleans
  - 2) Expense per participant was \$198.16 (total expense divided by 15)
- TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2972.46**

**UNUSED DONATION FUNDS REMAINING AT PPC:**

$(\$7,080.55 - \$1,100^{**}) - (\$2,972.46) = \$3,008.09$

On February 11, 2008, The Mission Committee of PPC voted unanimously to send the sum total of these unused, donated funds to FPC-NO, for the specific purpose of rebuilding homes.

Thanks be to God for your generous hearts.

*Sonia Russo, Co-Chair, Mission Committee* [soniaarusso@hotmail.com](mailto:soniaarusso@hotmail.com)

**MORE MISSION NEWS.....**On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Adult Sunday School will have a special guest. **Mr. Joe Reardon**, executive director of **Caritas Por Cristo** will present an update on the medical and social progress of that organization's efforts in Ecuador. Caritas Por Cristo, based in Boston, has been helping the poor children in Ecuador for nearly 30 years. The Mission Committee of PPC has given support to Por Cristo for over 10 years. For 18 years Tom Hougen has been part of the annual Por Cristo cardiac team going to Ecuador.



## BETH'S BLURB

### EXPLORING ADULT EDUCATION

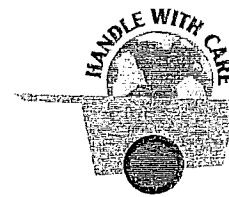
March 10 at 10:00 am or March 11 at 7:30 pm

The Christian Education elders are planning to convene two meetings in March to explore how we can enhance or expand our adult education ministry. The first meeting will be on Monday, March 10, at 10:00 am; the second will be Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend one or the other of these meetings and to articulate their interests, concerns and suggestions so that we can try to formulate our adult education program in ways that would benefit the spiritual life of the entire church. Please contact Beth Williams, Karen Wise, or Harry Tovmassian if you have any questions.



### God and Family Award - For Grades 4 & 5

All young people in grades four and five are invited to join us on **Sundays, March 2- April 13** after church from **12:30 – 2:00 pm** to participate in the God and Family program. This program is designed to help youth understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. Discover how building and strengthening families can be compared to making pizza. Study the Bible to learn about God's recipe for living together as children of our heavenly Father. This program is officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire USA, and the Girl Scouts of the USA. Please contact Beth Williams at either 301-299-6007 or [beth@potomacpresbyterian.org](mailto:beth@potomacpresbyterian.org) if you would like your child to participate.



### Meadowkirk Camp and Retreat Ministry

Summer Programs 2008 **HANDLE WITH CARE!** Caring for God's Creation Programs for rising grades 1-12, families, and adults!  
**June 22-August 8, 2008**

This summer Meadowkirk will be offering a wide variety of camps to meet the needs of varying ages and interests. For children and youth who want to be more rustic, there is rustic camping where they can experience living in a tent. The campers who want a little more comfort and a little less rustic can enjoy the Community Camp in the Cottages. Families are welcome to join in the *Family Camp*, and adults of all ages are welcome to the first Adult Summer Retreat. If you have not yet visited Meadowkirk, you should go out for one of their open houses and see all that is happening there. Open houses are planned March 2, May 4, and June 8. Download a brochure or registration form: [www.meadowkirk.org](http://www.meadowkirk.org)

## NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

Your church health team has prepared this guide for our journey together at PPC. There have been many questions that you understandably have about passionate spirituality. And with prayer, and discussion, and contemplation, we offer these four tenets. None of these is a single “dose” item, but each offers a way for each of us to rethink how we interact with God and our fellow congregants. This isn’t a quick fix, but a faith style enhancement, to be implemented and used daily! The bonus of all of this should be a new awareness in every aspect of our lives, as we develop new skills individually and together! This is an exciting time for us, as a committee, as Presbyterians, as members of PPC, and as believers.

**“Spiritual Interconnectedness”** As a congregation do we feel connected with one another? People really need to make a connection with other members in ways that offer opportunities to get to know one another outside the worship service. Participation in small church groups is one way to connect: Bible study, faith sharing, Sunday school or Godly Play, book club, chorus, bell choir, youth groups, or any of the committees, deacons and elders. The creation of new small groups and participation in mission projects are all examples of how each of us can connect outside of worship. A wonderful sense of connection can happen at a dine with nine that lasts until midnight or among a group of 15 who donate a week of their time together rebuilding houses in New Orleans.

**“Experiencing God”** Does each of us have a goal intended to encourage and facilitate an awareness of our faith in Christ and our daily life? For example, a men’s breakfast might meet once a month to talk about faith and work, lay sermons could be given on faith in one’s work. Discussion of experiencing God in any aspect of life for example: at home with your family, at work with business acquaintances, at play with friends or social events. Do you sense God’s work and word in your daily life? There are numerous testimonials each of us could share, of experiencing God, but do we? It’s time to start.

**“Enthusiasm for Church”** Do the people around you even realize you are a Christian, let alone a Presbyterian and a member of PPC? Do you use your spiritual gifts in furthering the ministries of the church? Now look closer, within your relationships at church. Analyze what it means to be in this community of faith, and share it with others! Share the experience you had within a small group with someone who wasn’t there. Invite them to join you next time! There are numerous “choices” we all make, where does attending church rank in the incredible array of daily choices we make?



*Jack and Eileen Crawford at home, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop’s sister; Carol Klein, Bert Klein’s mother; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng’s mother; Members of the Armed Forces; Jean Granum’s infant granddaughters, Claire and Amber Swensen; David Boyd’s sister, Teresa Cox; Nettie Propps recovering from knee replacement surgery at home; Audrey Phillips and family, as her husband, Mike Phillips, is now serving in Afghanistan; David Simpson and family, on the death of his mother, Esther May Simpson, recently; Anita Machlin and family, on the death of her mother, Anne Marie Kongelbeck, recently; Jean Fisler, Wendy Petti and families, on the death of Peter Fisler last week.*

**Congratulations** to Harry and Merrily Tovmassian on the birth of their grandson, Cameron J. Sarvis, on January 30. Grateful parents are Tiffany and Corey Sarvis. **We celebrate with joy the baptism of Juliette Anna Mamalian**, daughter of Paul and Cyndy Mamalian.

**Please remember the children of our congregation.** This month we are invited to pray for our eighth and ninth graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too. Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Stephen Kirchner, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Justin Lau, Amanda Lee, Katherine Ling, Molly Miller, Chasen Mindnich, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srou, John Arnold, Julianna Bond, Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Alexandra Broseker, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Blake Kline, Mackenzie Phillips, Meili Sohl.

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS.....** The Darcy Smith Dance and Music Fund will provide the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Dance scholarship and special music during the worship service on March 2nd. The congregation will enjoy offerings by visiting artists.

**Gifts to the Endowment** are invested and held in perpetuity. None of the original principal can be spent and only the income can be used for the intended purpose.

Memorial endowments honor an individual or are designated for a particular purpose.

General endowments are expended annually for three purposes:

For Special Mission Projects

For Special Programs within the church

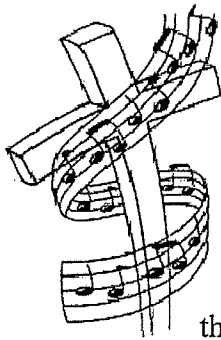
For Capital expenses

**Gifts for Specific Items** are usually for a particular activity or piece of equipment of special interest of the donor.

**The Steeple Society** recognizes PPC members who have included the church in their estate planning.

For we brought nothing into the world  
We can take nothing out of it. 1 Timothy 6:7





# The Wright Note

Valentine's Day fell on a Thursday this year. Yes, that was choir night for Handbells and Sanctuary Choir. Bless their **hearts**, the loyal troops came out to rehearse, instead of going out to dinner. They are enjoying preparing music to correspond with the Names of Jesus sermon series during this Lenten time of worship.

By the time you receive this article, we should be ready for the third week of that series entitled "Prince of Peace". We will be privileged to have as our musical guests that day, Vanita Jones and her flute ensemble. These fine players have joined us for worship in the past and will do so again, through the Darcy Smith Memorial Music and Dance Scholarship.

Parents of singers in the Sunrise Singers Choir, please note that the children have been asked to sing on Palm Sunday and on Maundy Thursday at the evening dinner and service. They are preparing music each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Their voices will inspire us to raise our palms and to picture the events on the night Jesus was betrayed.

I pray that our music in the worship service is helping you meditate and reflect meaningfully during this special time of the Christian year. *Cindy Wright*

## Vacation Bible School July 7-11



Are you looking for new heights of fun this summer? Then you'll want to head to Vacation Bible School for a canopy of fun at Rainforest Adventure! This exciting VBS adventure is for everyone age 3 (and potty trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Rising middle schoolers and up can be helpers. At Rainforest Adventure you'll hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, play super fun games, make lots of new friends, and learn how we can be caretakers of all that God has given us. Registration is now available on the church website:

[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)



### Thank you to all who donated and "shopped" at the Silent Auction!

We appreciate your support and are looking forward to a wonderful workcamp this year to Shelby, Michigan. We have two more fundraisers before we go, so stayed tuned for more action in the spring when we once again give you the opportunity to "flamingo" your neighbors, and of course, our semi-annual carwash.

## News from Church Health Team, (continued)

**"Pursuing Personal Faith"** What is your regimen for faith study? Each of us is called to practice spiritual disciplines. Sunday worship can be seen as primary spiritual discipline but it must be related to individual or family practices that happen during the week: daily devotionals, prayer, bible study, listening to music. All are personal means of bringing each of us closer to God and thereby setting a standard within the family, where such an activity is accepted and respected, and then revered.

Spiritual interconnectedness, experiencing God, enthusiasm for Church, and pursuing personal faith all of these aspects are intertwined, and vital to the health of our church. Much of it is already alive and vibrant, but unspoken and unknown to the many! There are countless acts of small blessings which occur within our church family regularly, this is the time to identify them, and share them! Time to share what you see, and feel, and believe.

Please contact anyone on the Church Health Team with questions, suggestions, doubts, solutions, testimonials or sightings!!! We hope that you will share our excitement in this endeavor as we move forward in our walk with Christ.

Prayerfully and joyfully, Ed Ebert, Carolyn Ewels, Paul Mamalian, Pam Mazza, Roberta Meredith, Harry Tovmassian, Rob Wescott, Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus

\*\*\*\*\*

## MISSION ACTIVITY - Save the Date! Saturday, April 26, 2008






That's when our work crew from Potomac Presbyterian Church will perform repairs for a needy homeowner in Montgomery County as participants in the national **Rebuilding Together** program (formerly Christmas in April). We'll be led by House Captain Robert Mitchell and House Ambassador Marnel Williams. More announcements will come in early April, along with a sign-up desk and project information in Fellowship Hall.

## FLICKS for CHICKS?



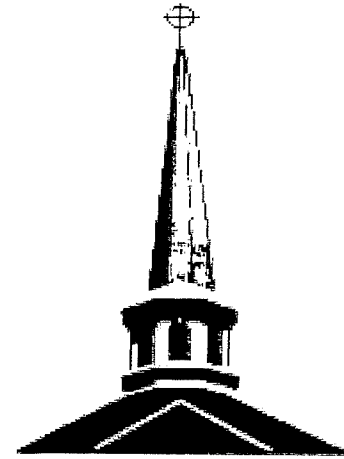
In the mood for lunch and a movie? PPC's new Chick Flick movie club gets underway on **Sunday, April 6**. If you're a single, a wife whose husband doesn't like chick flicks, or just want to spend an afternoon with the girls, join us after church for lunch and a movie. If you want to bring a friend, feel free. Meet in the parlor after coffee hour, and we'll work out a car pool so everyone doesn't have to drive. We'll return to the church after the movie and have you home in time for dinner. If you have questions, email **Diane Chapin** at [dianechapin@comcast.net](mailto:dianechapin@comcast.net) or call her at 301-983-1688.

# MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>MARCH 2008</h1>						<b>1</b> 12:00-4:00 p.m. Reformed Institute Confirmation Event
<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Silent Auction 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>3</b>  7:30 p.m. Church Health Team	<b>4</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>5</b> 9:30-12:30 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>6</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 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/Girl Scout Sunday 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>10</b>  7:30 p.m. Committees 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<b>11</b>  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>12</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>13</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class  3:00 p.m. Manor Care 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	<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> 9:30-12:30 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>20</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Supper and Worship Service 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>
<b>23</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>24</b> Holiday ~ office closed	<b>25</b> 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.)	<b>26</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>27</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 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 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>31</b>					

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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APRIL 2008

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**KERRY ON...** Robin Givhan wrote in a March 9 Washington Post column,

“It would be tempting to explain our impatience by invoking the old saw that our lives have gotten so crowded that a million different things are competing for every second of our attention. Or that because we have developed a fast cut, post MTV attention span, we don’t have patience for long, drawn out processes. Yet we are capable of spending hours futzing with our MySpace pages, downloading ringtones, posting our photos on line and text messaging our friends. Our attention is limited only when we are not the central focus.”

I heard recently of something new to add to our prayer of confession; text-messaging during the worship service. Worship in a significant way runs counter to the regular pattern of most of our lives. It can be a deep experience of God if we are patient and purposefully attentive to the language of praise and prayer, scripture and sacrament, calling and dedication. It is intentionally a time apart and essential to living lives of wholeness.

The Apostle names the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 and we usually hear this inspired list in individual terms and in relation to daily life. What if we heard them again as the language that shapes worship? What if we prepared ourselves to worship God and asked for this fruit to be evident in our community gathered to praise God and listen for God’s Word? I believe our time together would take on deeper meaning in the midst of a busy, over committed, multitasking world.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.

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...

April 6 – Joseph Reardon, Executive Director, Por Cristo  
Mission to Ecuador

April 13 – Bill Malone – Precursors of the Reformation

April 20, 27 – Beth Williams – Visions of Heaven and Hell

### Parlor Class...

Through June 8 – Christian Community

*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

**D**isclaimer: The following material contains only observations of fact. Nothing in the following composition is to be interpreted as or construed to be anything close to a complaint. No way. No how.

Okay, we've got that out of the way.

I thought I'd give you an update on the "No Complaints" experiment. It is easier said than done. (Just an observation – not a complaint.) I've had the bracelet since the middle of February and I am on day (Oh! Let me count them all!) FOUR!!!! Really. I'm not kidding.

If I were making the rules for this experiment, there are certain life events I would completely exclude. Things like, dealing with the airlines and trying to figure out the rationale behind their "change fees;" talking with (or attempting to talk with) employees of the DMV; ATM touch screens that don't respond (or that are so sensitive they record my entries twice); and, wait staff that forget to write "no croutons" on my salad order.

(You'll notice, I haven't mentioned anything about the annoyances of driving. I'm giving myself a good deal of grace on that score. I won't add driving *kvetching*<sup>1</sup> until I've managed fifteen complaint-free days.)

I'm not complaining about these things here. What I am observing, though, is how I let things that are pretty unimportant get under my skin. What am I so worried about? What is preventing me from experiencing anything positive in these experiences? Where's the grace that is supposed to be in me and flowing out to those I encounter? Ultimately, I will get on that plane on the day and at the time I desire. When the rubber meets the road, my drivers' license will be renewed. Smashing my fingers into a touch screen rarely improves the result. And, it is not a life and death matter to pick croutons out of a salad.

Sigh.

And then I read:

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, *so that your words may give grace to those who hear*. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. *Ephesians 4:29-32*  
Mea culpa. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> *Kvetching* is Yiddish for grouching. It's a complaint with a serious twist of Whiiiiine.



## DEACONS CORNER

As the deadline for this issue of "Steeple to People" was fast approaching, I was struggling with what to write about, and what would be an appropriate topic for this Lenten season. I was at a complete loss, until I found a brief devotional about Easter, that I would like to share with you.

From "Easter: The Deepest Mystery, the Highest Hope", by The Rev. Dr. Douglass Bailey.

In that wonderful Academy Award-winning film *Shakespeare in Love*, there is a funny and recurring line from one of the characters. He seems to be responsible for producing the play that Will Shakespeare is struggling to write. At numerous

points in the story, people demand of the producer how the play will unfold and end. His consistent reply, with a hilariously funny gesture, is, "I don't know. It's a mystery!"

Therein is a great line for Easter. And, it's a good line for the story of your life and mine. How will it unfold? How will it end? Will there be a new beginning? "I don't know. It's a mystery!"

Good Friday declares that Jesus died, brutally and lonely. The Gospel writers seem preoccupied with his crucifixion. Events surrounding Jesus' trial and execution constitute almost 60 percent of the Gospel story. The record is clear. We profess it in our creeds. Jesus died. And one day or night, so will we.

Then, in the words of that great African-American poem by James Weldon Johnson, "Then comes that great gittin' up mornin'." Then comes Easter. He is alive again. "Alleluia! He is risen!" Whereas the details of Christ's death are vivid and descriptive, the details of his Easter are shadowed, sketchy, limited. "It's a mystery." But, it's the deepest and most true of all mysteries.

On this we bet our lives: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again, within our life. In Christ, we are risen." Yes, it's a deep but glorious mystery. And, our highest hope! "Let us kept the Feast. Alleluia!"

*Dave Boyd*



### THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

We bid farewell to **Kay Mitchel** who has moved to Florida and completed nearly **22** years of service to our congregation as Financial Secretary. We are grateful for her work and wish her well in her new home. Our prayers go with her and her family especially her granddaughter Colleen who has been sustained by extraordinary medical care at Johns Hopkins since her early childhood liver transplant. Expressions of thanks may be sent to Kay at

688 104<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
North Naples, FL 34108

The Session has appointed Teresa Seldomridge as Acting Financial Secretary.

Teresa-Thank you!  
We will miss you!



### STAFF CHANGE

At the March meeting the Session regretfully accepted the resignation of our Administrative Assistant **Teresa Seldomridge** effective June 12, 2008. Teresa began her work in June of 2001 and has served with distinction and has been a friend to so many in the congregation.

The officers and staff are particularly grateful for her excellent work and support of their respective ministries. She has extended a warm welcome to all who come in contact with PPC from members and visitors, salespeople and contractors, to hungry people seeking help and groups who use our church facilities. She has served in the words of one of the ordination questions with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Over the next few months the personnel committee will seek to fill this position and Teresa is eager to assist in the transition. Please take the opportunity to thank Teresa and we hope to plan a farewell reception at a regular Sunday Coffee Hour.

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

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



## ETH'S BLURB

### Flamingo Surprise Fundraiser - April 20-May 18

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



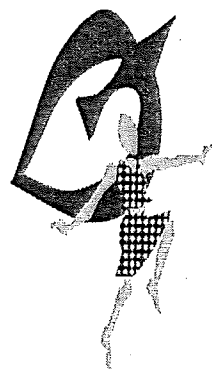
Place your FLAMINGO order during church Sunday morning and they will appear on the lawn of your choice that evening. The youth will remove them the following week only to move them to beautify someone else's yard. If for some reason you don't want your yard adorned, you may purchase FLAMINGO INSURANCE at the same cost as the flamingos.

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

The youth will be taking flamingo orders from April 20 until May 18. Order forms will be located in the fellowship hall along with a box in which to place your FLAMINGO orders. Please place your order and a check made out to PPC (with Workcamp in the memo) in the box. A youth will be available on Sunday mornings by the box if you have any questions about FLAMINGOING.

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**Women's Retreat** - There are still a few openings for the Women's Retreat. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time away building relationships with one another and with God. Sign-up on the poster in the narthex.



## April 25-27, 2008 at Meadowkirk

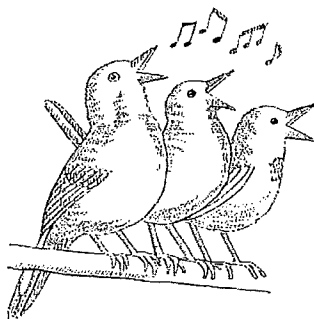


Cost: \$110

*"Being Passionate about our Spirituality"*

*Join us for a weekend as we explore what it means to be passionate about our faith and discover ways to increase our passionate spirituality.*

*You can come for one night or two*



# The Wright Note

## A Note of Appreciation to Laurie Hay Broseker

Laurie came on board as our Soprano Section Leader in February of 2003. Since then, she has become a vital part of our music program. Her clear, high tones and exceptional musicality have guided our soprano section and entire choir into a greater depth of musical presentation.

Peabody trained, this wonderfully talented and witty Texas girl has thrilled PPC with solos by Mozart, Bach, Handel, Saint-Saens, Rutter and numerous other composers from her extensive classical repertoire. Always an outstanding soloist, Laurie also has consciously sung in a blending choral style to enhance the choir's sound on anthems. She has been a joy to know as a friend, fellow choir member and skilled soloist.

Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to Laurie. She has family obligations which will prevent her from making her regular Thursday and Sunday trek to Potomac from Clarksburg. We will all miss Laurie and treasure her gift of musical expertise and friendship. We hope that she will return on occasion to sing a summer solo or share a solo for a special service.

Laurie, we wish you Godspeed.

*Cindy Wright*



*Jack and Eileen Crawford at home, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Carol Klein, Bert Klein's mother; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; Jean Granum's infant granddaughters, Claire and Amber Swensen; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Nettie Propps recovering from knee replacement surgery at home; Audrey Phillips and family, as her husband, Mike Phillips, is now serving in Afghanistan; Ginny Crozier and family on the death of her husband, Bob Crozier, on February 28. Bob and Ginny were members of PPC from 1978-1994 when they moved to Cape Cod. He was ordained as an elder in 1986; John Hummon and family on the death of his sister, Mary Rankin, in Easton, MD; Frank McKenna and family on the death of his mother, Josephine C. McKenna; Leslianne Braunstein's mother, Charlotte Adkins, recovering from knee replacement surgery.*

**Congratulations** to Jennie and Adam Esbenshade on the birth of their daughter, Anna Kristen, on February 16. Grateful grandparents are Richard and Gail Cannon.



## LIBRARY NEWS

New CDs, DVDs and videos are now available to check out. Use the same procedure to borrow them as you do the books. Put your name, phone number and the date you take the material on the book card and then put that card in the brown box on the shelf. To return materials, please put them in the white basket by the windows. If you have borrowed a book, please remember to return it. I know it's easy to forget-- the time just seems to fly by.

In the Adult Ed class Bruce Douglas was teaching, he suggested that we read Christianity's Dangerous Idea by Alister McGrath. It has had good reviews by a couple of our PPC members. The sub title is The Protestant Revolution--A History From the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First. What is that dangerous idea? It is that all Christians have the right and responsibility to interpret the Bible for themselves.

Children's videos are available for borrowing as are a couple for adults. The award winning video of Martin Luther is on the book cart. Four DVDs on The Old Testament taught by Professor Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School are also on the book cart. Jesus and the Gospels taught by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University consists of 36 lectures on CDs. It is said that this is a far ranging course designed to make Jesus as real as possible through the many portraits the Gospels provide.

There isn't enough space to tell you about all the new books we have added to our collection, so PLEASE, come into the library and see for yourself.

Any questions or suggestions? Call me, 301-299-3272. *Nancy Tietjen*



**SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY JUNE 7**  
**KOMEN NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE**  
will be in D.C. Team Captain, Olivia Mabeus, will be recruiting PPC team members in April. Look for bulletin announcements in April.

## CHURCH HEALTH TEAM UPDATE

### Passionate Spirituality in our Midst

In last month's Steeple to People, we discussed the four components of passionate spirituality: (1) Spiritual Interconnectedness, (2) Experiencing God, (3) Enthusiasm for Church, and (4) Pursuing Personal Faith. We have been thrilled to see examples of these elements in the daily life of our church:

**Spiritual Interconnectedness** – One member raved about a recent Dine with Nine dinner, "We had so much fun together – we kept talking until midnight!" Another member noted, "I was so thrilled when my friend asked me to attend Bible study. It has made such an impact on my connection to the church!"

**Experiencing God** – Walking out of an adult Sunday school program, one member expressed joy, saying, "That was just what I needed this week!"

**Enthusiasm for Church** – A recent guest to PPC said, "I was so glad my neighbor invited me to attend. I've been meaning to come but their invitation was just the encouragement I needed!" Another member shared with a fellow member, "The Deacons' Healing Service was one of the most rewarding services I've attended at this church. I hope you'll come with me next time."

**Pursuing Personal Faith** – One member recently noted, "Each day I read my daily devotional. It's such an important part of my life. I'm happy to share it with you." Another member said, "I love listening to Christian music in my car. It's my escape from my daily grind and my time to think about God and my faith!"

So, what about you? Have you experienced passionate spirituality in your day? Have you heard it from another member? Share your experiences with us. We'd love to hear about them.

Prayerfully and joyfully,  
The PPC Church Health Team  
Ed Ebert, Carolyn Ewels, Paul Mamalian, Pam Mazza, Roberta Meredith, Harry Tovmassian, Rob Wescott



### MISSION ACTIVITY - Save the Date! Saturday, April 26, 2008

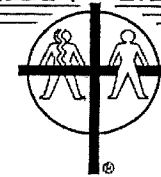
That's when a work crew from Potomac Presbyterian Church will perform repairs for a needy homeowner in Montgomery County as participants in the national **Rebuilding Together** program (formerly Christmas in April). We'll be led by House Captain Robert Mitchell and House Ambassador Marnel Williams.

This year's project is dedicated to the memory of Bob McMahon, a long-time volunteer at Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity projects in past years. Memorial gifts given in his memory will help our financial commitment to this year's project. Bob and Kathy's son, Dennis, will join us on the work day.

**More announcements will come in early April, along with a sign-up desk and project information in Fellowship Hall.**

**Come Check us out!!! May 18,  
Church Library...12:15 pm**

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



**Have you ever wondered about Stephen Ministry...? What do they do?**

**What are the meetings all about?**

**What is required of me and am I right for this special calling?**

**Come check us out in the library on May 18** for a brief introduction to this meaningful ministry. We hope to not only give information but to inspire you to think about this wonderful opportunity.

We will meet in the library at **12:15 pm** and have you out the door in approx. 30 mins... (There is **no obligation** or pressure...or Time Share to purchase)..

**COME SEE US!** Meanwhile, why not ask a current or former Stephen Minister what it's all about...their pictures are on the wall in the Fellowship Hall...close to the window.

Here are the dedicated folks who are currently serving...check them out....

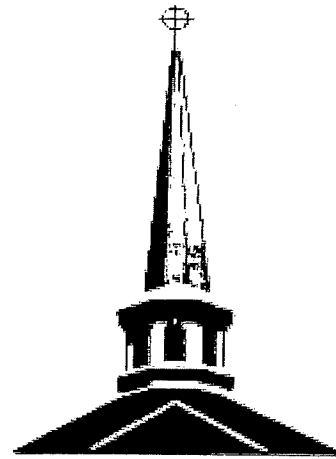
Penny Boyd, Dave Boyd, Susan Hougen, Sherry Johnson, Charlie Miller, Nancy Miller, Beth Sherfy Merrily Tovmassian and Leaders Leslieanne Braunstein, Karen Karch and Kerry Stoltzfus

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2008</h1>						
		<b>1</b> 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)  6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 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. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Lock-In
<b>6 Youth Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class 4:30 p.m. Workcamp Meeting 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>7</b>  7:30 p.m. Church Health Team	<b>8</b>  9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>9</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>10</b>  12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  Potomac Area Newcomers Club Auction - All day  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Installation & Ordination of two new officers 12:00 p.m. All Deacon Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m. God & Family Class Youth Group Rock Climbing 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>14</b>  4:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	<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  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. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<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 12:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Family Luncheon 3:00 p.m. Manor Care Youth Group Mission Project 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>21</b>  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>22</b>  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.)	<b>23</b> 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>24</b>  12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>25</b>  Women's Retreat - Meadowkirk	<b>26</b>  Women's Retreat - Meadowkirk  "Rebuilding Together"
<b>27 Theological Education</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Cluster Activity - Saint Mark Church 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	<b>28</b>  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</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](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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Permit No. 200



# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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MAY 2008

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**KERRY ON...** At the end of worship some people may complain that they did not care for the hymns we sang. As someone said, "That's ok. We weren't singing to you."

(Craig Barnes, "Relevance," Presbyterian Outlook, March 17, p.23)

The observation about hymns reminds me of a story told by Bill Moyers, an ordained Baptist minister, who served in the Johnson administration. The President asked Mr. Moyers to pray at some meeting in the White House and at the conclusion of the prayer he said to Moyers, "You need to speak up Bill, I couldn't hear you." The reply, "Mr. President, I wasn't speaking to you."

In worship we may have our hearts "strangely warmed." Hymn writers often communicate this sense of awe and the mystery of God's grace, yet hymns are most often addressed to God. Music and word facilitates communication with the Divine. We join our voices with the faithful who have gone before us and those who are united with us around the world today.

We may be invited to think deep thoughts and wrestle with big questions. The Bible offers profound insight into the meaning of life and raises questions that continue to confound the intellect. It is not so much an answer book, but raises profound issues in the context of God's amazing grace. "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" What does the Lord require, "but to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with your God?"

Before we leave we will hear some word of challenge. "Take Jesus with you" was the message we heard on Youth Sunday. Make a connection between faith professed in a worship service and taking an exam in a classroom, a project at work, a meeting at the community center, a ride in the car with your child. Like prayer, our everyday lives are intended by grace to be addressed to God.

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...

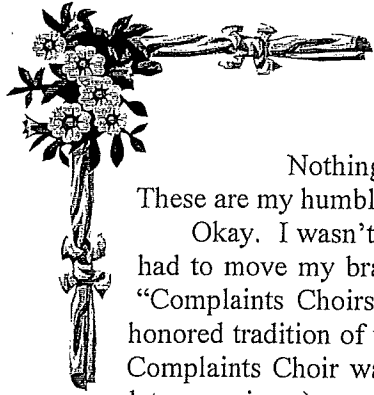
May 4, 11, 18, 25 – Beth Williams – Visions of Heaven and Hell

### Parlor Class...

Through June 8 – Christian Community

**CELEBRATE PENTECOST SUNDAY-MAY 11 – REMEMBER TO WEAR RED!!!!**

*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

Nothing in this composition is to be construed or interpreted as a complaint. These are my humble observations. Really.

Okay. I wasn't going to talk about complaining again, other than to say the last time I had to move my bracelet was April 4<sup>th</sup>. However, one of my colleagues turned me on to "Complaints Choirs" which have been popping up all over the world. So, in the time-honored tradition of theological research, I Googled and found that, indeed, the first official Complaints Choir was formed in Birmingham, England probably in the early 2000s. (No date was given.)

Complaints Choirs invite people in a town to submit their complaints. Some wildly creative and talented person sets the complaints to music and the song is performed to the encouragement and delight of town residents.<sup>1</sup> These choirs take the energy people put into complaining and transform it into more positive emotion. The complaining turns from grouching to a vehicle for community solidarity and mutual encouragement. Sort of like Psalms of Lament – those Psalms in which the people of God pour out their pain and grief and sorrow. A conservative estimate places the number of Psalms of Lament at fifty-seven (out of 150).<sup>2</sup> So it would seem the notion of Complaints Choirs isn't all that new.

Just like the complaint songs I heard, a Psalm of Lament doesn't beat around the bush. The Psalm, however, typically begins by addressing God and acknowledging God's sovereignty. Then the Psalmist immediately launches into the complaint. Petition is made, and in case the message isn't clear, additional focus maybe is brought to bear.<sup>3</sup>

Some Psalms of Lament incorporate elements of praise and thanksgiving within the context of deep sorrow and pain. All Psalms of Lament express hope (sometimes implicitly) that God will, indeed, have mercy on us. That God will make obvious the steadfast love that is promised to see us through difficult circumstances.

When you think about it, we say Psalms of Lament every Sunday when we raise the Prayers of the People in worship. The thoughts expressed in these prayers are not grabbed from thin air. Not at all. During the week we try very hard to listen to your hearts and hear your hearts' desires. As pastors we listen to your concerns for our families, our community, our country and our world. We rejoice with great thanksgiving for the blessings you express. When we come together on Sunday, we gather all these expressions and lift them to God – joys and sorrows, thanksgivings and concerns – they all come together in prayer.

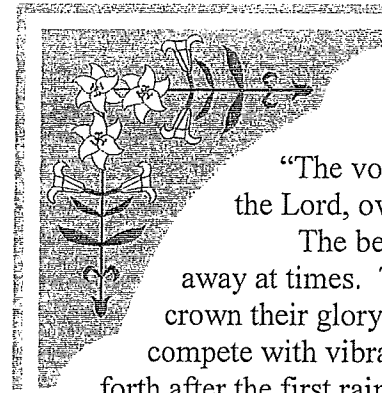
One of the ministers may be standing at the Communion table saying the words, but our prayer is that you experience your prayers rising to God in our words – and that the Prayers of the People provide a vehicle for community solidarity and mutual encouragement as we together seek God's face.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

<sup>1</sup> To hear Birmingham's Complaints Choir: <http://www.complaintschoir.org/choirs.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.icjs.org/what/edge.html>

<sup>3</sup> See, Psalms 79, 123, 126



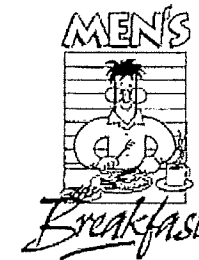
## DEACONS CORNER

"The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters." Psalm 29:3

The beauty of the Washington area in springtime takes my breath away at times. The flowering trees, scenting the air with their natural perfume, crown their glory in whites and pinks. The first warm days coax the bushes to compete with vibrant yellows and purples, a backdrop to the flowers that burst forth after the first rains. It is a feast for the senses, nature at its finest. If only this glorious sight could last forever. But, one hot afternoon the first rumbles of thunder will be heard, then the winds will pick up, creating snowstorms of petals as they are torn from the trees. The crashing rain soon follows and in its wake, the trees shorn of their colorful beauty begin the transformation to the green canopy that shades the earth.

The power of the storm hints at the awesome power that God commands. It can be terrifying in its intensity, yet gentle in its outcome. God's power can transform the weak into strong, and the meek into courageous. It allows good to overcome evil, a story as old as time. Nature is a visible reminder of this strength. The beauty of Spring is a gift from God, torn away by the storm, yet replenished with vibrant life. May we all be touched by this majestic display.

*Susan Haynes*



**Mark your calendars for May 17, 2008 for the first**

**"Men's Breakfast"** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 0900, and will be discussing a topic that will be of interest to many of us. For this first meeting, we plan to keep the topic a mystery, so plan on attending, and bring your enthusiasm to the group. Please let Harry Tovmassian know if you can attend, **301-926-0614**.

*Our prayers are with Jack and Eileen Crawford at home, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; Dave Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Audrey Phillips and family, as her husband, Mike Phillips, is serving in Afghanistan; Pastor Leslianne's mother, Charlotte Adkins, recovering from knee replacement surgery; June Dick, recovering from surgery at home; Cassidy Klein recovering from surgery at home in Hong Kong (address: 5/A Tower 3 Red Hill Peninsula, 18 Pak Pat Shan Road, Tai Tam Hong Kong); Sarah Higgs recovering from knee replacement surgery at home; Penny Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, recovering from surgery.*



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ulrich and Amie Damborg on the birth of their daughter, Louisa Elizabeth, on April 14. Grateful grandparents are Tom and Susan Hougen, and brother Magnus.



## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We are blessed at PPC with a loving "Church Family" which in many cases means years of friendship. It is only natural for us to seek our comfort level with those we know so well. Let's make these next few months a time to take our "Outreach from Within" to heart and get to know one another better. Open up our most recent Church directory and check off every person you know by name – not just by sight. (The photo directory is a wonderful resource.)

Now, the next time you attend Church, try to meet another fellow member or guest. It is ever so simple to say; Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I have seen you so many times but we have never really talked. Hopefully, the person will in turn identify themselves and you will enrich each others day. Now you can go home and put a check by at least one more name. There are no prizes given out for the member who meets the most "new/old" friends. The reward will come from within.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



The true meaning of life,  
Is to plant a tree under whose shade you do not expect to sit.  
-Nelson Henderson

For information about PPC Endowment, please talk with Pastor Kerry or any member of the Endowment Committee.

## SUMMER CONGREGATIONAL BOOK READING

This summer the members of the congregation are invited to join together to read one of Pastor Kerry's favorite books, A Geography of God by Michael L. Lindvall. The read will offer the opportunity for each of us to connect with one another through a common experience. Together we will be encouraged outside of our Sunday worship not only to experience God through reading the book and opportunities to discuss the book with others in the church, but to pursue our personal faith through reflecting on God as we read the book. Though you may choose to purchase the book on your own, the Worship Committee will be happy to order the book for you if you **get your request to Roberta Meredith (301-963-8666, gummiedo@aol.com) by May 15.** Cost of the book is \$12.



## BETH'S BLURB

As our young people are getting ready to graduate, be it high school or college, I am reminded of the Dr. Seuss book, Oh, the Places You'll Go, a popular and appropriate graduation gift. But it also reminds me of how I know how to go places today, with my husband's newest toy, our GPS which we named Jeremy. Jeremy is great at helping us know how to get somewhere, giving us directions and if necessary, corrections. The other day when I was driving home from Philadelphia, I went around the beltway the opposite way than Jeremy thought I should. He kept trying to get me to turn around at every opportunity. But eventually he realized that I was going the way I was, and so he carried on with me from there. I couldn't help but think God must feel a lot like Jeremy at times. He gives us directions for our lives, corrections when we need them. And when we are not on the path he desires for us, he does not abandon us, but stays with us until he can say those beautiful words, "You have reached your destination," which in this case, would be heaven. *Beth Williams*



We will be celebrating the graduations of our high school seniors with a special fellowship on May 18 at 6:00 pm at the home of the Niskanens. 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.

## Vacation Bible School - July 7-11

for ages 3- 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. Plan on joining us this summer for a wonderful week as we go into the canopy of a vibrant and exciting rainforest environment. This lively VBS program will engage your kids as they discover that everyone can do their part to care for God's creation. Through kid-friendly Bible stories that emphasize stewardship, combined with a jungle of hands-on, fun-filled activities, at Rainforest Adventure kids will learn that it is fun and faithful to share the good news of Jesus' love with everyone!



**Volunteers are needed in the different areas, crafts, Bible, drama, snacks, etc.** It looks like it may be another record year of children participating in Vacation Bible School, so if you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. Please register as a volunteer on the VBS link on the church web site or let Beth know if you can help. **We are also looking for a paid worker to assist with the extended care program from 12:30 – 5:00 pm.** You must be over 21 and have a vehicle. If you are interested or have any questions, call Beth at 301-299-6007.



# The Wright Note

First I want to commend our youth for the inspiring Youth Sunday we celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup>. From spoken word to enthusiastic song, we experienced a unity in worship that allowed us to carry the message of Christ well into the week that followed.

Many of you have wondered why we don't have a youth choir on a regular basis. The answer is mainly conflicting schedules. To prepare for Youth Sunday, we met as a choir only once – on the morning of the service. During the previous week, I met with the boys once and the girls on a separate day. We could not find one common time when everyone could rehearse. But weren't they wonderful? I love the adaptability and enthusiasm of these young adults.

In coming weeks you will hear the Sunrise Singers share an anthem, "Seek Ye First", on Confirmation Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Then on Pentecost, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir will share a Mother's Day treat during the Children at Worship section of the service. Our Sanctuary Choir continues to support each service with sincerity and enthusiasm. Yes, we have some vacant seats, but we are singing arrangements appropriate to our balance of voices. The welcome mat is certainly out for new singers in all parts. And don't forget our handbell choir. We have a wonderful arrangement of "Kum Ba Yah" that we are waiting to share. When all nine ringers get back in town on the same Sunday, we will ring it.

For those of you who remember the exquisite trumpet sounds of All Saints Day of 2007, you will be happy to know that Dr. Chuck Seipp will return as trumpet soloist for our service on May 18<sup>th</sup>. May is beginning to sound quite musical, isn't it? This is a good thing.

Cindy Wright



## Montgomery Hospice Society

Thanks to your generous contributions to the Easter Flower Memorial Fund, PPC was able to donate \$1,120.89 this year to support Montgomery County Hospice. The Society's mission is to enhance the quality of life of terminally ill patients by providing comprehensive professional care in the home, nursing home, or assisted living facility.

NEW ADDRESS: Amy and Paul Schoenhard, 3138 38<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016



Our *Theological Education Sunday* Worship Service was on April 27. Our guest was Robbie Wellington, a graduating seminarian in May from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC where both Leslianne and Beth Williams received their divinity degrees. Robbie has an impressive background, graduating from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC and having studied at Oxford, the Goethe Institute, the University of Vienna and the Sorbonne. Under the sponsorship of Peachtree Presbyterian in Atlanta, he taught English at Weifang University in Shandong Province for five years. He is finishing up a joint-degree program at AU and Wesley. Robbie is a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at National Presbyterian Church and plans to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and pursue a Ph.D. in international relations. He shared with us the significance of scholarship funds such as ours that have made all of this possible.

### The Need Continues To Increase

- Typical Seminary Annual Operating Budgets -
  - Receive Only 10% From The Presbyterian Church (USA)
  - Are Dependent On Annual Gifts From Individual Churches And Church Members For 30%
  - Need 30% From Tuition And Fees
  - Use Endowment Income and Grants To Cover 30%
  - Face Substantial Annual Increases In All Expenses
- Typical Full Time Seminarians
  - Are Paying at least \$9,000 To \$12,000 In Tuition and Fees
  - Are Faced With Annual Increases In Tuition and Fees
  - Are Dependent On Scholarships And Outside Work
  - Graduate With Significant Personal Debt

### What We As Individual Christians Can Do

- Designate Gifts To PPC For These Or Other Seminaries
- Establish An Endowment At PPC For Seminaries And/Or Seminarians
- Your Gift Can Be Given In A Variety Of Ways -
  - Cash, Check, Marketable Securities, or Life Insurance
  - Corporate Matching Grants (i.e. Verizon, IBM, SAIC)
  - Charitable Lead Trust, Gift Annuity, Or Remainder Trust
  - Bequest Through A Will Or Living Trust

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



## SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY JUNE 7 KOMEN NATIONAL RACE FOR THE CURE

will be in D.C. Team Captain, Olivia Mabeus, will be recruiting PPC team members. Look for bulletin announcements in May.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY

May 18, 2008

Both past and present Stephen Ministers will be participating in the worship service for

**STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY.** We hope you will mark your calendars because **we would love to see you there!**

- **After worship** we will be meeting in the library with those who might be interested in inquiring further about Stephen Ministry. **Come see us!!! Church Library...12:15** for a brief introduction to this meaningful ministry.
- Have you ever wondered about Stephen Ministry? *What do they do?* What are the meetings all about? What is required of me and am I right for this special calling?
- We hope to not only give information but to **inspire you** to think about this wonderful opportunity. We will have you out the door in approximately 30 minutes, (there is no obligation or Time Share to purchase)!

Meanwhile, why not ask a current or former Stephen Minister what it's all about...their pictures are on the wall in the Fellowship Hall, close to the window. Here are the dedicated folks who are currently serving...check them out.... Penny Boyd, Dave Boyd, Susan Hougén, Sherry Johnson, Charlie Miller, Nancy Miller, Beth Sherfy, Merrily Tovmassian and Leaders Leslianne Braunstein, Karen Karch and Kerry Stoltzfus.



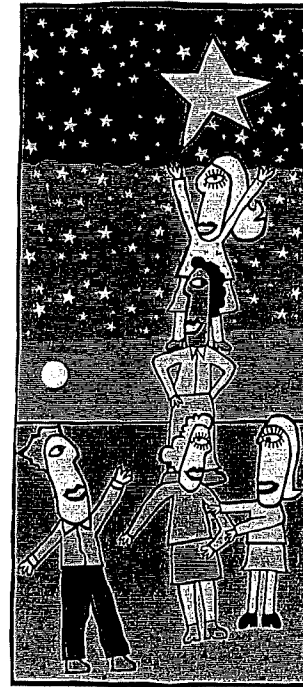
### Introducing... *Thursday Spirit*

In order to better inform the congregation of upcoming events of interest, the Church Health Team is pleased to introduce the "*Thursday Spirit*", a weekly e-mail that will provide timely information to our members. *Thursday Spirit* will be a brief weekly email sent to church members each Thursday and will contain information about the upcoming Sunday's service, reminders for upcoming events, and announcements of special services (such as baptisms or memorial services).

Vicki Dorman has graciously volunteered to coordinate the e-mail. We are beginning to load the email addresses that congregants have supplied for the church directory. If you have not provided the church with an e-mail address or if you would like to update your e-mail, please email us at [churchhealthteam@gmail.com](mailto:churchhealthteam@gmail.com). *Thursday Spirit* has an unsubscribe option so you may remove your e-mail address from the distribution list at any time.

The Church Health Team hopes that the *Thursday Spirit* will provide more timely reminders and notifications to our members of events in our church family.

## Getting to Know... Your Christian Education Committee



Our theme for this Sunday School year has been "Jesus Loves the Little Children, All the Children of the World." This theme is beautifully illustrated in Mark 10:13-16:

"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Again, in Luke 18:17 Jesus says "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

We are all children of God. The Christian Education committee works to facilitate Christian teaching and learning at Potomac Presbyterian Church across the generations as we strive to grow together in faithful discipleship. Would you like to be a part of this effort?

Our committee oversees Sunday School, Adult Education, Godly Play, Bible studies, Men's and Women's Book Groups, the Church Library, Vacation Bible School, Youth Workcamp, Youth Fellowship, Local Youth Mission Week and other summertime youth activities, and we're always open to new ideas!

If you're interested in getting involved, helping out, or just want to see what it's all about, please join us! We meet at the church on the second Monday night of the month at 7:30pm.

**Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. Deuteronomy 32:2**

Karen Wise (301-299-2826) Elder, Harry Tovmassian (301-926-0614) Elder

Beth Williams (301-299-6007) Director of Youth and Christian Education

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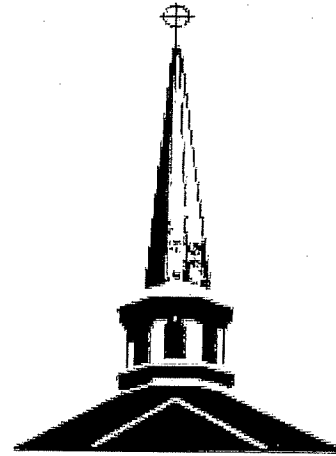


**Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too.** Kathleen Arnold, Dixon Drumheller, Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee, Daniel Bond, Sabrina Chanock, Jenni Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kathryn Haynes, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Britten Mindnich, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton, Maggie Scott.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2008</h1>						
				<b>1</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Confirmation Sunday</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 4:30 p.m. Workcamp Meeting 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Picnic	<b>5</b>  7:30 p.m. Church Health Team	<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 a.m. Bible Study  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>8</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Day of Pentecost</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<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.)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.) 7:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.)	<b>14</b> 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. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
<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 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Graduate Party @ The Niskanens	<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 a.m. Bible Study	<b>22</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 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 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<b>26</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> ~ Office Closed ~	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (Patuxent Presbyterian Church)	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbells 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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JUNE 2008

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**KERRY ON...** We lift our prayers to God who is full of compassion and promises to bind up the brokenhearted. We grieve with families around the world caught up in devastation beyond imagining. We give thanks for all aid workers ministering around the clock to bring comfort, a cup of cold water and food to nourish the body.

As you pray I invite you to softly sing the words of a hymn written originally in response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the hymn writer and it is sung to the familiar tune (*Ah Holy Jesus*)  
Herzliebster Jesu, Johann Cruger, 1640

*God of creation, We have seen the horror-  
Great devastation, Overwhelming sorrow!  
Hear now your people – Homes and loved ones taken-  
Feeling forsaken.*

*Christ of compassion, You who calmed the rough sea-  
Hurricane (cyclone, earthquake) crashing, We pray for your mercy!  
Comfort your people! Hold them close, now giving  
Hope for the living.*

*Give to your children Food to end their hunger,  
Clean water's blessing, News of those they long for!  
And by your Spirit, Use our gifts and labor  
To help our neighbors.*

(Used by permission for churches that support the relief efforts  
Of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

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...

June 1 Beth Williams – Visions of Heaven and Hell

June 8 Professor Dean Hoge – Lessons about Religion and  
Worldviews from new Worldwide Value Survey

### Parlor Class...

Through June 8 – Christian Community

*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



On May 4<sup>th</sup> Potomac Presbyterian Church hosted the joyous ordination of and reception for Mark Asiedu Frimpong. Mark, a native of Ghana, is a graduate of Louisville Seminary. Mark is the pastor of The Ghanaian Presbyterian Church (MD) ("GPC-MD"). As a member of the Presbytery's Church Development Committee, for several years I have had the privilege of being the Presbytery's liaison to this marvelous group of believers. The GPC-MD is a Fellowship of National Capital Presbytery – on its way to eventually becoming a chartered church. Right now GPC-MD is meeting at Oakland's Presbyterian Church in Laurel. It is not the most convenient location for this congregation. I hope you will keep Mark and the people of his community in your prayers as they search for a place of their own to worship and as they continue the NCP process for chartering. – Blessings to you all for your generosity!

GHANAIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DC/MD Chapter P.O. Box 8463 Langley Park, MD 20787



May 8, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

It is my pleasure to extend my deep felt appreciation to the Pastors, Elders and the entire congregation of the Potomac Presbyterian Church for your prayer support, presence, contributions during the ordination service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. Thank you for allowing us to use your beautiful church space and also providing us with the beautiful flowers.

I strongly believe that your Love, enthusiasm and willingness to help in this ordination are a reflection of God's call for your participation in this program, and you did it.

Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things and the Lord will put you in charge of many things..... Matt. 25: 21.

May your faithfulness to God, My family and the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church connect you and your family to God's blessings all the days of your life.

God Bless you.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Mark Asiedu Frimpong*

## DEACONS CORNER

If you've seen the movie "Jerry Maguire" starring Tom Cruise, you no doubt remember (and are probably sick of) the phrase, "help me help you!" At the Parish Renaming Celebration last month, you hopefully had a chance to meet your Deacon and some of your fellow Parishioners. We Deacons really enjoyed getting to know you all and look forward to strengthening that bond as the year progresses.

When I was first considering becoming a Deacon, I started thinking about what Deacons "do." I knew they handled coffee hour and served communion from time to time, but it was the assisting of church members that I couldn't really grasp, until I became one. "The office of deacon as set forth in the Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ...It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith" (Book of Order, G-6.0401 & G-6.0400). This is an awesome duty and one we cannot do without your help.

If you need help or know of another PPC member who does, please let any Deacon know. We are ready and able to assist but sometimes we don't always know who might need that assistance. In the coming months, please **help us help you!** *Ann Hill*



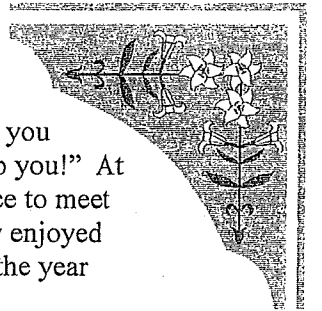
### 8TH ANNUAL AUTISM SPEAKS 5K RACE AND 1 MILE WALK JULY 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. PLEASE JOIN US!

For the past 7 years, PPC members have been big supporters of this **AUTISM SPEAKS™** event. Join us Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 am at the Potomac Library. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome! Start your 4<sup>th</sup> by helping to raise money for Autism Speaks, a national non-profit organization that funds research, awareness, advocacy and family support services.

Once again, the Sohl Family has agreed to serve as captains of TEAM PPC. Please log onto [www.Potomac5K.org](http://www.Potomac5K.org) for more information, join the team and register to run or walk. If you are unable to join us, please consider sponsoring a runner or walker with a donation. For more information, contact Susan Pereles at 301-461-0990 or [sdpereles@verizon.net](mailto:sdpereles@verizon.net). **With 1:150 children affected, autism is a national epidemic. Please help us find a cure!**

### MORE CHRISTIAN ED NEWS.....

**Vacation Bible School - Volunteers** are needed to help with snacks and as shepherds in our Rainforest Adventure, **July 7-11**. If you can help even for just one day, please let Beth know or sign up to volunteer on line on the VBS link on the church website.







A number of you are already aware that your Property Committee has been working on improving the crawl space beneath the Sanctuary and Narthex to remediate persistent moisture problems. But what you may not be aware of is that in the midst of the project, we determined that a good portion of duct work had to be repaired or replaced in order to finish the project. As well, our project consultant had estimated that our system air loss was as high as 60%. This added project scope required additional capital improvement funds totaling \$18,000. This investment will allow our church to take advantage of the much improved HVAC air flow, and will help in reducing our related utility expenses now and in the future.

This project will be coming to finalization by mid May. If you would like further information on this project, feel free to reach out to Gary Niskanen, Ed Ebert, or Jim Dart on the Property Committee.



**IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY....Our prayers are with....***Jack and Eileen*

*Crawford at home, Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister, Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; we rejoice with Mike Phillips on his return home from serving in Afghanistan; Sarah Hipps recovering from knee replacement surgery at home; Penny Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, recovering from surgery; Tom McPherson's mother, Lib McPherson, at home, and his father, Tom McPherson, in the hospital in North Carolina; Cindy Wright and her family on the death of her nephew, John Swanger, in Ohio; Violet Hermann and her family on the death of her sister, Judy, in Hungary.*

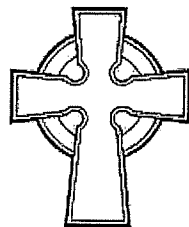
*We celebrate with joy the baptism of Thomas Daniel Trenkamp, son of Robert and Kara Trencamp.*

**Congratulations to** Sandy MacFarlan on receiving her Masters in Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary on Monday, May 12. Also, **congratulations** to the MacFarlan family on the adoption of Miriam and Moses!

Please remember the High School Graduates of our Congregation. Please pray for their parents and families as well. Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahon, Thomas Niskanen, Connor Phillips, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, David Scott, Hannah Self.



**NEW ADDRESS:** Katherine McPherson 44 W. 85<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 3A New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 310-383-8444 E-mail: [katherine.mcpherson@pepperdine.edu](mailto:katherine.mcpherson@pepperdine.edu)



**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

We are made wise, not by the recollection of our past,  
But by the responsibility for our future.

-George Bernard Shaw

For information about PPC Endowment, please talk with Pastor Kerry or any member of the Endowment Committee.



**BETH'S BLURB**

**End of Year Sunday School  
Celebration and Teacher Recognition - June 8**

At 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall, all the children and youth Sunday School students and parents are invited to come celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with special games, crafts and food from around the world. This year we have been learning that Jesus loves the little children – all the children of the world. The children's Sunday School Offering will be counted and given to Unicef, to help children around the world. During the service that morning, we will be recognizing and thanking the teachers who have helped share their faith with the children this year in Sunday School, Confirmation, and Godly Play.



**Workcamp:** 18 young people and 5 adults will be leaving for Workcamp June 21 for Shelby, Michigan where we will be repairing homes, etc. Our last fundraiser for the year will be a **Car Wash on June 1**. 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: Stephanie Dorman, Chris Dowd, Colin Dowd, Virginia Falzon\*, Georgia Ingalls\*, Eric Jeffers, Matt Jeffers, Sherry Johnson, Will Johnson, Justin Lau, Amanda Lee, Andrew Lee, Bill Malone, Donald McMahon, Molly Miller, Thomas Niskanen, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, John Sohl, Meili Sohl, Andrew Syin, Erika Taylor\*, Beth Williams

*\*friend of PPC*

Snail mail letters can be mailed to: **Shelby High School, 641 N. State St. Shelby, MI 49455 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, Shelby, Michigan 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.

**Youth Local Mission Week – July 21 – 25**

Join us for a week of service and fellowship, if you are 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, 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 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, 301-299-6007.

**SPLASH** – Combined Middle and Sr. Highs will meet on **Tuesdays at 6:00 pm beginning in July** using a study called "What Jesus Did!" 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.



# The Wright Note

During my forty-five year career as church musician, I have served as Director of Music in four different churches. In the church prior to PPC, we always culminated the choir season with a choir appreciation Sunday in late May. The worship service became a total music celebration in which all of the choirs would sing or ring, both alone and in combination. The hymns would always emphasize the role music plays in our worship of God. The congregation loved singing as enthusiastic choir members as I played creative introductions and stanza variations. I even dusted off my recital repertoire and played a rather ambitious offertory. The choir members were recognized verbally for their dedication and service throughout the year. We even were honored with a reception after church – with cake! My younger choir members loved this.

Now that we are finishing the month of May, I feel a bit nostalgic. The choir year is winding down. The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir had their last appearance together on Mother's Day. The Handbell Choir will ring three wonderful pieces on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Sunrise Singers have had many schedule set-backs and will try to sing in worship on June 8<sup>th</sup>. That will also be the last Sunday that the Sanctuary Choir will lead worship from the loft. How I wish we could arrange for all of these wonderful groups to be here on one designated Sunday so that we could recognize them and hear them ring and sing together on a choir festival Sunday. But this seems to be an impossible dream. Because of the increasing schedule challenges for adults and children on Sundays, we just cannot plan ahead for one specified Sunday when the majority of the choir participants could be here at the same time.

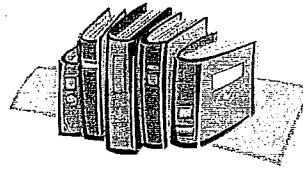
Instead of the choir recognition Sunday, let me just say that I personally thank all of you who give so willingly of your time and talent to participate in the musical program of our church. You patiently learn the musical challenges I present, and you eventually sing or ring them with enthusiasm and sensitivity. I, in turn, try to recognize and encourage your gifts, being aware of limitations. In whatever we do, we keep a standard of music which is written to glorify God in a meaningful setting. It is my privilege to lead all of you, young and not-so-young, on our musical journey.

The next step on this journey is the Father's Day Chorus. Men, I will rehearse with you at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on June 15<sup>th</sup>. This group of men has grown each year and is open to all. The vocal arrangement will involve those of you who just like to sing the melody, as well as those of you who enjoy reading some harmony parts. It is always great fun and a meaningful part of our 10:00 a.m. worship on Father's Day. There will be a poster on which you can sign your name, indicating that you will come to rehearsal at 9:00 a.m., June 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Cindy Wright*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Goodbye Teresa!** Teresa Seldomridge, our administrative assistant, is leaving us and we will be having a "Farewell" gathering to say goodbye on **Sunday, June 8 during coffee hour**. Please plan to stay after church that day to wish Teresa well. If you would like to send Teresa a note of appreciation, please email it to Ed Ebert at [efebertjr@msn.com](mailto:efebertjr@msn.com) by **Friday June 6**.



## LIBRARY NEWS

I hope that you'll find some interesting books to read sometime during the summer months. Many new books have been added to the shelves. So many, in fact, that the shelves have to be rearranged. If anyone would like to help do that, give me a call.

There has been much talk about the crisis in the churches. The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe by Robert Wuthnow discusses this issue. He offers a searching study of this problem. A fascinating book, Jesus' Jewishness: Exploring the Place of Jesus in Early Judaism edited by James Charlesworth might be the book for you to check out.

There isn't room to mention all the wonderful books we have for you to borrow, so please stop by the library table at coffee hour on June 1st to see if there is one that interests you.

Please return any books you have borrowed so that others have a chance to check them out.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call, 301-299-3272, or talk with me at coffee hour.

*Nancy Tietjen*

## Summer Book Read



This summer the members of the congregation will be joining together to read one of Pastor Kerry's favorite books, A Geography of God by Michael L. Lindvall. The read will offer the opportunity for each of us to connect with one another through a common experience. Together we will be encouraged outside of our Sunday worship not only to experience God through reading the book and opportunities to discuss the book with others in the church, but to pursue our personal faith through reflecting on God

as we read the book. Pastor Kerry suggests taking 20 days to read this book, reading only one Chapter at a time, and taking the day to reflect on what you have read. We encourage you to participate in this new experience. For those who may have never considered being part of such an activity, we encourage you to challenge yourself to be adventurous and discover what is inside this marvelous book. During the summer there will be several opportunities to gather with others that have read the book and discuss your thoughts and ideas. Though you may choose to purchase the book on your own, the Worship Committee has ordered extra books for those who have not already ordered them. Contact Roberta Meredith (301-963-8666, [gummieo@aol.com](mailto:gummieo@aol.com)) to reserve one. Cost of the book is \$12.00.

## FLOWER DONATIONS NEEDED

Each Sunday we are greeted with beautiful flowers at the front of the church. The church's budget does not include the cost of flowers and their provision is only through the lovely members of our church who donate money. On those Sundays where there has been no donation, the cost must be taken from the Worship Committee's Operating Budget. Last year the budget paid for approximately 3 months of Sundays. The cost of arrangements are \$35.00 for one, \$70.00 for two. Consider a donation for the many Sundays still not covered for the remainder of this year.

# PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

## MYANMAR

*Let the waves of destruction be followed by a wave of compassion*

Cyclone Nargis, packing winds up to 120 miles per hour and waves 12 feet high, swept through Myanmar, destroying homes, cropland and causing the death of thousands of people. Many thousands more are missing, homeless and unable to get food, shelter or power.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

PDA has committed \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to provide humanitarian relief for disaster survivors. PDA is responding in Myanmar as a member of and in partnership with Action by Churches Together (ACT) International and Church World Service. Both entities have local partners in Myanmar and will have representatives to help in the provision of relief items to cyclone survivors. Please support Myanmar and PDA's assistance efforts with your prayers and donations.

## CHINA

*An earthquake moved mountains and buildings.  
They're hoping it also moves your heart.*

The shocks and tremors of the devastating earthquake in southwest China affected more than 20 provinces and killed at least 55,000 people. An additional 25,000 are missing, and many are in relief camps without proper shelter, food or clean water.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

PDA is providing ongoing support to the Amity Foundation, our local and long-term mission partner in China. Amity, a fellow member of Action by Churches Together (ACT International), is taking the lead in the ACT response. \$50,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds has been sent to help with the distribution of 240,000 kilos of rice to 16,000 people and plastic sheeting and quilts to provide shelter and warmth to 8,000 families impacted by the disaster. Following the initial crisis phase, Amity will assist in rebuilding communities, including 600 homes, 10 schools and 5 clinics. Other rehabilitation assistance will target destroyed or severely damaged water and irrigation systems.

### → → → WHAT YOU CAN DO ← ← ←

**PRAY** for all those whose lives have been affected directly and indirectly by the cyclone in Myanmar, and for those working with them toward recovery. Keep the people of China, their families and those assisting in the recovery process in your prayers.

### Give through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Your generous contributions will help the PC(USA) work through PDA to be a witness to Christ's healing love. Through this ministry of compassion and relief, our donations will help meet people's physical needs while providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors and those who care for them. *Make checks payable to PPC – memo line: PDA (Myanmar) or PDA (China) or both.*

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## COMMENTS FROM STEPHEN MINISTERS..

- "It is one of the most meaningful things I have ever done." "It has changed the way I relate to my family."
- "It has changed the way I deal with my employees at work."
- "Now that I am involved with Stephen Ministry, I feel far more comfortable dealing with death and dying."
- "I never knew what to say, now I understand." "I did not know that 'platitudes' were not helpful."
- "Though the time with my 'care receiver' has officially ended we still meet for breakfast." "Thank God for Stephen Ministry."

From Beth Sherfy, Stephen Minister..... "When I was asked to write about my Stephen Ministry experience, I was more than a little stumped because I wanted to make sure that anything I wrote didn't compromise the confidentiality of the program. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that confidentiality is one of the attributes I value most about Stephen Ministry. When I was a 'care receiver' and had a Stephen Minister, I really valued having someone who was there for me and my concerns. I never worried that anything that I was discussing would be revealed to anyone. My relationship was between my Stephen Minister, me and God. Now that I am a Stephen Minister, I appreciate the opportunity to share this one-on-one ministry with others while maintaining their privacy and confidentiality."



### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Eric Bernstein/Bullis/Undecided - Meredith Bond/Quince Orch/Univ. of TN - Kyle Cissel/Bullis/Undecided - Colin Dowd/Gonzaga/Univ. of AL**  
**Chelsea Drumheller/Madiera/Univ. of PA - Megan Griswold/Bullis/Univ. of GA - Eric Jeffers/Wooten/Univ. of Rochester - Christopher Kent/Whitman/Rhodes College - Stephen Kent/Whitman/Univ. of VT - Donald McMahan/Wooten/Rochester Inst. of Tech. Thomas Niskanen/Landon/Univ. of VA - Connor Phillips/Churchill/Dartmouth College - Elizabeth Rust/Churchill/Cornell Univ. - Hannah Self/Whitman/Clemson Univ.**

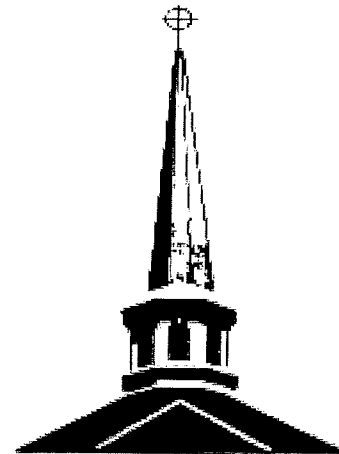
### COLLEGE GRADUATES

**Paige Appleby/Univ. of MD - Kelli Cissel/Univ. of MD - Joe Bernstein/Florida Atlantic Univ. (Aug 2008) - Brian Dunlop/Univ. of MD - Rachel Johns/St. Mary's College of MD - Trevor Johnson/Univ. of VA - Jeremy Knighton/Gettysburg College (Dec 2008) - Megan Lau/Boston Univ. - Katherine McPherson/Pepperdine Univ. - Peter Russo/Univ. of MD - Adam Singleton/Georgetown Univ. (Grad) - Kristin Williams/Univ. of PA - Elizabeth Johns/VA Tech Univ. Vet School (Vet) - Sharon Reid/Pepperdine (Grad)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2008</h1> <p><b>WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE – July 11 -12</b>            Women of Faith will be at the Verizon Center on <b>Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12.</b> Women of Faith is a nondenominational program with singers, speakers, comedians and dramatists. Information and tickets are available from <b>Olivia Mabeus.</b></p>						
1 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	2 7:30 p.m. Deacons 7:30 p.m. Church Health Team	3 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	4	5 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 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	9 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.)	10	11 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.)	12 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting	13	14
15 <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 12:00 p.m. STOP Deadline 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	16 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	17 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group	18	19 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting	20	21 <i>Workcampers Leave</i>
22 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Fellowship	23	24	25	26 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting	27	28 <i>Workcampers Back</i>
29 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Fellowship	30	<p><b>PPC'S RESPONSE TO DISASTERS WORLDWIDE</b>            On May 12, the Mission Committee approved \$1,000 for help to Myanmar/Burma and \$1,000 for help to victims of U.S. tornadoes. These checks will be entrusted to PCUSA-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for distribution.  <i>Sonia Russo and Tom Hougen, Co-Chairs, Mission Committee</i></p>				

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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SUMMER 2008

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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

**Parlor Class...**  
**Psalms for the Summer – 9:00 a.m. during July and August**

*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.

**KERRY ON...** We are pleased to welcome on July 1 our new Administrative Assistant, Mary Avelar. She comes to us from one of the local biotech companies and earlier service in the Air Force. After a search process that included twelve applications and three interviews, I recommended Mary to the Session who unanimously approved her employment at the June meeting. She combines professional skills and a kind welcoming manner that will set a gracious tone of ministry with and for everyone who comes in contact with the church office.

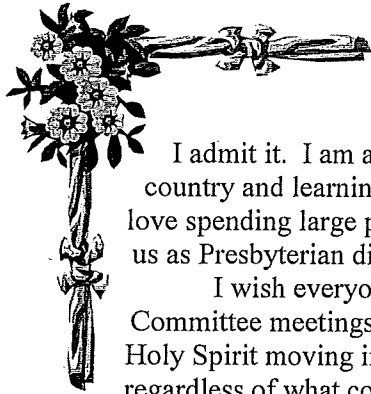
Mary writes, “I have been searching for a place of employment that is both healthy and loving and where God is the central focus of my day. Thus I feel blessed that He led me here. We have two children; our daughter, Micaela, age two and Alex, age five. My husband, Melvin, and I met in Idaho while we were both serving in the Air Force. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your families through serving and working with each of you.”

Please introduce yourself to Mary when you call, e-mail or visit the office. Her office hours will be 8:00 to 2:30 Monday through Friday.

I am also pleased to announce that the Session has approved the employment of Teresa Seldomridge as Financial Secretary, a position that she has held on a temporary basis since March 15. She will be in the office Wednesday morning and can be reached by phone at 703-444-1058.

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I recommend for summer reading a book list prepared by Bruce Douglass the Director of the Reformed Institute. Copies are available in the Narthex or on line at [www.reformedinstitute.org](http://www.reformedinstitute.org)



## Leslianne

I admit it. I am an unrepentant GA Junkie. I love meeting people from all across the country and learning about their hopes and dreams for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I love spending large portions of each day talking about and immersed in matters that concern us as Presbyterian disciples of Jesus Christ.

I wish everyone could experience an entire General Assembly – attending both Committee meetings and the Assembly plenary sessions. I wish everyone could feel the Holy Spirit moving in a room full of very diverse people who hold disparate opinions. But, regardless of what commissioners thought before they got there, almost everyone came to the assembly desiring to discern God’s will for God’s people.

I sat in on the Church Orders Committee – the Committee that dealt with some of the most controversial overtures that came before the Assembly. If you would have asked me on Monday whether they would vote the way they did, I would have said “no way.” However, as the days progressed and as the Committee worshiped and prayed together, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable. I could feel a shift in the air as the Committee members’ knowledge and understanding of the issues deepened. The Committee listened to overture advocates *and* opponents. It held open hearings to hear from anyone having an opinion on the subjects at hand. They consulted regularly with a representative from the Advisory Committee on the (PCUSA) Constitution. They heard from Robert A. J. Gagnon, Associate Professor of New Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and P. Mark Achtemeier, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Dubuque Seminary. It was all quite impressive.

The Assembly did a lot of good things. It took also some actions that might make some of us nervous. But, just because we are nervous doesn’t mean it is not a good thing for us to think about and talk about those issues. There is no way for me to go into the many actions of the Assembly. I encourage you to read more about it at the following web sites:

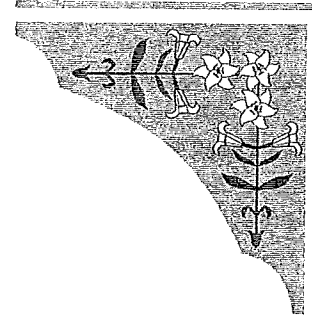
A Letter to the Congregations from the Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is on National Capital Presbytery’s web site: <http://thepresbytery.org>. In the box on the top left hand side of the page, click on “Churchwide Letter.” While you’re on the site, poke around and find out what’s happening in our Presbytery. Under the tab, “Around NCP,” you’ll find the “Thursday Mail.” This is a newsletter that is e-filed every Thursday to let us know what’s going on in the National Capital Presbytery neighborhood.

The PCUSA web site is a wealth of information: <http://www.pcusa.org/>. If you go to <http://www.pcusa.org/ga218/> and click on the box on the right that says “Log in to PC Biz,” you will be able to see all the work of all the committees and their final dispositions. While you’re on the PCUSA web site, check out the Office of Spiritual Formation’s “Hungry Hearts” web-pages: <http://www.pcusa.org/spiritualformation/hungryhearts/index.htm>

To follow the comings-and-goings and reflections of Bruce Reyes-Chow, the Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, go to: <http://www.mod.reyes-chow.com/>

Grace and peace,

*Leslianne Braunstein*



## DEACONS CORNER

I bet I have a hundred bookmarks in my house. I must like to mark my spot an awful lot because I have bookmarks in cookbooks, scrapbooks, phone books, reference books, notebooks, novels, and of course in Bibles. If there were ten scripture readings in church on a given Sunday, I could probably mark them all. Recently I pulled a dusty book off a dusty shelf for amusement while waiting for my dial-up computer service to download something (Biblical maybe). As with most books in my house, there

was a bookmark in it. The book was The Door Interviews and the bookmark was marking an interview of Madeleine L’Engle. That was a nice distraction since I have now read many more of the works of L’Engle than when I bought the book twenty years ago. But what was even more interesting to me was the bookmark. From the style of it, I’m guessing I got it about forty years ago. On the back it had information about Missionaries of Africa, a Roman Catholic organization with an office on 21<sup>st</sup> St. NW in DC. That was educational but what I really liked was the poem on the front with a painting of a lion in Africa. The poem didn’t list an author. So I Googled the first line of the poem and found that the author was Annie Johnson Flint. She was a writer (1866-1932) who wrote many Christian poems and hymns while crippled with Rheumatoid arthritis. Of all her poems that I read, the poem I like the best is the one on my bookmark. I think I would like to share the poem with you. I’ve made bookmarks for all of you with that poem. So, see me in church sometime and ask for the Annie Johnson Flint bookmark special. *Olivia Mabeus*

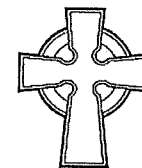
### ADULT ED IN THE SUMMER

**Psalms for the Summer:** During July and August, there will be an opportunity for adult Christian education, Sunday mornings at **9:00 a.m.** in the parlor. Each week we will be discussing a different Psalm, exploring the meaning of the Psalm when it was written and looking at how they continue to comfort and challenge believers today. No preparation is needed, come whenever you can.

**The Women’s Book Group** will meet on the **Third** Tuesday of each month in the summer at **10:30 a.m.**

July 15 – *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

August 19 – *A Geography of God* by Michael L. Lindvall



“The future is purchased by the present.”

-Samuel Johnson

For information about the PPC Endowment, please talk with Pastor Kerry or any member of the Endowment Committee.

## MORE MISSION HAPPENINGS:

### Stepping Stones Shelter School Supply Drive

Stepping Stones Shelter is holding its annual **Back-to-School Summer Sizzler** on **August 16, 2008**. On that day, current and former residents will gather at **Stepping Stones** for food, fun, and an opportunity to 'shop' for school supplies. With the help of the community, Stepping Stones plans to provide school supplies to over **70** children and any high school or college bound parents.

**HERE'S WHAT THEY NEED:** Backpacks - K thru 12 - **STURDY** - no wheels or camouflage; binders - 1,2,3 inch; book covers/books ox; calculators - small ones that will fit in a backpack; colored pencils - 12-15 per box; composition books - standard size - black marble; dictionaries - pocket size; dividers; dry erase markers - low or no odor; erasers - large pink ones; folders - pocket; glue - bottles & sticks; hand sanitizer - full size; highlighters; index cards - 3X5; paper towels; paper - loose leaf - WIDE ruled only; pencil boxes; pencil pouches with holes for binder; pencil sharpeners with container for shavings; pens - black ink; pens - blue ink; post-it notes - 2X2 or 3X3 inch; rulers; scissors - high school, grade school, preschool; spiral notebooks - WIDE ruled only; staplers & staples - mini; stapler removers; Thesaurus; tissues; USB flash drives; Ziplocs - quart & gallon size.

If you can help with this drive, please drop off donations (new items only please) to the **Stepping Stones** box located in Fellowship Hall **ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2008**. This is important, as the **Stepping Stones** staff need time to sort the school supplies and set up their store. Thank you for helping **Stepping Stones** students get ready for the new school year!

*Carolyn Stump* for the Mission Committee



## THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!!!

*And we really need the congregation's help!*

We are asking the members of PPC to identify persons who might be willing to serve as either Deacon or Elder for the class of 2011, filling the roles of our caring and governing bodies for the next class.

Many of us know gifted and willing persons who would ably serve as Deacon or Elder. Everyone is eligible who has not served in this current year – including those who may have served before.

We are asking you to please talk among yourselves and submit your recommendations to the Committee. Feel free to recommend yourself if you feel called to either of these ministries. If you are recommending someone else, please be sure that you have communicated your intention with the candidate(s) and obtained their consent to be an officer candidate.

Nominations may be placed in envelopes in the marked basket in the church office, or you can speak with Pastor Kerry, Pastor Leslianne or any of the Nominating Committee Members: Karen Karch or Joe Curry.



## ETH'S BLURB

I love the summer. The slower pace, the warm weather, less stress, and more time to play. It really is a Sabbath time for me. That does not mean I take a break from God, nor God from me. Yes, things slow down at PPC in the summer, but God is still present and active in our lives here or wherever we may be this summer. If you are here, I hope you will join us for some of the wonderful opportunities that we offer in the summer time. Of course for the children there is Vacation Bible School and Summer Enrichment. For the Youth there is SPLASH, several exciting fellowship trips, Workcamp, and Local Mission Week. For the adults, there is Psalms for the Summer, and the Women's Book Group.



### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Summer Splash** - Middle Schoolers and Sr. Highs will be meeting poolside once a week using the study "Jesus Did It." This is an experiential multimedia small group Bible study. Experience

How Jesus...

- ▶ Challenged Priorities
- ▶ Overcame Temptation
- ▶ Responded to Real Faith
- ▶ Revealed the Way
- ▶ Healed the Pain
- ▶ Transformed Lives

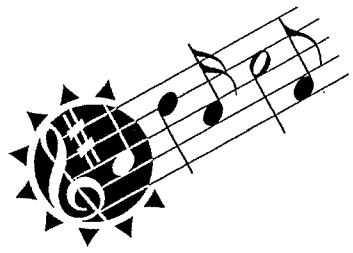
Join us as we have dinner, swim and play together **Tuesdays from 6:00 – 9:00p.m.** Starting on **July 1** at the **Meredith's house, 12910 Esworthy Road.**

### **Local Mission Week - July 21 – 25**

If you will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, you are invited to join us for a week of service in our community. Each morning we will be working at shelters, food banks, clothing centers, and Food and Friends. Each afternoon we will spend time doing a variety of fun activities. You can earn 20 SSL hours. Cost is \$30. A sign-up and permission slips are on the kiosk in the fellowship hall. **SIGN UP BY JULY 14 !**

### **White Water Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny - July 31**

We will spend the afternoon with our neighboring Presbyterian churches rafting Class III-IV Rapids going 7.5 miles, with "Wilderness Voyageurs." Includes riverside deli style lunch. **Time: Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and we will return to Potomac by 9:30 p.m. Cost: \$77 (includes bus transportation, raft trip, and lunch)** **Deadline: Sign-up in the fellowship hall & pay (checks payable to Potomac Presbyterian Church) by July 13 and complete the forms.**



## The Wright Note

Summer has officially begun; our Father's Day Chorus sang once again. This year seventeen men gathered promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to blend their voices in yet another medley of hymns – many in three-part harmony.

There was a sense of excitement as the men greeted each other warmly, took their seats, received a copy of the musical arrangement and proceeded to give me full attention as I led them in some vocal warm-ups. They participated readily even though many were not familiar with musical scores and choral techniques. Within a very few minutes the melody guys were leading each new hymn tune with confidence. The harmony singers patiently rehearsed their respective parts. When all voices came together, they produced a rich blend of sounds. The choral quality was so fine that I began to encourage articulate diction, phrasing, and even a few changes in dynamic levels.

An hour later in worship, my quick-study chorus shared a beautiful, sincere and very well prepared rendition of I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME, PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND, JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE and IN THE GARDEN. I would like to thank the following men who participated: Del Smith, George Ligler, Dave Thomas, Christopher Kent, Bill King, Ed Rudnic, Joel Miller, Chan Chung, Jim Reichley, Bob Plumb, Keith Rust, Kerry Stoltzfus, Lynn Wright, Dick Gimer, Stephen Kent, Ed Clark and Kenny Kent.

As the summer progresses, you will hear individuals singing or playing instruments either alone or in ensemble. They will give a refreshing dimension to our worship. Mark your calendars for August 10<sup>th</sup> when we will explore the messages found in the texts of three hymns. Each hymn will be explored as a sermon in its own right. The theme for the morning will be "The Sacred Word through Sacred Song".

*Cindy Wright*



### ANOTHER YOUTH ACTIVITY...

#### **Kings Dominion - August 14**

Cost is \$33.95 for tickets. Bring money for food and souvenirs. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. and return late that night. Sign-up on the board in the Fellowship Hall and complete a permission slip.

**HELP AVAILABLE:** Vijitha Gunasekara has faithfully staffed our church nursery on Sunday mornings since September 1999 and is currently looking for a weekday childcare position. If you or anyone you know has a position available, please speak to **Vijitha** or call her at 301-949-2575.



### INTERFAITH WORKS, (continued)

#### School Backpack Information from [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org) Family

**Services:** Become a donor today! Your donation of the following new items or monetary contribution will make this a reality for 3,000 Montgomery County school children.

#### Supplies Needed:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks for K-12th Grade  | <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pens, highlighters, pencils   | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue bottles, glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil boxes and cases  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rulers                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxes of: colored pencils, crayons (24-48), markers                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wide ruled loose-leaf notebook paper                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Marble composition books  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks, notebook dividers, pocket folders |  |

**For monetary contributions, please send checks to:**

**Interfaith Works, 114 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850**  
*denote "School Supplies" on your check*

**Looking for a Great Opportunity for Community Service this summer? Sign up for the ICC BACKPACK SQUAD or MERCHANDISE SORTER.**

Backpack Squad Members work to obtain school supply donations, sort and package these donations into backpacks, and distribute backpacks at center locations. Merchandise Sorters accept, sort, organize and display clothing and home good donations, and assist clients as they select items.

Volunteers are free to work anytime during center operation hours and students may receive community service credit for their work. **Centers are located in Rockville at 751 Twinbrook Parkway and in Gaithersburg at 620 E. Diamond Avenue.**

**To volunteer, please email [volunteer@iworks.org](mailto:volunteer@iworks.org) or call 240-403-0278.**

Thank you for your support! -----



**OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL**

*Giving the poor a working chance*

Our June 15 "Minute For Mission" focused on Opportunity International, a PC(USA) validated mission, and the fact that *every \$ PPC has given to Opportunity over the years is still working today!* Furthermore, for each \$1 we give this year--\$2 will be to the direct benefit of the poor this year. Importantly, Opportunity is expanding beyond micro finance loans to the poorest of the poor and has established successful saving banks giving them a safe haven for their hard earned money. Also, Opportunity now has affordable insurance programs for the poor including Crop, Health, Property, Livestock, Term Life, and Credit Life Covering both Death and Disability. In 2007 Opportunity served 1 million clients and will serve 2 million by 2010. We can be justifiably proud of our supporting role. Perhaps you would like to contribute. If so, call or e-mail me: [ed@edwardjclark.com](mailto:ed@edwardjclark.com) or 301-315-0512. Opportunity is a true Christian Investment opportunity.





**MISSION HAPPENINGS:**

**INTERFAITH WORKS**

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR PPC AND FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

For the last five years it has been my privilege to represent this congregation and to serve our community as a member of the Board of Directors of a faith-based coalition of local faith communities seeking humbly to worship our God by loving kindness and seeking justice in our local County. Through **Community Ministry of Montgomery County**, now operating with a **new name as Interfaith Works**, but with the same great mission, thousands of needy persons, men, women, and children--the working poor, the frail elderly with limited income or family assistance, the mentally or physically ill, those suffering from destructive addictions, or those afflicted by a lack of education, language or job skills, or simply those with too much hard, yet too little good, luck--have been helped. They have found food when hungry, housing when homeless, skills training when unschooled, and counseling when in despair. You have reached out to them in their hour of need through your support of the mission budget of PPC. Your financial support has enabled PPC to make generous annual donations to this ministry. Thank you.

Among just a few of the service programs of **Interfaith Works** are its housing initiatives such as the **Community Based Shelter**, which our congregation provisions one week each winter, and **Sophia House**, where we provide meals once a month. **Interfaith Works** also operates over 25 transitional/permanent subsidized, supported housing for needy families. Its **Interfaith Clothing Centers** enable those on limited budgets whose earnings often are used entirely for housing and food, to clothe themselves and their loved ones in decent attire. New infants receive baby layettes, and school supplies are distributed each fall to those in need. Do you remember how exciting as a child it was to get a new binder and pencils each new school year? Below is more information about the school "backpack" program. Perhaps you, your office or one of your church or social groups would like to participate and make a special donation to this effort.

**Interfaith Works** seeks to identify the stranger's need and to meet it as noted above. But another aspect to its mission is to learn more about *why* the poor stranger needs help; to *educate* our community about ways to improve that stranger's lot; and to *engage our faith* communities in redressing the identified causes. In pursuit of that goal, **Interfaith Works** has hosted conferences for area caregivers to share ideas and learn from each other's experiences, and has also sponsored panel discussions led by area clergy to speak from a faith perspective on timely topics--immigration policies, their effect on poverty, etc.

I invite each of you to learn more about all of these programs and how well **Interfaith Works** uses the resources available to it. Please check the agency's website at [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org). While my term as Chair of the Board of Directors comes to a close July 1 this year, I have one more year on the Board. So, my friends, stay tuned for more from me about this wonderful organization.

*Elsie Reid, Member of the Mission Committee*

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



**New Training Class Starts on Sept. 23**

Stephen Ministers are there to help you deal with the "curve balls" that come your way. Please allow us to "walk around the bases with you". Contact Pastors

Kerry or Leslianne if you would like to have a Stephen Minister or are considering the Stephen Ministry training. The new training class starts on **Sept. 23** and in order to complete the tasks involved in starting a new, class we heartily recommend that you contact a Stephen Leader or pastor as soon as possible. (Questions or concerns are always welcomed).

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,  
Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the Pit,  
Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...Psalm 103**

\*\*\*\*\*



*Our prayers are with Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; we rejoice with Mike Phillips on his return from Afghanistan; Penny Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, recovering from surgery; Tom McPherson's mother, Lib McPherson, at home, and his father, Tom McPherson, in the hospital in North Carolina; Kathy McPherson's mother, Mamie Sue Simmons, who has pneumonia; Pastor Clifford Nunn of the First*

*Presbyterian Church of New Orleans died suddenly at the end of May. Please remember First Church and Cliff's wife, Nieta, and family in our prayers; Eileen Crawford and her family, on the death of her husband, Jack Crawford, on May 27; Karen Wise's mother, Virginia Wise.*

*In Memoriam....* We give thanks for the life of Jack Crawford. 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* Pat McMillen on the birth of her grandson, Declan Joseph McMillen, on June 8 in Michigan. Grateful parents and siblings are Brett and Kathy McMillen, and Colleen and Patrick.

*Congratulations to* Diane and Lewis Chapin's daughter, Allison, and Bodhi Hagar married June 22 in Carmel, California.

*New Address:* Peter Russo, One Clocktower Place #528, Nashua, NH 03060

*Phone Number Correction:* Audrey Phillips 301-299-9752

**THANK YOU  
TO EVERYONE  
WHO MADE OUR  
RAINFOREST ADVENTURE  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!!**

**Ninety children spent the week learning about God's love and care for them and for all of creation; and we learned how to love and care for one another and for God's creation. We collected an offering which will go to helping provide clean water for Cuzco, Peru a mission project organized by the Synod of the Living Waters.**

**CO-DIRECTORS:** Kayla Mason and Beth Williams

**Registration -** Patricia Eng, Melanie Mason, Emily Naegeli, Karen Wise, Julie McMahon

**Decorations -** Julie McMahon, Emily and Liz Naegeli, Olivia Mabeus, Wendy Petti, Jean Granum, Janet Dunlop, Karen Wise, Cyndy Mamalian

**ROTATION LEADERS**

**Music -** Cyndy Mamalian, Sara Cyrway

**Recreation -** Molly Singerling, David and Kelly McGrath

**Art -** Penny Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Megan Boyd, Lia Sohl, Savannah Chapa, Haley White

**Science- Jackie Williams (M,W,F)**

**Bible -** Melanie Mason, Allison Srouer

**Snacks -** Bobbe Hartzog, Karen Wise, Linda Bedingfield, Carolyn Ewels, Liz Kent, Janet Dunlop

**TEACHERS AND SHEPHERDS**

**Preschool 3's -** Blue Janet Swisher, Jack McGuire, Victoria Chang

**4's -** Red Beth MacFarlan, Anna Brickman, Shannon Baarman, Katie Turco

**Shepherds:**

**5's -** Yellow Sarah Gesamy, Meili Sohl

**Kind. -** Orange Rose Bittner, Bobbe Hartzog, Carmen Garcia, Tera Gabriel

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> -**Brown Vicki Dorman (M, Tu) Nelia Scioli (W, Th, F), Aura Chapa

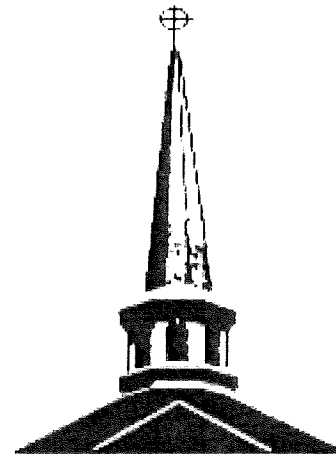
**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> -**Green Leslannie, (M), Linda Knowles (T, W, TH), Chris Dowd (F)

**AFTERCARE -** Jackie Williams (M,W,F)

Thomas Niskanen, Aura Chapa, Savannah Chapa, Tera Gabriel.

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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SEPTEMBER 2008

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**KERRY ON...** What do we think of the place of creeds and confession in our Christian life if we think of them at all? Most likely we only think of them during a worship service when the Pastor asks the congregation to stand and affirm what we believe. The Presbyterian answer is that they are authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do.

I recently read the fourth chapter of I Corinthians in Eugene Peterson's translation The Message. He is talking to the congregation about how he and other apostles are guides to the meaning of God's power and wonder and mystery. I think his expression can be transferred to the historic affirmations of faith.

Creeds and Confessions are guides into God's most sublime secrets  
not security guards posted to protect them. (I Cor. 4:1)

What an affirming image; we cherish an excellent guide when we are exploring the sublime secrets of the wilderness, or of the human genome. We trust our guides and learn more about believing and doing than we could possibly have done on our own. On the other hand, security guards sole purpose is to keep us out and keep whatever they are guarding from being touched and handled. Interaction with the mystery is not allowed and we are only permitted to observe.

The next time we stand to affirm our faith, think of the creed as a trusted and reliable, surprising and joyful guide to real life.



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7**

9:30 Pancake Breakfast and Rally Day

11:00 Worship

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

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Library Class...

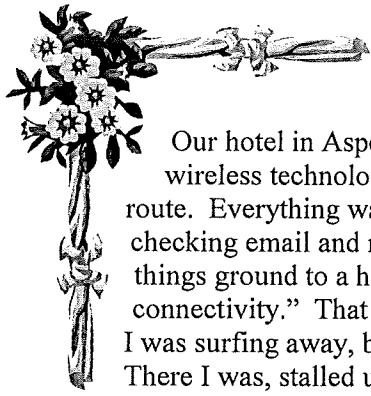
Sept. 14, 21 Tom Miles – A Brief Profile of the Multiple Personalities  
of God

Sept. 28-Oct. 19 Dewey Wallace – Four Great Theologians of the  
Early Church: Irenaeus, Tertulian, Origen and Cyprian

### Parlor Class...

Christian Beliefs – a 12 week study

*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

Our hotel in Aspen provides complimentary internet access using either hard-wired or wireless technology. It wasn't long after we arrived that I signed on, going the wireless route. Everything was fine . . . initially. There I was surfing through the worldwide web, checking email and making sure no one had cloned my MasterCard when all of a sudden things ground to a halt. The balloon at the bottom of the screen said: "low or no connectivity." That never is a good sign. In a couple of seconds things picked up again and I was surfing away, but before I knew it, I hit another one of those proverbial brick walls. There I was, stalled until the wireless genies woke up again to carry my information across the airwaves. This happened enough times that I finally plugged in and went on-line hard-wired.

This experience got me to thinking about spirituality and Christian life. It seems to me there are two kinds of Christians – wireless and hard-wired. I'm sure we all know people who like to say they are deeply spiritual, but not religious. As a matter of fact, I know *Christians* who would say this very thing. These Christians will say that attending worship is nice, but not essential to Christian life. Some might even think the term "spiritual disciplines" is the Christian equivalent of a four letter word. After all, we are "saved by grace," so there's nothing for us to work at. These Christians, I think, are wireless. They don't attach to anything about the Christian life that gives it shape and form. In my humble (but not to be dismissed) opinion, these folks may want to consider hard-wiring.

What are our hard wires? Well, reading and studying scripture would be one. Regularly and "deliberately focusing on God" using the words God gave us so that we might know who God is and what God does – that most definitely is a hard wire. "The Bible is . . . the inspired written witness. . . by which God discloses the divine being and purpose." If we want to know what God desires for us, regular reading and digesting the words in The Book is essential. (See, Michael L. Lindvall, *The Christian Life: A Geography of God*.)

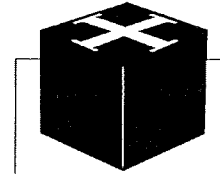
Prayer would be another hard wire. Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God. As in all relationships, the health and vitality of our relationship to God depends on the "clarity and frequency of communication." If we have a relationship with God, we pray. It's a given. (See, Marjorie J. Thompson, *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*.)

A third hard wire would be worship. Worship is the gathered community enacting Kingdom living. It is where everyone is welcome, accepted and encouraged and where everyone's attention is focused on the living God among us. It is where we come to openly love and adore 'the Lamb at the center of the throne who is our shepherd, and who guides us to springs of the water of life.' (See Revelation 7:17)

Sr. Joan Chittister of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie once said, "Spirituality . . . needs to attach to the best of the tradition. It cannot stand alone. If spirituality comes only from me, I have become my own God. The function of [religious practice] is to feed spirituality." In other words, the function of religious practice is to provide our much needed hard-wire.

I am writing this in Aspen. If I had the Christian Education brochure available, I would list for you the opportunities we have at PPC for children, youth and adults to be hard-wired Christians. Be sure to pick one up. Then, plug into one of those hard-wires!

*Leslianne Braunstein*



## DEACON'S CORNER

Summer always seems to scatter our friends, neighbors, children and fellow congregants around the country and the world. Vacations, exciting trips, camp and other summer activities take us all off in different directions. It is always interesting to walk around the neighborhood in mid-August when the quiet is almost deafening. September, however, is "Reconnection" month. We return to our daily routine and need to reconnect with our daily life. The old "what did you do on your summer vacation?" discussion takes place with friends and colleagues. As we know, *It is not good for . . . man to be alone. Genesis 2:18*. Of course, sometimes when we reconnect, there is not a deep feeling of connection. In the process of becoming very self-sufficient, we forget that developing a sense of connection and community with friends, relatives, neighbors, fellow congregants and God takes time and effort. Every minute of effort produces hours of rewards.

Our Jewish friends use this time of year as a new beginning with both their celebration of the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement or reconciliation. They have a great desire to connect to their family and God on these days. Our church family also has a great emphasis on reconnection with exciting new education offerings, Bible study, book clubs, 'dine with nine', etc. Take a chance this fall and work on either reconnecting with old friends or connecting with new ones. Don't forget about renewing your relationship with God in the process.

The Deacons will be sponsoring the second annual Tailgate party on Sunday, September 28. Join us for fellowship and fun around the grill and reconnect with your church family!

*Linda Lyons*

### Tailgate Party



#### TAILGATE PARTY - SEPTEMBER 28

It's that time of year again---back-to-school, football AND.....the second annual Deacons-sponsored Tailgate Party.

Join us after church on Sunday, **September 28** for "Heavenly Hotdogs" and "Holy Hamburgers".

Free lunch and free fun. Don't miss it!

### STEPHEN MINISTRY



#### Love One Another As I Have Loved You . . .

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the Pastor's job--it's something Jesus calls us all to do!

**Stephen Ministry** is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it. If you--or someone you know--is going through a difficult time, contact Pastor Kerry or Pastor Leslianne about Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers will provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.

# The Wright



# Note

You are cordially invited to JOIN the world of creative, supportive singing. From the youngest voice to the seasoned singer, we have a choir opportunity for you:

## The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir

Grades K – 2

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays  
Begins Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> in Enrichment Room

## The Sunrise Singers Choir

Grades 3 – 6

9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Sundays  
Begins Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> in Choir Robe Room

## The Sanctuary Choir

Adults, plus interested High School students

8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Thursdays  
Begins Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> in the Enrichment Room

If you read music and have the desire to ring handbells, please contact Cindy Wright about joining the **Handbell Choir**, which meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The first rehearsal will be Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have not rung before, you must contact Cindy prior to the first rehearsal. Appropriate bell assignments have to be planned in advance so that all members have the opportunity to ring our three-octaves of English handbells. Presently we have nine people who ring at least two bells each, plus the accidentals that occur with each bell tone. All notes are needed for each rehearsal. Substitute ringers are always in demand because many of our members have travel obligations.

Consider all of the above information and plan now to enrich your life as well as the life of the church by participating in the music program of our church.

*Cindy Wright*

## Rally Day and Pancake Breakfast

September 7, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Come “Back to Church” and begin a new year becoming reacquainted with old friends and making new friends over a delicious pancake breakfast. Hear about the upcoming education opportunities and help us kick off the Sunday School year as we learn how to appreciate God’s creation and how to “Handle it with Care.”



## CHECK OUT WHAT IS NEW IN THE LIBRARY

If you haven't already browsed the new books on the book cart in the library, please do. Some super new books have been added over the summer. A couple anonymous donors have given CD's and DVD's produced by the Teaching Company. A big thank you to them. Getting Better--After the Death of a Loved

One by Joan Liljedahl is written in short chapters and so is easy to read. A grief counselor thought it is one of the most sensitive and comprehensive books she has read. The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why it Matters by Luke Timothy Johnson, a New Testament Scholar, clarifies the history of the creed and discusses its evolution from the first decades of the Christian Church to the present day. I wish there was room to tell you about each one, but there isn't. One more--Health, Money & Why We Don't Enjoy Them by Robert Capon is delightful and engaging. Library Journal writes "... a maverick writer who explains traditional Christian teaching with freshness and unexpected insights,.."

Look for a table of discards and duplicate copies of books that will be offered at no cost later in the month at coffee hour.

*Nancy Tietjen*

**PREPARING FOR ADVENT** It is only September, but the Worship Committee is already preparing for Advent. This year we are bringing back the tradition of an Advent Devotional Book. The book will include daily devotionals written by different church members. We are using the Scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary as our inspiration this year. Contributors may choose a favorite from the selection. Each devotional will be limited to a 1/2 page. If you would be interested in contributing a piece, please contact **Roberta Meredith** at [gummiedo@aol.com](mailto:gummiedo@aol.com) or 301-963-8666.

## *Dine with Nine in 2008-2009*

You are cordially invited to an evening of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. All new members are especially invited to attend these dinner events that will be scheduled by the host/hostess during the fall months. The groups will meet 3 – 4 times during the year from Fall to Summer and can rotate houses within your group. Just sign up below or call **Karen Karch (301-330-0633)** for more information. Once groups are formed, the hostess will contact you with a date, time, and place.

**Please sign the form below and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate by the deadline, Sunday, September 21, 2008.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am willing to be host/hostess.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2008</h1>						
	1 <b>LABOR DAY</b> ~ Office Closed ~	2 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues)	3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	4 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (1st)	5	6 6:00 p.m. Chapin Wedding Blessing
7 9:30 a.m. <b>RALLY DAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b>  11:00 a.m. Worship/Teacher Dedication 12 :00 p.m. Fellowship	8 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615  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. Stephen Ministry Supervision	10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 <sup>nd</sup> wed) 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study (1st)	11  12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12	13
14  9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers (1st) 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12::00 Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Youth Kick Off - Family Picnic at the Meredith's	15  12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline  7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	16  9:30 a.m. Mom's Group (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)	17  9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting	18  12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir (1st) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	19	20  9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
21  9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12 :00 Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	22  9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class Resumes  3:30 -5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	23  9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (Meadowkirk) 10:30 a.m. OR 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	24  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 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	26	27
28  9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12 :00 Deacon Tailgate 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	29	30  9:30 a.m. Mom's Group				



## MISSION NEWS: "Thank You PPC!"

The Mission Committee receives wonderful thank you notes on an ongoing basis. Here is a tiny sample. Thank you for your support, PPC!

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

"Supporters like you enable us to continue preparing graduate students for ministry through a rigorous education that accentuates the probing of Scripture for relevant application, the pursuit of Christlikeness, and the proclamation of the Gospel."

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

"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."

**Interfaith Works**

"Your financial support is very important. The women not only have respite from extreme weather conditions, but also participate in a myriad of educational programs that increase life skills, making it possible for some women to gain employment and housing."

**Montgomery Avenue Women's Center**

"Your gift is an investment in the future of the church..."

**Princeton Theological Seminary**

"You helped us continue our service as Presbyterian medical missionaries in Bangladesh...developing a Christian healing ministry among impoverished people in Dhaka, where an estimated two million live in slums. We worked closely with...the Church of Bangladesh"

**Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan**

"Your generosity helps San Francisco Theological Seminary fulfill its mission in preparing 'whole leaders for the whole Church.' Your gift directly impacts the lives of the students at S.F. T. S."

"Thank you! In 2007, our three programs, *Casey House*, *Hospice at Home*, and *Bereavement Care*, served 6,400 individuals. Your generous giving enables us to care for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Our success...is your success."

**Montgomery Hospice**

"Through your prayers and support, God is doing amazing things!"

**Trace and Karen Bender, Wycliffe Bible Translators**

"Montgomery County residents who are not able to financially or physically repair, modify or maintain their homes have few options available... Thank you for your support of **Rebuilding Together**. The community begins at home—together with the community, we are repairing homes and changing lives."

"Thank you for your love, prayers, and financial support. This support will help the residents in our communities who need financial assistance remain independent and enable them to age in place. ..."

**Westminster Ingleside Foundation, Washington, DC**



## BETH'S BLURB

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Calvin's birth.

Calvin made many contributions to our understanding of how we should be organized as a church and what our theology should look like. But I think of all the things I am most grateful to Calvin for passing on to us is his emphasis on Christian Education. He believed we all should be actively studying God's Word, for he believed "Scripture is the school of the Holy Spirit, in which, as nothing is omitted that is both necessary and useful to know, so nothing is taught but what is expedient to know." So this year as we celebrate his birth, take the opportunity to delve into The School of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, in one of the many programs we have available at PPC. See the back of the calendar in the center of the newsletter for the upcoming education programs for all ages and come join us for **Rally Day and a Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 7 at 9:30 am** and hear more about these opportunities.



**New Nursery Worker:** In the military people come and go a lot. So there is a tradition called "Hail and Farewell." It is an opportunity to say goodbye to the person leaving and to welcome the new person. It is now our time to have a "Hail and Farewell" as our nursery worker, Vijitha Gunasekara, is leaving after many years of service to our congregation. There will be a card in the fellowship hall for all those who wish to sign and send their thanks to her. And please join us in welcoming our new nursery worker, Alexandra Vernon. Allie works during the week at the Bright Eyes Daycare (affiliated with Thurgood Marshall school) and enjoys being with the little ones. Stop in the nursery and say hello.

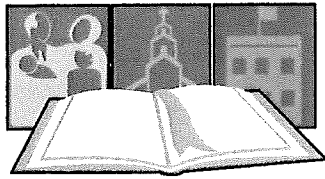
*Beth Williams*



**Our prayers are with** Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; *Members of the Armed Forces*; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Marilyn Shankland at home recovering from surgery; Susan Hayne's mother, Patsy Heinlein, at home recovering from surgery; Pat Maxwell, former PPC member, recovering from knee surgery. Pat's email is [maxwellwp@aol.com](mailto:maxwellwp@aol.com). Debbie Kenny, Mary Avelar's mother, recovering from knee and shoulder replacement surgery; Melvin Avelar and his family, on the death of his grandmother, Balbina Avelar; Eileen Crawford, now living at Arden Courts, 10718 Potomac Tennis Lane, Potomac, MD 20854; Bob Garcia, recovering from surgery at Wilson Health Care Center; Ray Russo and family on the death of Ray's mother, Jeanne Russo, in New Orleans; Roy Whitesel recovering from surgery at home.

**We celebrate with joy the baptism of** Cameron Jenkins Sarvis, son of Corey and Tiffany Sarvis and grandson of Harry and Merrily Tovmassian.

**Congratulations** to Paul & Amy Schoenhard on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Grace, on August 11. Grateful grandparents are George and Fran Ligler.



# Christian Education 2008-2009

## Rally Day and Pancake Breakfast

September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Come welcome each other back after the summer. Gather in the fellowship hall for pancakes and then hear about Christian Education opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

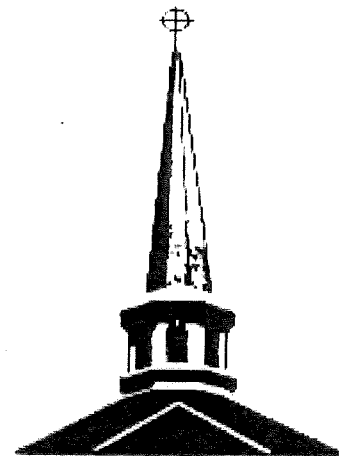
Children	Youth	Adult	
<p><b>Nursery: Birth-Two years</b> Nursery is provided during Sunday School and worship each week by our paid caregiver.</p> <p><b>Sunday School: 3 years - 5th grade</b> 9:45 am kicks off with Rally Day, Sept. 7</p> <p><b>Godly Play: 3 years—2nd grade</b> Starts on September 7 following the Children's Time. Godly Play draws on telling of Scripture stories with figures, and encourages children to seek God through wondering.</p> <p><b>Bridges to Worship—3rd grade</b> A six week series offered following the Children's Time designed to help young students transition from Godly Play to full participation in worship. September 7 - October 12.</p> <p><b>Children's Music</b> Two choirs are available for children.</p> <p>The Wonderful Wednesday Choir, grades K-2nd, meets on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. Rehearsals start on September 10.</p> <p>The Sunrise Singers for Grades 3-6 meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Rehearsals start on September 14.</p>	<p><b>Sunday School: 9:45 am</b> Middle School Upper Level, Room 1 Senior Highs Upper Level, Room 2</p> <p><b>Youth Fellowship:</b> Kick-off Family Picnic September 14 at 4:00 p.m.—7:00 pm We kick off the year with a picnic for all youth ages 6th-12th grade and their families at the Meredith's home. Information about this years Workcamp will be covered at the picnic. Bring your bathing suits and tennis racquets. Middle School and Sr High Youth Group Each Sunday at 5:00—7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Youth Mission:</b> The youth are engaged in mission throughout the year. This summer we will be involved both locally and nationally through the Sr. High Workcamp, June 20-27 to Elmira, NY and our Local Mission Week, July 20-24.</p>	<p><b>Sunday Mornings 9:45 a.m.</b> <b>In the Library</b> 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 14 with Tom Miles and "The Multiple Personalities of God." Pick up an Adult Ed Brochure for a complete listing of classes.</p> <p><b>In the Parlor</b> The Bible Study class begins with "Christian Beliefs." Christian Beliefs are vital to Christian living and form the foundation of our relationship with God, and with others. In this twelve-week study (re)acquaint yourself with the basics of our life together.</p> <p><b>Men's Breakfast</b> 3rd Saturday at 9:00 am resumes on September 20. Please come and join us for fellowship and worship.</p>	<p><b>Kerygma Bible Study</b> Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Learners from beginning to advanced are invited to join us for stimulating discussions as we study the bible and apply it to personal and corporate life in today's world. This year, beginning on September 10, we will be studying the Beatitudes, Amos &amp; Hosea, and The Gospel of Matthew.</p> <p><b>Christian Living—Revised</b> 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 am This year we will be combining study with action as we look at Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor. Each month we will serve at a mission site, have lunch, and discuss the experience in light of Jesus' message.</p> <p><b>Book Groups</b> Men's 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. begins the year on September 16 with a discussion of <i>Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA</i> by Tim Weimer.</p>
	<p><b>Mom's Group Tuesdays at 9:30 am</b> Come and make friends with other moms, bring your little ones who can play together while you get a chance to connect with other moms. Starting September 16th.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday AM Bible Study</b> Wednesdays at 9:30 am The study for this fall, led by Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, will be using the book, <i>Paul for Everyone: Romans - Part One</i> by Tom Wright. The first class is on September 3, at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Women's 4th Tuesday at 10:30 am or 7:30 pm.</b> begins the year reading and discussing <i>The Year of Living Biblically</i> by A.J. Jacobs. The first meeting will be on September 23rd.</p>

**NEW**



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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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OCTOBER 2008

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## KERRY ON...

Three Guides for the fall season. In my sermons for September I offered these words of encouragement and challenge; something to avoid, something to do and something to hope for. What we want to avoid are inaction regrets and in the words of the traditional confession, “the things we have left undone.” When people look back at their lives as a whole, inaction regrets outnumber action regrets 84% to 16%.

In a poem by Ogden Nash he writes,

Because the suitable things you didn't do give you a lot more trouble  
than the things you did.

The moral is that it is probably better not to sin at all,  
but if some kind of sin you must be pursuing,

Well, remember to do it by doing, rather than by not doing.

What we want to do is forgive as we have been forgiven. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,” we have prayed countless times as we said the Lord’s Prayer. What amazes us is the astounding forgiveness of our Lord and the call to be forgivers as a consequence of what the Lord has done for us. Martin Luther said,

Being able to forgive others is evidence that God’s work  
of forgiveness is at work in us.

Physical and emotional scars are reminders of hurts that have been inflicted upon us, but scars are also signs of healing and grace.

We also sometimes simply have to make it through the day and hold on to some sign of hope for the future. The words of the old hymn have a very personal and powerful meaning for me and I hope for you as well.

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me.

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

### ADULT EDUCATION

#### Library Class...

Oct. 5 - 19 - Dewey Wallace – Great Theologians of the Early  
Church - Tertulian - Origen - Cyprian

Oct. 26 - Ann White – What the Reformers Teach Us About  
Thinking, Praying, Living

#### Parlor Class...

Christian Beliefs – a 12 week study

*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*



World Communion Sunday is October 5th. Since 1936, this has been a day in which we celebrate our unity in Christ with Christians around the world. World Communion Sunday has taken on new relevance and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has divided people more than it has united them, undermining peace and justice. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

This year we have the privilege of celebrating this great day with members of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church of Maryland. Their pastor, Mark Asiedu Frimpong, will preach; members of their choir will bless us with special music. (You may recall Mark was ordained by National Capital Presbytery here at PPC last May.) Pastor Kerry, Pastor Mark and I will lead the congregation as we celebrate together in the Lord's Supper our common identity in Jesus Christ.

Mark was born in Ghana and baptized in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. Before coming to the United States, Mark was a High School Science teacher. He eventually became the District Animal Science Subject Matter Specialist. At the same time, Mark served the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church as a District Church Planting and Evangelism Coordinator and a Lay Preacher.

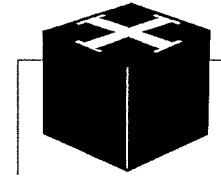
After coming to the States, Mark joined Covenant Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge, Virginia where he served as Elder for Evangelism and Mission. In June, 2000, Mark joined a small group of Ghanaians that had been traveling from Maryland to Woodbridge to worship at a Ghanaian Congregation. This group began worshipping at the Hilton Hotel in Silver Spring and it was the genesis of the Ghanaian Presbyterian congregation which now has more than 150 members. This congregation was accepted as a Fellowship of National Capital Presbytery in 2004. Mark served as Lay Leader in this congregation while he studied for his Master of Divinity at Louisville Seminary. This growing congregation worships on Sunday afternoons in the Sanctuary of Oaklands Presbyterian Church in Laurel, Maryland, although most of its membership lives in the 270/Silver Spring corridor.

It is my joy to be the National Capital Presbytery liaison to this congregation. For several years I have been working, joining in fellowship and worshipping with Mark, his wife, Juliana and the members and friends of this maturing, expanding congregation. If you ever want to experience the joy of the Lord Ghanaian style, let me know. I'd be more than pleased to accompany you to worship with these brothers and sisters.

Mark's passion is that all people would seek to celebrate our rich and beautiful diversity for the common good. Mark deeply believes that "joy and happiness are never fully enjoyed and appreciated until they are shared with others."

Please join in the celebration as we share together our unity in diversity on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – World Communion Sunday.

*Leslianne Braunstein*



## DEACON'S CORNER

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

Kerry's sermon yesterday (September 14<sup>th</sup>) focused on the theme of forgiveness. Through the familiar parable of the "unforgiving slave," we were reminded that in order to be forgiven, we must forgive. This theme seemed particularly pertinent as I've watched the summer drift to a close and smacked up against the "real life" September foists upon us. It is a time of fresh starts and truly fresh starts are quite impossible without forgiveness—from others, toward others, and for ourselves.

As deacons, we are remembering and hopefully delighting our congregations' college students this month by sending out "care packages." These goodies from home serve as a reminder for our students that the church family cares about them and is proud of their hard work. We are also sponsoring a "Tailgate Party" on September 28<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Worship Service. It's a perfect opportunity to simply enjoy some good food, the company of your friends, and (hopefully) a beautiful fall day. All to be completed in plenty of time to get home to watch the Redskins take on the Cowboys!

The college care packages and fall picnic are just a few of the things we deacons do. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the role of deacons, we basically serve the needs of our congregation, parish by parish. In addition to making sure you are adequately refreshed at coffee hour each week, we are also there to make sure the congregation is cared for during life events. In order to coordinate these efforts, we meet once a month, communicate freely by email, and have a local day-long retreat annually. As a new deacon, I have found that I've received far more than I've given. I've gotten to know my fellow deacons through shared projects and feel a connection and belonging to the church that I didn't experience when I was more of a spectator rather than a participant. And, I have perfected life skills such as efficiently and flawlessly preparing 1 ½ gallons of coffee and operating an industrial grade dishwasher with ease and satisfaction!

We are currently looking for a few good deacons (and elders) to begin a term in 2009. There are currently twelve deacons, with four new deacons committing to a 3-year term each year. The "older" deacons serve as bastions of knowledge and experience, helping along the new deacons and making sure things go smoothly. The work is not very demanding of your time, especially since it is shared among your fellow deacons, and it is extremely rewarding. If you feel the slightest call to serve your church, please consider it. If you would like more information about becoming a deacon, talk with Kerry or Leslianne, your own deacon, or simply strike up a conversation with the friendly person pouring your coffee after church. It is definitely worth the effort!

*Kathy Jeffers*



## The Wright Note

In going through the many piles of things to save on top of my desk at home, I encountered an article written by Walter Stewart, a beloved former member of the Sanctuary Choir, who now lives in Texas. The article had been written for one of our Advent Booklets several years ago. He recalled the days of adolescence when he didn't understand what was happening to his voice and therefore stopped singing.

Walter wrote, "For forty years I never tried to sing. It was therefore extremely frightening for me to sit in with our church's Sanctuary Choir some three years ago. I felt awkward and apologetic that I could not read music and could rarely find the right note. I thought my fumbling efforts would annoy the accomplished singers around me. I need not have worried; I found in the choir the same kindness and patience that runs through so much of our church. Cindy and the choir helped me regain my voice. I experienced again the joy of singing with friends, and was doubly fortunate in having my children join me in singing. At Christmas I give thanks for the friends who helped me learn again to sing."

This special singing connection is still happening at PPC. If you meant to join one of our choirs and just didn't for one reason or another, think about it again. The Sanctuary Choir meets from 8 – 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The Sunrise Singers for grades 3 – 6 meets from 9:00 – 9:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir for K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades meets on Wednesdays from 4 – 4:45 p.m. The Handbell Choir meets from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Substitute ringers are still needed. Call Cindy if interested.

*Cindy Wright*



### Inquirer's Class – October 5 – 19

For those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at Potomac Presbyterian Church. A three-part Inquirer Series will be held on **October 5, 12 and 19**. The Sunday morning, **9:45 a.m.** classes are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus and held in his office. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on Sunday, October 26, 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.

## POTOMAC DAYS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

*A festive day for Potomac is fast approaching and our Church has a booth.*

*As a member of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, we are again showing our support and presence in the Village. This is our only activity of the year for us to simply acquaint people with all of the wonderful programs the Church offers and the generous reach of our local, national and global mission programs.*

*The Outreach Committee is seeking several volunteers to help staff our booth on Saturday, October 18th. The volunteers are needed for 1 hour shifts from 9AM to 3PM. Also needed are a few hardy members at 8AM to load and transport the supplies from Church to the booth.*

*We would love to have help from the Youth, as well as Adults and Families. The duties are very simple...friendly hosts and offering cider to all visitors.*

*We will have displays of the Church activities, handouts and of course the cider at our booth located outside of Potomac Pizza.*

*It would be wonderful to have you "Meet and Greet" fellow Potomac neighbors with some of our "Presbyterian, friendly, welcoming community of faith"!*

*Sign up is easy. The poster with time slots is in the narthex at Church or call*

*Nelia Scioli 301-656-0992 Diane & Lou Chapin 301-983-1688.*



*It's A Mixed Foursome Scramble --- Join The Fun!!!  
PPC Golf Outing --- Tuesday October 7, 12:30pm At Falls  
Road Golf Course*



*Sign up: Ed Clark 301-315-0512; cell 301-520-9166;  
ed@edwardjclark.com*



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Our prayers are with Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Susan Hayne's mother, Patsy Heinlein, recovering from surgery; Eileen Crawford, now living at Arden Courts, Potomac; Bob Garcia, recovering from surgery at Wilson Health Care Center; Leslie Adkins, father of Pastor Leslieanne, recovering at home from surgery; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins in the hospital in Pennsylvania; Penny Boyd's mother, Mary Larkin, recovering at home; Maureen and Michael Murphy, friends of the congregation, in the recent death of their son, Patrick; Pastor Charlotte Lohrenz, Interim Pastor at First Arlington, and family on the death of her granddaughter, Olivia, who recently died in a car accident; George Cowie, Kitty Cowie's father, who has been very ill; Sally O'Neal recovering from knee surgery at home; Sarah Hipps, recovering from knee surgery at home; Fred Weberling, uncle of Mary Avelar, in the hospital in Michigan; Melvin Avelar and family, on the death of his cousin and aunt, Ninito and Santos Avelar, Penny Boyd and family, Penny is in the hospital in Texas.*

*Our prayers are with Stephen Kirchner, age 14, grandson of Taylor and Bettie Ann Johnson and son of Rob and Trish Kirchner and brother of Brett. He is undergoing chemotherapy at Duke Medical Center for Myelodysplastic Syndrome, "Pre-Leukemia." It is anticipated he will be in Duke Hospital for several months. The Johnson's granddaughter, Devin Gustafson, is at home recovering from a ruptured appendix. You may contact the Johnsons and Kirchners at [tjohnson31@ec.rr.com](mailto:tjohnson31@ec.rr.com).*

*Congratulations to Blair McMillan and Heather Behnke who were married on August 23 by Pastor Stoltzfus in Alexandria, VA.*

*We remember the life of Karen Pitelka, a former member, 2001-2005, who died in Neenah, Wisconsin on August 20. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Neenah on September 2. Memorial gifts may be given to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, or to the church which will forward the gifts. First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St., P.O. Box 100, Neenah, WI 54957. We hold Karen's mother, sister, brother and all of the family in our prayers.*

### Praying for the Children



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our infants and toddlers (birth - four years old). Please pray for their parents and families, too. Grant Lawrence Dick, James Alan Dick, Doug (Joe) Henderson, Matthew Thomas Kunst, Juliette Anna Mamalian, Sebastian McFeaters, Courtney Spencer, Charles Trenkamp, Alexander Alarie, Blake McKnight Conway, Preston David Kuhn, Ryan Michael Kunst, Kevin Porter Young, Lindsey Bedingfield, Margaret Koonce, Eileen Jaclyn Lee, Kayla Patel, Robert Trenkamp, Jack Swisher.



## BETH'S BLURB

There is a very special fund at the church called **Ministry to Children and Youth**. This money enables us to reach out beyond our budget to provide special activities and services for children and youth both in and outside of the congregation. In the past year, we have used this fund to help pay for a Halloween party that the youth hosted for the children at the National Center for Children and Families, landscaping that the youth did at Stepping Stones Shelter, scholarships for youth trips, an Easter Egg Hunt at Stepping Stones, the water slide at Vacation Bible School, the God and Family program, additional Godly Play materials, and a new DVD player for the youth room. Much of the money in this fund has been donated anonymously so we can't thank the donors personally, but the CE committee wanted to let them and all those who have contributed to this fund know how much we appreciate it and them. This fund has been a blessing to the Christian Education ministry and all the children and youth whose lives it has touched. Thank you. *Beth Williams*

### OCTOBER 5th – 2:00 p.m.



The youth are participating in a local **CROP** walk on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. **CROP** is part of Church World Service and it stands for **Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty**. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as **six miles** a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because they walk. The walk begins at **Memorial First India United Methodist Church, 9226 Colesville Road, Silver Spring and goes through Sligo Creek Park at 2:00 pm.** 25% of the money raised stays in the local area at an agency of our choosing and the rest goes to Church World Services. You are invited to sponsor a youth or join us for the walk. Donor envelopes will be available in the Fellowship Hall.

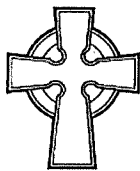
### NEW – MOM'S GROUP Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Feeling like you are running on empty? Is your spiritual life lacking something? Being a mom is hard work and we often don't take time for ourselves, but you will be a better mom if you do. So join other moms at Potomac Presbyterian each week for a time to **"Fill your spiritual gas tank."**

Monthly Bible Studies - Christian Parenting Classes  
Fellowship time - Outings with the children - Mission projects

**CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED for a small donation.**

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



"... let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!"  
-Henry Ward Beecher

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."  
-William Arthur Ward.

For information regarding PPC's **Endowment**, please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee. Chris Dowd David Fowler Elsie Reid Ed Tennent

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministers are here to **help** you deal with the "curve balls" that come your way. Please allow us to "walk around the bases with you". Contact Pastor Kerry or Pastor Leslianne if you would like to have a Stephen Minister.

*Care Notes* are full-color booklets offering strength, help and guidance for people going through the types of life changes that give us reason to pause. *Care Notes* cover a wide variety of topics, including Grief and Loss, Health Care and Personal Healing and Growth. Perhaps there is a *Care Note* that addresses your current circumstances. The *Care Notes* are found in the narthex below the literature rack on the wall to the right as you leave the sanctuary. Titles change twice monthly.



**PREPARING FOR ADVENT** It is only October, but the Worship Committee is already preparing for Advent. This year we are bringing back the tradition of an Advent Devotional Book. The book will include daily devotionals written by different church members. We are using the Scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary as our inspiration this year. Contributors may choose a favorite from the selection. Each devotional will be limited to a 1/2 page. If you would be interested in contributing a piece, please contact **Roberta Meredith** at [gummiedo@aol.com](mailto:gummiedo@aol.com) or 301-963-8666.

## MISSION NEWS - Mission to Ecuador

For 27 years, Caritas Por Cristo has been involved in children's health care in Latin America, with a focus on Ecuador. Por Cristo, based in Boston, carries out this mission in four ways by supporting:

- A free-standing nutrition and health center for women and children in a very depressed area of Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- A community health / TB project in Jaime Roldas, Ecuador.
- Institution-strengthening through teaching medical expertise and technical assistance.
- Donations of medical equipment and supplies to clinics and hospitals.



The children's cardiac team will be making its 19<sup>TH</sup> trip to Ecuador, the 13<sup>TH</sup> to Quito, starting Friday, 24 October 2008. This 8-day mission will carry out the principal goal of Por Cristo: Teach the Ecuadorian health professionals how to do more and do it better with the available resources. Cardiac surgery, interventional cardiac catheterizations, echocardiograms, lectures and hours of bedside teaching will keep the team busy for the week.

Each year, many, many dollars worth of donated supplies and equipment are brought to the Children's Charity Hospital in Quito, the capital of Ecuador. These items allow the doctors and nurses to use updated equipment to care for their cardiac patients. Because of this, we have seen remarkable progress and improvements in many areas of pediatric cardiac care.

This year, the 14 medical volunteers come from 5 major pediatric centers in the United States. Over 200 different volunteers have made the trip – many have gone 10 or 15 times.

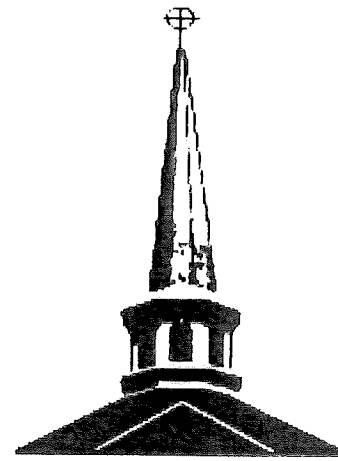
Funding for Caritas, Por Cristo is 100% from private sources. The Potomac Presbyterian Church has been an important donor for a decade. Por Cristo, the cardiac team, and especially the Ecuadorian children are most grateful for the generous support.

Tom Hougen  
Por Cristo Cardiac Team Director  
Co-Chairman, Mission Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2008</h1>						
			<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>2</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (1st)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirer's Class 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Crop Walk	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Church Health Team Mtg (1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.)	7 9:30 a.m. Mom's Group  12:30 p.m. PPC Golf  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training  7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues.)	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class 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. Endowment Committee	<b>9</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Stephen Ministry Workshop at Potomac UMC
<b>12</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirer's Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 Fellowship 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon)	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues)  9:30 a.m. Mom's Group  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training  7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Group	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting	<b>16</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Potomac Day  9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirer's Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  3:30 -5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. Mom's Group  10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>23</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Session New Members 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg. 12:15 p.m. Fellowship / cookie decorating / sundae making 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Mom's Group  10:30 a.m. OR 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues)  7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Art Class  4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir  7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	<b>30</b> 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>31</b>	

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church  
NOVEMBER 2008

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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...

- Nov. 2 – Ann White – What the Reformers Teach Us About  
Thinking, Praying, Living  
Nov. 9 – Jim Reichley – What Part Did Religion Play in the Election?  
Nov. 16 – Sandy Champion, Presbytery Staff – Problems of Aging  
Nov. 23 – Rob Wescott – Genius, Corruption and Greed in Wall  
Street: The Cause of the Financial Crisis  
Nov. 30 – Leslianne & Beth – Pausing on the Road to Bethlehem  
**Parlor Class...Christian Beliefs**

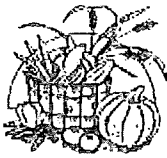
*STEEPLE TO PEOPLE* articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by e-mail to [steepoop@hotmail.com](mailto:steepoop@hotmail.com) or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

**KERRY ON...** Over the past few weeks I have been reflecting on the rich experience of mutual caring that marks the life of our congregation. A phone call comes in and I am off to the home of a family who has just lost a loved one. Additional visits follow and a memorial service is planned. I hear of calls and visits by our members. After the memorial service the Deacons prepare a reception for the family with loving care. Leslianne visits a member who is scheduled for surgery and follows up during rehabilitation. Tom visits with a member after coffee hour and offers wise counsel on a family issue and later in the week he visits at the hospital. I arrive at a nursing home and see the flowers from church and hear gratitude for a loving visit.

One evening I am in the home of a young couple talking about the Sacrament of Baptism for their child and later in the week meeting with a couple in the process of planning a wedding. On Saturday evening I am officiating at a wedding for a couple and the groom has been a member since early childhood. The phone rings and Leslianne talks with a Stephen Minister about their ministry with their care receiver. The next evening one of our Stephen Leaders is teaching a new class of Stephen Ministers. On the fourth Monday evening the Deacons are meeting and growing in the role of caring for the members of our congregation.

The prayers of the People are offered in Worship and loved ones are remembered. At the Wednesday morning Bible Study joys and concerns are shared and prayers are lifted up to the Lord. **Congregational Care** is the ministry of mutual caring that in our Lord's name allows us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. The Pastors are called to share pastoral care and to train, encourage and honor lay pastoral care that strengthens our life together.

Financial support of the ministry of Potomac Presbyterian under girds this calling from the Lord that we all share. May the Lord be praised in our giving and in our caring for one another. In the next few weeks we will hear how the Lord is praised in our giving through **Worship, Christian Education and Mission.**



## Leslianne

**Parity.** It is an interesting word meaning, “equality, as in amount, status, or character.” It is a word Presbyterians hold dear because we believe that we all are members of the priesthood of believers. While some of us are given gifts to be “apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,” no one gift of the Spirit is greater than any other. We *all* are given gifts by God for the work of ministry, for building up the whole body of Christ.

Our Presbyterian government structure is built on this idea of parity. It is why our churches are represented by both Elders and Ministers at all governing body meetings. We take this idea of parity so seriously that we have a Committee on Representation insuring all working divisions, committees, teams and task forces of the Presbytery have balance between Ministers and Elders, as well as balance according to gender and ethnicity.

Why am I even thinking about this, you ask? Well, having served on Presbytery committees and teams, I am aware it is often difficult to recruit Elders to be part of the ministry of the wider church. I note that many people – clergy and laity alike – have very definite opinions about what the Presbytery does. However, it appears a lot of folk think of the Presbytery a lot like they think of the weather: they don’t like it very much, but they think there’s nothing anyone can do about it. This is not true. Everyone has an opportunity to be involved in the decision making processes of the Presbytery. Everyone has an opportunity to make a difference.

The Presbytery does some pretty cool stuff. Under National Capital Presbytery’s new structure<sup>1</sup> the twelve-member Council will be the Presbytery’s “visioning team.” It will, among other things, review and evaluate every three years the Presbytery’s mission and structure in the light of adopted priorities. The Council will oversee ecumenical and interfaith affairs and maintain our relationships with Synod and General Assembly.

The thirty-six member Committee on Preparation for Ministry works with inquirers and candidates who believe they are called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Committee members help those in “the process” refine their calls to ministry. They also are the preliminary examining body before a candidate can be certified to seek a call. It is a Committee that needs a lot of wise, discerning compassionate members. (Emphasis on compassionate!)

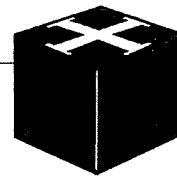
The eighteen member Church Development Committee seeks to develop and execute strategies which lead to the strengthening and transformation of the congregations of the Presbytery to be missional, pastoral and prophetic. It works with new church developments and immigrant fellowships, and the Committee is always looking for concrete ways to encourage all congregations in their mission and ministry.

Parity doesn’t work unless we *all* get involved in the life of the church. Perhaps there is a way you can use your God-given gifts for the work of ministry, for building up the whole body of Christ. There are many more committees and many ways to get involved. In doing so, you will Tikkun Olam – the mending of at least a small corner of the world.

Think about it.

*Leslianne Braunstein*

<sup>1</sup> Go to: ThePresbytery.org and click on Documents →General Policies →NCP Manual of Operations.



## DEACON’S CORNER

### Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and the Holy Spirit

On September 28th, the Deacons held their 2nd annual Tailgate cookout with resounding success. We deacons took great pleasure hosting this event and it appeared that all who attended enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship and sharing some tailgate fare. In all we cooked up about 140 hamburgers/cheeseburgers and roughly 80 hotdogs, thanks to the master grilling of Chuck Naegeli and the Dallas Cowboys attired David Boyd. A special thanks to Kathy Jeffers for taking the leftovers to Sophia House, where they were greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

The Deacons have already started to turn our attention to other matters. We are in the process of formulating a ride sharing program to support providing transportation to some of the members who have difficulty making it to Church in adverse weather or at night. Keep your eyes tuned to future articles for more details as we finalize the plans. The Deacons have started the planning of this year’s Williamsburg Breakfast, our theme is going to be Joy to the World - "Christmas Around the World", which focuses on the celebration of the Birth of Christ around the world. We look forward to hosting this event and seeing many of you there.

Thank you and God Bless!

*Eric Van Brunt*

### More on PPC’s Ride Share.....



Have you stopped driving or prefer not to drive at night?

If you are interested in catching a ride with other church members to worship or evening events, please let Ann Hill know. Your Deacons are starting a ride program and we'd like to get an idea of how many people may take advantage of such a service. [annchill@gmail.com](mailto:annchill@gmail.com), or 301-365-1193.

### November 23 – Worship at the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church 1:30 -3:30 p.m.

On World Communion Sunday members from the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church joined us for worship. Their pastor, Mark Frimpong, gave the sermon and two of their choirs enhanced our worship with uplifting music. Join the Worship Committee on Sunday, November 23 on a "field trip" to worship with their congregation. Following our service that Sunday, we will join together for lunch before leaving. Their service begins at 1:30 and ends at 3:30.

### FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Reminder: If you have input regarding the upcoming annual PPC staff reviews, please contact Pastor Kerry or any member of the Personnel Committee (Ed Ebert, Dick Gimer, George Ligler, Olivia Mabeus, Ed Rudnic, and Karen Wise). Copies of staff job descriptions are available in the church office for those who are interested.

**MORE FROM BETH.....**Are you interested in a Ski Trip Feb. 13-16, 2009 3 nights, 2 days of skiing or snowboarding at either Wisp or Canaan Valley? Sign –up in the Fellowship Hall now so that a house can be reserved. \$150 deposit for house and meals due by Nov. 23. (Scholarships are available.)







# The Wright Note

How Are Things Going?

Our fall program has been in place for two months. Our youngest choir, the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir, is off to a start that befits its title.

Seven regular attendees from kindergarten through second grade are singing God's praises (in tune, by the way) and preparing their voices and their costumes for their annual Pumpkin Caroling service activity on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Our next age-level choir is the Sunrise Singers Choir which meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We number just two singers this year. But what amazing singers they are! You heard them sing the Introit on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Handbell Choir plans to ring for worship on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. This group continues to be an example of joyful commitment. We do have a great deal of fun preparing music for worship. Getting us all together at the same time is a challenge, but we pursue.

The Sanctuary Choir leads us faithfully each Sunday morning. I am so appreciative of these good folks who come, when they can, to rehearsal and share music that lifts up the text of the Sunday worship experience. But you may have noticed our thinning ranks. The small numbers make it difficult to plan ahead. It is also challenging for the individual singers who feel uncomfortable singing sometimes alone on a given part. The more the merrier does apply to our choir situation. We don't need soloists to produce a good choral sound. We just need enough people on each of the four parts to listen, learn, blend and give confidence to one another.

Advent will be here very soon. This summer I attended the conference on worship and music sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The emphasis for the whole week was Advent and how music helps us move through this meaningful time of quiet anticipation and waiting for the birth of the Christ Child. I want so much to personally feel that quiet anticipation as I rehearse our musical groups for the many services that we schedule. I want to spend meaningful time now rehearsing the music which will lift our spiritual lives as the season progresses. The choirs and I need your understanding and your support as we endeavor to do this.

*Cindy Wright*

\*\*\*\*\*



## COME DECORATE THE CHURCH SATURDAY- DECEMBER 6 – 9:00 AM

It is that time of year again! Come one, come all on **Saturday, December 6th** to **decorate the church for Christmas!** There will be Christmas music and refreshments served and lots of good cheer to get you in the Holiday spirit. There are wreaths to be hung, bows to be tied and greens to be arranged. Especially welcome are folks who are comfortable on the extension ladder! Doors open at **9AM**. Please call Courtney Koonce at (301) 208 -1130 with any questions.



## Haninger Dinner-Tuesday, November 18 – 7:00p.m.

On **Tuesday, November 18**, the Mission Committee will host a congregation dinner, beginning at **7 PM in Fellowship Hall**, for church members to meet and talk with our missionaries in the Congo, **Mike and Nancy Haninger**. For the last five years, our church's mission dollars have helped support the Haningers in bringing the Christian Gospel and vital medical aid and education to the people of the western Congo, stricken by disease, malnourishment, economic need, and recurring political instability. Mike, who gave up a flourishing medical career in the United States to go to Africa, performs surgery in his mission hospital and trains Congolese doctors in techniques that reduce maternal and infant deaths. Nancy works with children, concentrating on basic education and promoting cultivation and use of the highly nutritious leaves of the Moringa tree. Two years ago Mike contracted cancer, but after treatment in the United States, he returned earlier this year to the Congo to continue his mission. We encourage all church members to take advantage of this chance to get a first-hand report on conditions and opportunities for beneficial service in one of the poorest countries on earth.

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONCERNS..... Our prayers are with Pat Stow, Vicky**

*Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Bob Garcia at home; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins, in the hospital in Pennsylvania; George Cowie, Kitty Cowie's father, at Wilson Health Center; Sarah Hipps, recovering from knee surgery at home; Everett Morgan, son of Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan (missionaries in Bangladesh), recently diagnosed with bone cancer; Fred Newton and family on the death of his cousin, Doug Potthoff, who died Sept. 28 after a long struggle with cancer; Renee Jochum and family on the death of her sister, Lindsey Robertson, who died suddenly on Sept. 28 of a heart attack; Renee is also recovering from recent gallbladder surgery; Jon White and family on the death of his grandmother, Dorothy Picard; Mary Cathey and family on the death of her husband, Mark. Mary is a former PPC Director of Christian Education. Memorial contributions may be sent to Davidson College Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 337, Davidson, NC 28036 or The American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308; Mary Cathey's address is: 400 Avinger Lane, #209, Davidson, NC 28036; Karen King and family on the death of her father, Theodore C. Bauries, in August.*

**In Memoriam...** We give thanks for the life of **Patsy Thompson**. We give thanks for the life of **Lawrence Filson**. We commend them to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

### **PRAYERS FOR OUR CHILDREN**

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

Roman Conway, Audrey Houton, Matthew Mamalian, Haley Philips, Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Patterson Koonce, Chandler Kuhn, Abigail Spencer.



Please Join Us for a  
**"Getting Ready for the Holidays"**  
**Ladies Luncheon**

Saturday, November 1, 2008

11:30-2:00

Fellowship Hall



Guest Speaker: Ruby Winegate

We are excited to host a potluck luncheon filled with holiday festivities to help us get ready for the season!

Join us on November 1<sup>st</sup> to hear our guest speaker and share ideas around bow making, favorite recipes, decorating tips, and so much more!



**OUR CHURCH FAMILY JOYS.....**

*We celebrate with joy the baptism of* Louisa Elisabeth Damborg, daughter of Amelia (Amy) and Ulrik Damborg. We rejoice with grandparents, Tom and Susan Hougen, Elsbeth and Leo Pederson, great grandfather Louis Bayer, godparent Halli Bayer and big brother Magnus.

*Congratulations* to Krista (Karch) and Brian Ayer on the birth of their daughter, Brooke Louise Ayer, born on September 20. Grateful grandparents are Bob and Karen Karch.

*Congratulations* to Nick and Melanie Propps on the birth of their son, Ryan James Propps, born on October 6. Proud grandparents are Walter and Nettie Propps and big brother, Aiden.

*Congratulations* to Walter and Nettie Propps who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 15!

*Congratulations* to Ed and Alison Tennent on the birth of their son, Edward Smith Tennent, VI, born on October 20. Proud grandparents are Lynda and Ed Tennent and big sister, Isobella.

*Congratulations* to Molly and Robert Foa on the birth of their son, Grayson Harvey, born on October 14. Proud grandparents are Bill and Jane Stanton and great grandmother Emajeane Harvey.

*Congratulations* to Doug Reid and Pam Wells married on Saturday, October 18. Pastor Stoltzfus officiated.



**BETH'S BLURB**

We have begun a Youth Council and as a result of their input we are going to try a new Youth ministry format beginning in November.

**New Youth Ministry Format:**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from 5:00 – 7:00 pm Mission and Fellowship Opportunities

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 5:00 – 7:00 pm Youth Worship and Bible Study

5<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Family Activities

Can't make it to Youth Group because you are still doing homework on Sunday night? Then you will like this new format! Join your PPC friends and invite your other friends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays for games, a light meal, and a time of youth worship and Bible study. All grades will start together for fellowship and food and then we will break into groups for the study. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays we will have "regular" youth group doing a monthly mission activity and a fellowship activity such as bowling or movie night. Check the youth newsletter for details of each month's activities. The youth newsletter goes out at the beginning of each month to both parents and youth via email. If you are not receiving it and wish to, please let me know your current email address. It will also be posted on the church web site. If you would like to help with either the Saturday or Sunday programs, please let me know.



**Workcamp Calendar Sales** Don't buy your 2009 calendar before you have seen what the Workcampers are offering this year - Custom made calendars featuring events in the life of PPC and with special dates of PPC programs premarked! You won't want to miss having one of these. Workcampers will be selling the calendars for \$20 following the worship service.

**Christian Living and Women's Book Group** are reading *Home* by Marilynne Robinson. Set parallel in time, place and theme to Gilead, her prizewinning novel of 2004, Marilynne Robinson's new novel, *Home*, takes the reader inside the home of retired Presbyterian pastor, Robert Boughton, for another perspective on Jack Boughton, the black sheep of the family, who left Gilead as a young man after fathering a child. Now, 20 years later, Jack has returned home unexpectedly from St. Louis. He finds his younger sister Glory, 38, also home, recuperating from a relationship that ended badly. As brother and sister proceed to care for the elderly Boughton, they get to know each other for the first time as adults.

Sonia, who has just begun the book says, "So far, I find the book explores the following facets of Christian, family, and social life--forgiveness, grace, redemption, sharing responsibility for caring for the elderly, adult sibling relationships, prayer, aging, dying, a small Midwestern farming town dealing with change, and the unique problems of being a pastor or the offspring of a pastor. And that's only the first 70 pages!"

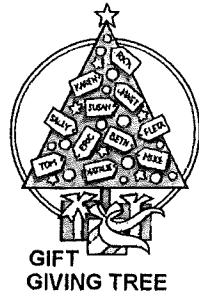
Join us: **Nov. 11 at 9:45 am** for a discussion of the first part of the book, **pgs 1-112,**

**Nov. 25 at 10:30 am** for **pages 112- 228,**

**Dec. 8 at 9:45 am** for **pages 228-325.**

*Beth Williams*

## MISSION NEWS



### GIFT GIVING TREE – DECEMBER 7

The Mission Committee will again be sponsoring a Gift Giving Tree at the Williamsburg Breakfast on **December 7**. This year we will be collecting gifts for the families at the Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville and at the Fisher House at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. On the tree we will have cards requesting presents for the children and needed supplies and gift certificates for the families. Remember to stop by our tree in the Fellowship Hall at the breakfast or during the coffee hour and select an ornament. **Please bring your gifts to church before Worship on Sunday, December 14.**

Call Kay Norvell (301-330-2468) or Carolyn Stump (301-869-7946) if you have questions.



### Fisher House Foundation Pete Fisler Memorial Gift Presentation

**Wednesday, October 8** was a proud and gratifying day for Potomac Presbyterian and especially for the Pete Fisler family. **Jean Fisler and Wendy Petti** joined **Kerry** and members of the Mission Committee as we presented a check from the **Pete Fisler Memorial Fund** to the **President of Fisher House Foundation, Dave Coker**. Half of the funds will be directed to their Capital Campaign to

construct two additional houses on the National Naval Center Campus. These houses provide housing for service member families while their loved ones are going through treatment. The families can then afford to provide their healing love. The Committee also presented a matching check to be used at the discretion of the Bethesda manager to provide financial assistance to resident families of active duty personnel. Fisher House (<http://www.fisherhouse.org>) is an exciting new mission opportunity for our Church. We are grateful to Jean, Wendi and their family for so heartily supporting the Mission Committee's decision to honor Pete's memory in this way.

*Ed Clark, Member of Mission Committee*



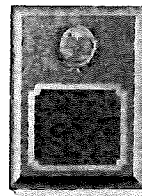
### Carolyn Stump and PPC Honored at Stepping Stones Shelter Awards Ceremony

Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville

([www.steppingstonesshelter.org](http://www.steppingstonesshelter.org)) held its annual Tour and Awards

Ceremony on **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Many individuals and organizations in the County were recognized for their ceaseless efforts to "Heal Homelessness Step by Step." A plaque was given to **Carolyn Stump** "In Appreciation for Outstanding Volunteer Service." PPC was recognized with a plaque for donating at the Gold (second highest) level. Both of these plaques will be on display on the wall outside of the Parlor. The Mission Committee is very grateful for the efforts of Carolyn and all of the members of the congregation who provide such ardent support to this organization.

*Sonia Russo and Tom Hougen, Chairs, Mission Committee*



## LIBRARY NEWS

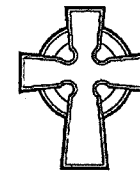
Have you browsed the library shelves lately or the book cart? Many new books have been added. Because of Reformation Sunday, I have put books about the Reformation on the book cart along with the very recent acquisitions. Among the new books is, Caring For Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye by Virginia Stem Owens. Publishers Weekly, in a starred review, compared it to Joan Didion's book and wrote "Owens

offers not self-help, but hope as she bears witness to the grief and glory of life's ending." Yearning: Living Between How It Is & How It Ought To Be by M. Craig Barnes (former pastor of National Pres.) is about faith that must be tough enough to "hold up in the emergency rooms of life".

Another super book is Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 B.C.E. by Amihai Mazar, who is one of the leading archaeologists in Israel. It is written for readers and scholars alike who are interested in expanding their knowledge of the Bible and its world. There are lots more, but not enough room here to write about them. I hope you'll check one out. Just put your name, phone number and the date you take the book on the book card in the back of the book, and then put that card in the brown box.

*Nancy Tietjen*

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.

-H.U. Westermayer

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.

-W. T. Purkiser

For information regarding PPC's Endowments, Special Gifts and Steeple Society, please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee.

Chris Dowd    David Fowler    Gregg Johnson    Elsie Reid    Ed Tennent

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS...** The *Dine with Nine* dinner groups for our congregational members have been organized and letters will be sent out by **November 1st**. This event is a great way to become better acquainted with fellow members of Potomac Presbyterian Church as each group will meet three to four times during the year. It's not too late to join a group if you forgot to turn in your request. Please call Karen Karch at 301-529-1982 for more information.

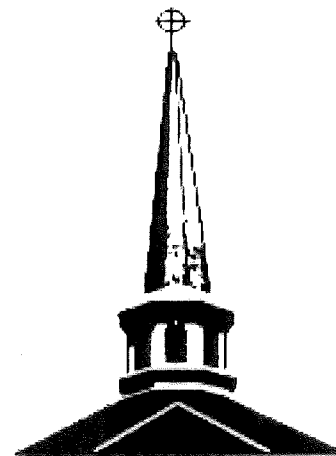
Also: The Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to participate in a **Make Your Own Sundaes Festival** following the church service at **12:00 on November 2, 2008** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time for children and adults to participate in a fun filled activity and sharing.

# November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Ladies Luncheon 2:30 - 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Mother/Daughter Tea</p>
<p>2</p> <p><b>All Saints' Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship / Sundae making &amp; cookie decorating</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Compassionate</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Session Retreat- Fellowship Hall 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>Stewardship Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Committees</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 7:30 p.m. Church Health Team Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Women's Club Craft Sale 9:30 a.m. Reformed Institute Board Mtg.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship / Ornament Making 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 6:30 p.m. Mission Dinner 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Youth Council</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>No Art Class today</b> 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4<sup>th</sup> Mon.)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study <b>No art class today</b> 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir <b>No Kerygma Study today</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>~ HOLIDAY ~ Office Closed</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>~ HOLIDAY ~ Office Closed</b></p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>						

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
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[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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Potomac Presbyterian Church

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DECEMBER 2008

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## KERRY ON...

Dear Friends,

With gratitude for our ministry together I am announcing my intention to retire at the end of April 2009.

Over the years we have shared joys and sorrows. It has been a privilege to be part of your lives and celebrate with you the joy of weddings, births, baptisms, graduations and grandchildren. Walking with you in times of grief, sorrow, pain and tears has helped us to depend on the Lord who heals the brokenhearted. Serving with you at Christmas in April, Habitat projects and rebuilding in New Orleans are times I deeply treasure. The Confirmation pictures on the wall near my office continue to remind me of the rich experience we have shared. They also challenge us all to dedicate ourselves to these young people and their peers in the community and beyond.

I believe that you can look forward to new pastoral leadership that will build on the strengths of our congregation and bring new gifts for the challenges of the next decade and beyond.

The Session will begin a search for an Interim Pastor who will guide the congregation until a new pastor is called. The interim time will be an important time to give special attention to envision what God is calling Potomac Presbyterian Church to become as the future unfolds. Interims have a key role in helping a congregation to prepare for new leadership especially after a long pastorate. This transition will also call forth lay leadership in creative and new ways. It would be anticipated that an Interim Pastor could reasonably begin ministry shortly after my retirement date.

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...

**Dec. 7 –Williamsburg Breakfast – No Class**

**Dec. 14, 21- Beth Williams and Leslianne Braunstein-Pausing on the Road to Bethlehem**

**Dec. 28 - film**

*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.

KERRY ON, *continued*

In the years we have served together I will always be thankful for the growing commitment to mission in hands on service and strong financial support. Caring ministry is close to my heart and I affirm all who have given and continue to give of themselves individually and through Stephen Ministry and Deacons. Education continues to express a hallmark of our Reformed Faith that is Biblical, historical and relevant to today's concerns and issues. Each Sunday I have been privileged to lead this community of faith in praising God, listening for God's Word and being sent into the world as salt of the earth, light of the world, and disciples of the risen Lord.

I have chosen to share my intention to retire with you now so that we may share one more Advent Christmas season, have time for transition and farewells and celebrate Easter together. Ruthanne joins with me in affirming the ministry and future of PPC with the words of the hymn,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

In our Lord's service,



**COME DECORATE THE CHURCH  
SATURDAY- DECEMBER 6 – 9:00 AM**

It is that time of year again! Come one, come all on **Saturday, December 6th** to **decorate the church for Christmas!** There will be Christmas music and refreshments served and lots of good cheer to get you in the Holiday spirit. There are wreaths to be hung, bows to be tied and greens to be arranged. Especially welcome are folks who are comfortable on the extension ladder! Doors open at **9AM**. Please call Courtney Koonce at (301) 208 -1130 with any questions.



**DEACON'S CORNER**

The topic for this month's article is "Change". That happened to be the theme for Barack Obama's successful campaign for the Presidency. Change has come even before the president-elect assumes office. The stock market has dropped to five-year lows. Some of our financial institutions and core enterprises are facing bankruptcies.

I don't know about you, but I was hoping "change" meant good things were about to happen. The news is distressing and no one wants bad things to happen. I hope our leaders are up to the challenges needed to avert unnecessary pain on "Wall Street" and "Main Street".

Change affects us in a more personal way also, of course. There are blessings such as births, weddings, graduations, retirements, appointments, etc. in our families. There are deaths, illnesses, disappointments, etc. in our lives. We all need support that our family, friends and church bring in the good and bad times.

Here are some biblical passages related to "change" that should make you, as a Christian, feel better.

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good pleasing and perfect will."

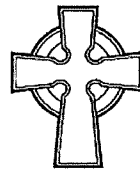
2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

No matter what your situation, take comfort in your spirituality and closeness to God and to our Christian community within this Church.

I will see you at the Williamsburg Breakfast on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars. I promise you that won't change!

*Chuck Naegeli*

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**



When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time.

Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?

~G. K. Chesterton

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I Would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him:

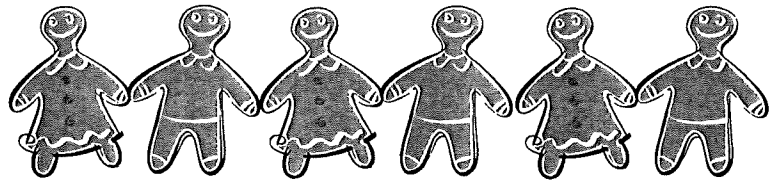
give my heart.

~ Christina

Rossetti

For information regarding PPC's Endowments, Special Gifts and Steeple Society, please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee.

Chris Dowd    David Fowler    Gregg Johnson    Elsie Reid    Ed Tennent



## 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 Wednesday, December 10, 2008  
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!*

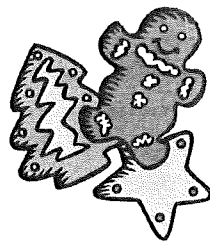
*Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 Time: 7:00 p.m.*

*Location: Potomac Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall*

*RSVP: Signup in Narthex – or call Karen Karch, 301-330-0633*

### *Guidelines:*

- 1. Bring as many cookies as you'd like to exchange.*
- 2. You may want to create recipe cards to share.*
- 3. Bring a container for collecting your cookies.*



## Leslianne



**T**ear: a drop of the saline, watery fluid continually secreted by the lacrimal glands between the surface of the eye and the eyelid, serving to moisten and lubricate these parts and keep them clear of foreign particles. This fluid often appears in or flows from the eye as the result of emotion, especially grief.

Dictionary-dot-com gives a wonderful, succinct definition of the word, tear, but I am so sorry they stopped with “especially grief.” There are lots of reasons why peoples’ eyes “well-up” that have nothing to do with mourning and grief. We experience lots of emotions that engender tears that are not sad.

Did you ever laugh so hard you cried? I hope so. It beats the run-of-the mill belly-laugh by a mile. My husband, who was born deep in the era of “men don’t cry,” will readily admit he shed tears of joy when his first child, Karen, was born. It is not unusual to see a parent’s eyes water with pride when their child accomplishes something great. My eyes often overflow when I pray.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola said that tears are the consolation of the Holy Spirit. St. Ignatius’ definition of 'consolation' is: that state of interior warmth 'by which the soul is inflamed with the love of its Creator and Lord'. This includes 'tears that move to the love of God, whether it be because of sorrow for sins, . . . or for any other reason that is immediately directed to the praise and service of God'. So, it would seem we can add tears of praise to the list of possible reasons to cry.

We usually associate tears with grief or pain; but, often tears can be expressions of our joy in and love for the Lord. When the choir from the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church sang the Twenty-third Psalm on World Communion Sunday, there were many moist eyes in the sanctuary. It was a great movement of the Holy Spirit in this place. We find that same movement of the Spirit during baptisms. It is not unusual to see grown folk’s eyes tear up as the newest covenant member is told the story of God’s love while he or she is introduced to the congregation. Tears are words from the heart that cannot be spoken.

The Bible tells us that when we don’t know how to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. The physical expression of the Holy Spirit’s movement deep in our souls may very well be tears.

May the Spirit move deeply in all of us this Christmas season. *Leslianne Braunstein*

# BETH'S BLURB

Advent is the start of a new church year, and when I suggested that in a quest for increased "passionate spirituality" we could make some New Year's resolutions, Kerry's response was sad but true. He said, "But you know what happens to those." And of course we all do. I had a friend who worked out regularly at the gym and he would stay away for the first few weeks of the New Year because it would be crowded with the "resolutionists." Give them a few weeks and he knew they would be gone and he could get back to his workouts, business as usual. It happened every year. Even so, I am not yet ready to give up on the idea. So this year I am resolving to "**Pause on the Road to Bethlehem**" and engage in a spiritual journey through Advent. You are invited to join me on this journey by using the Advent Devotional provided by the Worship Committee and by participating in the Adult Ed class during Advent where we will engage in a variety of activities centered on Biblical passages that tell the Advent story. Every session will include the following:

- A Bible passage that relates to Advent
- A group activity that draws participants into the Biblical story and encourages thoughtful reflection using poetry, music, art, and prayer
- Guided prayer using a unique format each week
- Take It Home - suggestions for continuing the Advent-ure during the week.

So, if you don't want to rush through another Advent season, but long to slow down, to take a breath and to wonder at the good news of Emmanuel, "God with us," then resolve to join us as we pause on the road to Bethlehem, **Sunday mornings at 9:45 am** in the library, **Nov. 30, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21.**

**REMINDER:** No Sunday School on Dec. 28. The College students will be leading the service on December 28.

## WORKCAMP FUNDRAISERS



**PPC Calendars** are for sale for \$20. These are custom made calendars featuring pictures from the life of our church with special dates of PPC events and programs pre-marked!

**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 Elmira, New York. Gift Cards will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall on **Nov. 30 – Dec. 21.**

*Beth Williams*



Please welcome our new nursery worker! Rosalinda Alonso is a full time nanny here in Potomac, working for a neighbor of Karen Wise. She has held this position for a number of years and comes highly recommended. We are very happy to have her helping us on Sunday mornings. Please stop in and welcome her!



## GIFT GIVING TREE – DECEMBER 7

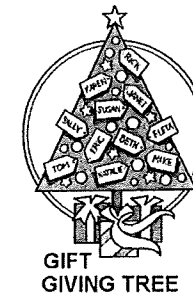
The Mission Committee will again be sponsoring a Gift Giving Tree at the Williamsburg Breakfast on **December 7.**

We will be collecting gifts for the children living at the Stepping Stones shelter in Rockville as we have done for several years. This year we will also collect gifts for the residents of the Fisher House, a residence for families visiting patients at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

On the tree we will have cards requesting presents for the children and needed supplies and gift certificates for the families.

Remember to stop by our tree in Fellowship Hall at the breakfast or during the coffee hour and select an ornament. **Please bring your gifts to church before Worship on Sunday, December 14.**

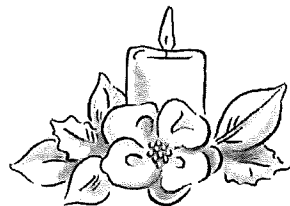
Call Kay Norvell (301-330-2468) or Carolyn Stump (301-869-7946) if you have questions.



## *The Window of Opportunity For Tax Free Withdrawal Of IRA Funds Extended Through 2009---Help PPC and Avoid Taxes!*

On October 3, the signing of the Economic Stimulus Bill of 2008 extends the provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 through **2009**; thus allowing those of you over 70½ to give up to \$100,000 **tax free** directly from your IRA by your plan administrator to PPC. 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.





## Our prayers are with...

..... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Bob Garcia at home; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins, in the hospital in Pennsylvania; Sarah Hipps, recovering from knee surgery at home; Everett Morgan, son of Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan (missionaries in Bangladesh), recently diagnosed with bone cancer; Kitty Cowie and family, on the death of her father, George Cowie, on November 2. A funeral service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, March 16, 2009; Stephen Kirchner, recovering from a bone marrow transplant at Duke University Medical Center; Joan Thomas, Judy Miller's mother, recovering from hip replacement surgery.

**Congratulations** to Steve and Rebecca King on the birth of their son, Jonathan Rudy King, born October 7. Proud grandparents are Bob and Cheryl King and brother, Robert.

**Congratulations** to Shawn and Kathy Conley on the birth of their twin daughters, Mackenzie and Alexa, on November 19. Proud grandparents are Miriam and Bob Conley and sister, Corinne.

**Congratulations** to Jack and Marjorie Christian who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 27.

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

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

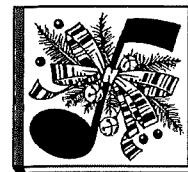
## STEPHEN MINISTRY



*A burden, even a small one, when carried alone and in isolation can destroy us, but a burden when carried as part of God's burden can lead us to new life. That is the great mystery of our faith.*

~Henri Nouwen

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with Pastor Kerry or Pastor Leslie to learn more about Stephen Ministry.



## The Wright Note

This is the time of year when

we all get very serious about our calendars. Therefore I will help you arrange your schedules if you have interest in two particular activities.

The first one is the annual **Caroling Event at Manor Care on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. This year we are adding a new twist to this outreach activity. We are inviting instrumentalists who may have played in the Jesus Birthday Band in the past, as well as anyone else who would enjoy playing a long-neglected or currently pursued instrument, to join the singing carolers at **2:30 p.m.** for a time of caroling and a short worship service that Pastor Kerry will conduct. I will hold **one** rehearsal for this instrumental ensemble on **Saturday morning, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.** The musical arrangements are quite simple, but players will need to know how to read music in order to follow the carol accompaniments. Here is the Sunday plan. The Fellowship Committee will serve the carolers and band members lunch at **12:45 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. After lunch we will get into our cars and proceed over to Manor Care and set up for the **2:30** caroling. What a grand opportunity this is for us to share our enjoyment of playing and singing our beloved Christmas carols with the residents of a facility that normally is not filled with such joyful musical sounds. Please watch for a poster in the narthex for signing up to sing and/or play.

The second activity that I want to discuss is the **Pageant** that will be presented during the worship service on **Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**. The children's choirs carry most of the musical responsibility for the pageant format. The songs and appropriate actions are rehearsed during the choirs' weekly rehearsals. This year I would like to extend an invitation to any older youth who would like to sing in a narrative choir that would help portray the story. Don't worry; no special costumes! Rehearsal times for this narrative youth choir will occur with other existing choirs at **9:00 o'clock** on the first two Sundays of **December (7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday morning, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.** Signing up for this choir involves a commitment to four rehearsals.

The title of the pageant is Bethlehem Night. A rehearsal for all participants will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**. Singers, narrative choir, speaking parts, the Holy Family and star, lamb, shepherd and king volunteers from the Sunday School are asked to come. On **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** I will post a sign-up chart for Sunday School volunteers for the non-speaking roles. Since these children need to maintain a given role for an extended period of time and respond to cues for placement, I suggest that parents wait until children are at least four years old to participate.

I could really use some helpers with scenery and costumes. Please contact me if you would like to serve on the pageant preparation committee. I am having a meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** in the parlor.

Thank you, and don't forget to **mark all these dates** on your calendar.

Cindy Wright



### *Advent I*

#### **November 30 ~ Sunday**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00a.m. Worship / Communion
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 12:15 p.m. Make a nativity
- 5:00 p.m. Family/Youth  
Leftovers Potluck

#### **12/1 - Monday**

- 7:30 p.m. New Officer Training

#### **12/2 – Tuesday**

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

#### **12/3 – Wednesday**

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

#### **12/4 – Thursday**

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

#### **12/6 – Saturday**

- 9:00 a.m. Church Christmas Decorating



### *Advent II*

#### **December 7 ~ Sunday**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
and Youth Narrative Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 5-7 p.m. Youth Fellowship

#### **12/8 – Monday**

- 7:30 p.m. Session

#### **12/9 – Tuesday**

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Living
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry  
Supervision Group
- 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training

#### **12/10 – Wednesday**

- 9:30 a.m. Art Class
- 3:00 p.m. Collingswood
- 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Cookie Exchange
- 7:30 p.m. Kerygma

#### **12/11 – Thursday**

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

#### **12/13 – Saturday**

- 10:00 a.m. Band rehearsal for caroling
- 5-7 p.m. Youth Bible Study



### *Advent III*

#### **December 14 ~ Sunday**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers  
and Youth Narrative Choir
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch for Carolers and Band
- 2:30 p.m. Caroling at Manor Care  
w/ Band

#### **12/16 – Tuesday**

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

#### **12/17 – Wednesday**

- 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir,  
Sunrise Singers and Youth  
Narrative Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Kerygma
- 7:30 p.m. M.O.S.

#### **12/18 – Thursday**

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

#### **12/20 – Saturday**

- 10:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal for all  
participants



### *Advent IV*

#### **December 21 ~ Sunday**

- 9:45 a.m. Pageant participants in  
sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for those  
not in pageant
- 11:00 a.m. Worship / Pageant
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship / College Lunch
- 5-7 p.m. Youth Fellowship

#### **12/23 – Tuesday**

- 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group

#### **Christmas Eve**

#### **12/24 – Wednesday**

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

#### **Christmas 12/25 – Thursday**

Holiday – Office Closed

#### **12/26 – Friday**

Holiday – Office Closed

#### **December 28 ~**

#### **College Student Sunday**

- 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship