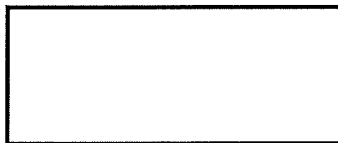


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Sean Miller, Pastor
Kendra Grams, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries
Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist

ADULT EDUCATION, Sundays at 9:45

FORUM CLASS - (meets in the Library)

- February 3 Tom Miles, *The Tough Teachings of Jesus: How do you respond to them?*
February 10 Chris Martin, *Chaplaincy to In-Service Military, Part 1*
February 17 Chris Martin, *PTSD and Moral Injury*
February 24 Ted Carroll, *Education in Turmoil – K-12*

FAITH MATTERS - (meets in the Parlor)

Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by
E-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.
STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

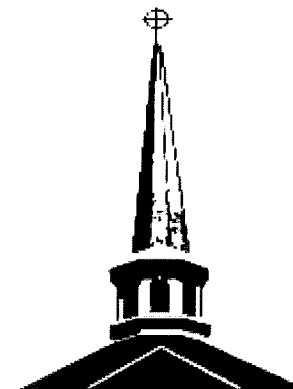
Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church

February 2013



*Words from
Our Pastor*



When Lent Comes Early

Although it seems that we have just put away the Advent and Christmas decorations, Lent is now only a couple of weeks away. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th. That feels very early to those of us who just exhaled after a busy and eventful Advent season. Nevertheless, Lent begins in nearly two weeks, as we will soon be called to journey with Jesus toward the cross at Calvary.

When Lent is early on the calendar, as it is this year, the season seems to creep up on us and take us by surprise. We don't feel ready; yet the words of Scripture, the music, and the traditions of our worship call us to reflect, and to rededicate ourselves to walking the lonesome valley with Jesus Christ. The strains of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" still echo in our hearts; yet we will soon be called to sing the haunting words of "Were You There?" The advent wreath has only recently been put away for another year, and soon we will gather to receive ashes and gather around the table as Jesus' first disciples did.

When Lent is early on the calendar, I am reminded of the story of Peter, James, and John, who go up the mountain with Jesus, only to witness Jesus transfigured before them. The disciples want to stay on the top of the mountain with Jesus forever, but it is then that Jesus tells them that they must go down the mountain, for the Son of Man will soon suffer and die. It was a startling revelation to those disciples who wanted to bask in the glow of Jesus and stay on top of the mountain forever. That year, for the disciples, Lent came early as well, shocking them into a new understanding of Jesus and a new understanding of their call as his disciples.

This year, my hope is that we are startled by Lent, and that we, like the first disciples, are willing to go down the mountain with Jesus, to walk slowly with him, as he journeys to the cross.

In Christ,
Pastor Sean



LENTEN JOURNEY

The symbols in the sanctuary are a reminder of our Lord's journey to the cross. The *aloe plant* represents the time Jesus spent in the desert and His power of healing; the *purple cloth* symbolizes the royal robes the people used to mock Jesus; the *crown of thorns* reminds us of the painful cruelty and what was placed on Jesus' head at the crucifixion; the large *cross* represents Christ's physical

death and the *primitive cup and plate* on the communion table calls to mind Jesus' last supper with his friends, "Do this in remembrance of me...". The small stones are something to carry with you throughout the season as a reminder of Jesus' resolution to take his path to the cross. In Luke 9:51, the Scriptures say that Jesus "resolutely set his face", so we use a small stone to remind us of Jesus' resolution in his journey to the cross.

On Wednesday, February 13th, we begin the Forty Day Season of Lent. This day is marked with worship, prayer and the placing of ashes on the forehead as a reminder that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. It is a time of committing ourselves to various spiritual disciplines to prepare ourselves for Easter. For forty days we walk with Jesus through the wilderness toward the cross.

Lent is a time of inward reflection, repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual preparation. During Lent we think more deeply about what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to be changed into his likeness, and to follow him step by step. Together we will observe Lent in the following ways:



Ash Wednesday Worship, Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.

This day is marked with worship, prayer and the placing of ashes on the forehead as a reminder that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. It is a time of committing ourselves to various spiritual disciplines to prepare ourselves for Easter. Our worship will include silence, singing, scripture, and the imposition of ashes and communion by intinction. Living into Lent is a choice. Before you get to Ash Wednesday, you may need to slow down a bit and listen to your inner spirit. Be encouraged to make Lent a part of your daily lives.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, Sunday, March 24, 11:00 a.m.



On Sunday, March 24, we will celebrate Palm Sunday. Traditional palms will be available in a basket in the Narthex. **Palm Sunday** commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19). This service remembers the stories of the last week of Jesus' life. The branches remind us that there are both triumphs and defeats in our lives but that if we maintain our friendship with God, we will ultimately triumph.



DEACON'S CORNER

A Retreat Worth Remembering

On a foggy Saturday in January, the PPC Deacons and Elders met for a retreat, led by Pastor Sean and inspired by the words of a book written by Joan Gray, which used the images of rowboats and sailboats to help us ponder and plan the course for the coming year at PPC. With all new and continuing officers in attendance, we

started the day with coffee, donuts and prayer. Gray's book suggests that the unseen force of the wind that powers the sailboat, rather the effort needed to man the oars of a rowboat, is a metaphor for the unseen power of God that propels us forward and supports us on our life journey, both as individuals and as a church body....and that with God all things are possible. "God...empowers us to do more than we ever have dreamed."

During the morning we met together as a large group and discussed the metaphysical meaning of the book and generated ideas on specific undertakings that can be applied in the day to day operations of our church. For the afternoon session we separated into two groups...Elders and Deacons....with Pastor Sean dividing his time between the two. The Deacons, led by Gloria Leber, looked back on the year that was, and looked forward to the year to come. We discussed how the Deacons charge of service, both fellowship and congregational care, will be implemented. Our new Deacons, Jonathan Davies, Kay Norvell, Sally O'Neal, and Sonia Russo, will be wonderful additions to the group, as we enter our 50th anniversary year. As always, Deacons encourage anyone with a concern or a need, to contact his or her Deacon, who will then try to provide support and/or referral as needed.

With the power of the wind of faith beneath our sails we anticipate a year of celebration, challenge, and commitment to proclaim our Lord in the work of our church and in the outreach to others.
Deacon Sigrid McCutcheon

Trip to the Holy Lands, December 2013

This is just a reminder that to reserve your spot, if you have not already done so, you need to complete the registration form and return it to Jeanne Grillo in the church office before February 15th. The trip registration form can be downloaded from the web site: <http://www.travelillum.com/trc/yqi/>
If you have difficulty, contact Jeanne Grillo.



.....the Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Bob Lynch, nephew of Nancy Tietjen; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Jacqueline Alarie, sister of Mark Alarie and aunt of Isabella, Christian, and Alexander; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Christian Miller, son of Nancy and Charlie Miller

PPC Men's Book Group – 2013

The group meets the **third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30 in the church parlor.** Discussion is followed by lunch at Hunter's Inn for those who are interested in continuing the discussion. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions.

Feb 19, 2013 Polio: An American Story by David M. Oshinsky

Mar 19, 2013 The Long Ships by Frans Gunnar Bengtsson

Apr 16, 2013 Main Street by Sinclair Lewis

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee of PPC supports international, national and local organizations with support of our church families and special giving during the year. The organizations/groups that receive our support respond by sending thank-you or telling us what they have done or doing with the support from PPC. Below are two of such acknowledgements:

"I just received your wonderful letter and the cheque from Potomac Presbyterian Church in this morning's mail. I cannot tell you how much of a God-send it is! We are just beginning our October pumpkin patch which will help fund the Programme of Hope down the road during the deepest part of Winter, but the gift that Potomac has shared with us will help the homeless and poor in our area as the Fall days get shorter and life gets a little more difficult on the street of New Orleans." **First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans.**

"On behalf of all of us at Miriam's Kitchen, we would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$700. Your gift help provide over 6,000 healthy meals and case management services to more than 800 homeless individuals this month alone. You've helped us inspire, strengthen and encourage our guests to improve their quality of life and in many cases, achieve self-sufficiency." **Miriam's Kitchen, Washington, DC**

Your mission committee here at PPC thank you for your support and we will look forward to the 50th anniversary and hope to continue supporting the organizations/groups during 2013 with God's Help and Blessings.

Maundy Thursday Worship And Communion, Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

On March 28th we will have a special Maundy Thursday Service. Christians meet on Thursday evening of Holy Week to remember Christ's gathering his disciples in an upper room for a special meal before moving toward the events culminating in his crucifixion. It was upon this occasion that Jesus took bread and wine and identified them with himself as a means for remembering him always. This service is designed to draw Christians back in time to recall and experience the significance of that night in the light of their present knowledge of the risen Christ. We will remember our Lord's Last Supper in a special service of communion by intinction.

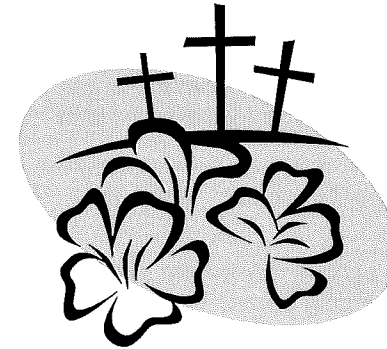
**There will be a light supper served and hosted by the Fellowship Committee in Fellowship Hall before the worship service in the sanctuary.*



Good Friday Tenebrae Worhsip, Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.



This moving service culminates extinguishing of the lights at Tenebrae. During this time of worship, we will hear readings from the gospels which describe the time between the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ. These readings will include the last seven sayings of Jesus, assembled from the various gospel accounts. Following each passage, the reader will extinguish a candle to represent the flight of the disciples and the approach of the dark hate of Jesus' enemies. When the last passage has been read the church will be completely dark to recall the days when Jesus was in the tomb.



For our worship on Easter, March 31st, the paraments will be switched to white, the symbols that have been in the sanctuary during our Lenten journey will be gone, and in their place will be Easter Lilies and beautiful flowers symbolizing our new life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ! The Easter Lily symbolizes the Glory of the Risen Lord and the joy of the faithful who believe in God's promise of new life.

We hope you will join us as we worship together. Please note our special worship schedule for the Lent season:

February 13	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship - Communion Served by Intinction
March 24	11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
March 28	7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship - Communion Served by Intinction
March 29	7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae
March 31	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship



Who will be the first one to check out this little gem, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr? It has been recommended by several people. The first sentence is: "A journey into the second half of our own lives awaits us all." What is falling upward? Read this intriguing book

to find out. It all makes sense.

It's on the book cart beside other wonderful books for you to check out.

Put your name 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 near the computer.



I want to ask you a question. It will not hurt you; it might make you think, and it may change your life.

Ready? Here goes... "Have you thought about joining the choir at Potomac Presbyterian Church?"

Are you still there? Hello? Please – keep reading!

So... why aren't you in the choir?

In a way, you are. I think of our congregation as one big choir, singing God's praises. One of the joys of my life is leading congregational song – from the organ or the piano, sometimes by singing loudly myself. Hymns are a wonderful way to express our faith – and a way to help us remember who we are, as a community of faith.

I would like you to think about joining the "smaller" choir, also. Those of us that sit upstairs and sometimes sing by ourselves.

Choirs are a vital part of a worship service. They help lead the congregation's song – sometimes by singing a hymn; sometimes by singing an anthem, or through a response. Through music, our choirs help shed light on God's Word. It's a form of ministry, I believe. We could use your help.

Did you used to sing in a choir? At your home church? In school? In college? Why did you stop – Job? Kids? Travel? Do you miss it?

Before you know it, Lent will be here. Do you know why we "give something up" during Lent? I used to think it was for suffering, or denial of a pleasure; but now I have come to understand that we "give something up" in order to "take something else on" – to make time for increased study, meditation, prayer, or for another form of devotion.

Why not "take on" singing in the choir for Lent? If you can carve out an hour and twenty minutes on Thursday nights, we'd love to have you join us. (Even if you don't...there might be a way around that. You never know.) You'd be taking on something meaningful... and something enjoyable.

If you've got any questions about it... I'd be glad to try and answer them.

I look forward to talking to you.

Tom Andrew
Director of Music & Organist



2013

**Hazard, Kentucky
PPC Mission Trip**



Have you heard adults and youth talking about the great time that was had by all last summer in Oak Hill, West Virginia? Now is your chance to spend a week in service while getting to know other youth and adults in the congregation. The friendships last forever.

All members of PPC (youth currently in grade 8 and above *AND* adults) are invited to participate in a week of service, Saturday, June 15-Saturday, June 22, 2013, in Hazard Kentucky. We will be serving with the Housing Development Alliance of Hazard, Kentucky. Volunteers work on various phases of construction, including site preparation, shingling, digging footer drains, framing floors and walls, painting, and landscaping. Construction experience is not required. A carpenter will always be onsite to guide us through each project.

We will be staying at First Presbyterian Church of Hazard in various Sunday school and fellowship rooms where we will cook our own meals. We will shower at the nearby Hazard Pavilion, which has a heated 25-meter pool, two tennis courts, three racquetball/handball courts, a 1/12 mile long track, a weight room, a sauna, and an aerobics room that are available to us free of charge.

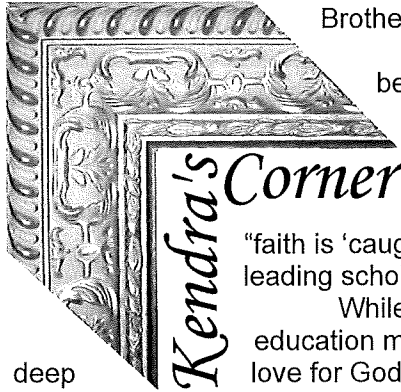
Trip participants are asked to contribute \$300 toward the cost of the trip. Scholarships are available. Please speak with Pastor Sean or Pastor Kendra privately if a full or partial scholarship is needed. Participants are also expected to be involved actively in various fundraising efforts throughout the year.

TO SIGN UP:

Submit signed participant covenant and a \$50 non-refundable deposit to Pastor Kendra as soon as possible. Deadline to register is Sunday, March 17th.

LIKE TO COOK?

If outdoor, physical work isn't exactly your thing, but you like to cook for lots of people, consider joining our mission team as a cook. All team participants will rotate on to kitchen staff, but it is great to have someone who can coordinate and prep stuff ahead of time if we get stuck on the job site. Talk to Pastor Kendra if you are interested.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the slight lull in the liturgical calendar that comes between Christmas and Lent, I've been blessed with a bit of time to reflect on recent life events. In particular, I've been thinking back to the blessings of my ordination in November and reflecting on how my faith journey led to that moment. And I've found it striking how true John Westerhoff's premise that "faith is 'caught,' not 'taught'" has been even in my own life (Westerhoff is a leading scholar in the field of Christian Education).

While I certainly have experienced many hours of Christian education myself and believe that it is vitally important, I know that my love for God and for the church was nurtured most meaningfully by the deep model my parents and grandparents set.

Interestingly, my first memory of church is of the day that my parents joined First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, Nebraska, shortly after we moved to town. I was 3 years old. I remember sitting in church and my parents explaining that they had to go up front for a bit. My brother (age 6) and I were to sit quietly—no fighting! I remember watching in awe as they answered "special" questions and the congregation applauded them. I remember learning that day that church was a special place where people welcomed you before they even knew you.

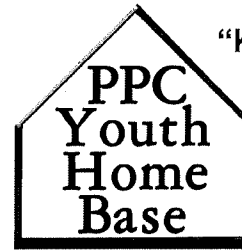
No one taught me that lesson; I caught on all by myself (and probably with a little help from the Holy Spirit). Similarly, I came to understand and believe that God forgives us by hearing it every Sunday in worship following the prayer of confession. I came to understand and believe that giving was an important way to show your love for God by seeing my mother writing the offering check each week, handing it to my father to put in his coat pocket, and asking if I could drop it in the plate when it was passed down the pew. I learned to worship, by worshipping (and by asking my parents, Sunday School teachers, and pastors—but mainly my parents—questions when I had them).

As I reflect on the busy, high pressured lives that so many people live, especially in this region of the country, it strikes me that we would all do well to remember that Christian faith is more readily "caught" than "taught." The example we set and the habits we model for our children and youth (both those in our own families and those in our family of faith whom we promised to nurture at their baptisms) are critically important.

So, my challenge to us all this upcoming Lenten season is to be more intentional about how we are modeling faith to our children and youth. Are we showing them they are welcome through our words and actions? Are we demonstrating our love for God through active participation in worship? in Fellowship? in study? in mission? Are we inviting them to come along and do these things with us? Are we living our faith so that it can be "caught" by others? It is my hope and my prayer that we would all endeavor to do so.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kendra



"Keeping the Entire Congregation Informed and Involved"

Upcoming Youth Events Include:

Friday Night Trampoline Frenzy—All youth in grades 6-12 are invited Friday, February 1, from 6:30-9:30pm, to travel with us to Rebounderz Indoor Trampoline Arena in Sterling, Virginia, for a night of jumping up and down and off the walls. Dinner included. Friends welcome. Please bring \$20 to help cover costs (scholarships available). Waiver required. Contact Pastor Kendra immediately if you'd like to participate.

Middle School Youth Group—Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to the church Friday, February 15, from 6:30-9:30pm for dinner, games, a devotional, and prayer. Friends are welcome.

Sr. High Youth Group—Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to the church on Sunday, February 17, from 6:30-8:00pm for fellowship, reflection, and prayer. Friends are welcome.

Middle School Youth Group—Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to the church Friday, March 1, from 6:30-9:30pm for dinner, games, a devotional, and prayer. Friends are welcome.

Youth Council Lunch—Youth in grades 6-12 who would like to help plan for our April retreat and for further youth events are invited to lunch following worship on Sunday, March 3rd.

Ropes Course—On Sunday, March 17, following worship, all youth in grades 6-12 are invited to lunch and an afternoon of climbing at Go Ape: Rock Creek. The Go Ape treetop adventure course is made up of 6 zip lines, numerous rope ladders, 44 "bridge" crossings, and 2 tarzan swings. Wavier required. Please bring \$20 to help cover costs (scholarships available). RSVP to Pastor Kendra by Tuesday, March 12 (NO EXCEPTIONS).



New Steeple to People Editor

I have edited the Steeple to People since November of 2006 when Sonia Russo and Beth Rudnic trained me and answered my myriad of questions. Looking back through my computer files, it is hard to believe that much time has passed. In 2006 my three sons were active teenagers and the Steeple to People was one of the few tasks I felt I could "complete", unlike

laundry! Thank you for all your interesting articles and for respecting the deadlines. I am excited Jeanne Grillo has graciously agreed to add Steeple to People Editor to her many responsibilities. Articles can be sent directly to her at admin@potomacpresbyterian.org. Thanks Jeanne!
-Sherry Johnson

Thank You! Sherry

The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church
March 2013



Letter from the Pastor—March 2013

One of the hidden treasures in the church office is a collection of Steeples to People from the early years of our congregation. The first Steeples to People were published soon after the congregation was officially chartered, in early 1964. The early editions are a window not only into the life and times of PUPC (the church was called Potomac United Presbyterian Church at that time), but also into the village of Potomac itself.

In those early days, the Steeple to People was the sole means (besides Sunday bulletins) of communication to church members. Today, we have a wide array of communication tools available to us, from the PPC Facebook pages, to the website, and the Thursday Spirit. These are the primary ways in which we can communicate the most up to date information about upcoming events at PPC. And, our Deacons are actively involved in keeping those members who do not use email informed through their Deacon Groups.

The Steeple to People remains an essential means to communicate to the members and friends of PPC, as it was in the early years of the congregation. With our other e-communication tools available to us, we now have the opportunity to use the Steeple to People to not only communicate about events and programs, but also to provide a more in depth look at the people of PPC and issues of faith and life that matter to all of us.

For example, this issue begins a 50th anniversary series highlighting some of our

longtime members, re-introducing you to them, and hearing a bit about why PPC has been a vital part of their family for so many years. In the future, articles from the staff will focus on larger issues of faith and life and their impact on ministry here at PPC. And, I encourage all PPC members who submit articles for the Steeple to People to focus not only on monthly events that can be described in the Thursday Spirit and on the website, but rather to highlight relevant issues or topics that are of concern to our members and to your specific area of ministry.

Finally, it would not be an article about the Steeple to People without one big thank you, to Miriam Conley, who takes on the task every month of making sure the Steeple to People gets folded, sorted, and mailed at the Post Office. Miriam does a big job with grace and ease. Thank you, Miriam!

For almost 50 years, the Steeple to People has been a vital connection between the church and its people. May the tradition continue for many years to come!

Blessings,

Pastor Sean

Notes from the Session

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on February 18th. A large portion of the meeting was devoted to the first reading of our draft Safe Church Policy, which has been under development for almost a year under the leadership of Reverend Grams. The policy provides administrative provisions to ensure the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults and includes several provisions related to emergency preparedness for our church.

Other topics considered during this meeting included:

- Initial discussion of the options related to refinancing the mortgage on the manse and the relationship of manse debt to the fundraising campaign envisioned as part of our 50th Anniversary year.
- A decision to continue funding for the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington for the next five-year period.
- A report from the *Glory to God* Hymnal Committee, which has been chaired by Elder Bob Stow. More information will be provided to the congregation on this subject, but the committee has recommended that, for now, PPC continue to worship with our current hymnals.
- Review of the Annual Meeting of February 10th. Feedback from the congregation has been positive, expressing general satisfaction with the format of the meeting.

Additional information on any of these items can be obtained from your Elder representatives.

Cal Reid, Clerk of Session
February 22, 2013

Deacon Corner

By now, most of you should have received a note from your Deacon introducing ourselves to you. It has been a special time for us to take a few minutes to think about each of you as we wrote your note and our desire to get to know each of you better. We would like to know your joys and your sorrows and be able to share in them with you. We have already received an overwhelming response from members in our groups thanking us for communicating with them and letting them "meet" their Deacon. We already know that this is going to be a special year in the life of our Church and we sincerely hope it will be a significant time for all of you also.



One way the Deacons hope to get to know the members in our group better is to incorporate the group members in helping with Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings. Each Deacon is responsible for three or four Sundays throughout the year to host Coffee Hour. With the help of two to three families each time, there will be a chance to socialize together and make the time together "fun" if we can just spend a little time together serving coffee and goodies to the Congregation following Church. It is not difficult and it gives others a chance to meet you and put a "name" with a "face". By having a few people working together for Coffee Hour, it makes it easier when taking our turn as well as making it more enjoyable to be able to talk with you when pouring the coffee. Please take the time to agree to help us when asked.

We are looking forward to being in touch again soon.

Your Deacon,
Gloria Leber

50th Anniversary Celebration News

Jim Dart – Staying True to the Vision of the Founders

Jim Dart moved to Potomac when he was 9 years old. His parents, Rachel and Jack, quickly met other families who were interested in organizing a new church, and Jim attended the first worship service at Potomac Elementary School in January 1963. Shirley Tietjen was his first Sunday School teacher in the congregation that was to become Potomac Presbyterian Church. Alyce Tamzarian, another long time member of our church, was a fifth grade teacher at the elementary school at the time.

The property for our church was donated by Arther Hyde, who formerly lived in the big white house across River Road from Congressional Country Club and adjacent to the Norwood School. Since Jim lived on Gary Road, he saw the church grow from the ground up. He remembers watching the swampy, woody area - across the street from a cornfield - slowly be transformed into our lovely church. In the early days, Jim remembers that the organ was housed in a pit at the back of the sanctuary. That was before the choir balcony or our current Fellowship Hall was built. When worshippers left the sanctuary, they turned left in the narthex and headed upstairs for fellowship in what is now our library and parlor area.

In those days, Jim's father, Jack, and his sister, Janis, played on the PPC bowling league at the River Bowl Lanes in Bethesda. Jack served as clerk of session and as an elder, and Jim's mother, Rachel, was active in the women's group. The manse was located on Marseille Drive off of Falls Rd, and Jim remembers Sunday afternoon youth group gatherings there. Jim has a strong memory of our "Preacher Snuffer" sounding board – the correct name is

'tester' – being stored behind the stage in the Potomac Elementary School all purpose room in anticipation of its eventual use in our future sanctuary.



As an adult, Jim served on the Board of Deacons and on the Session, and has served for many years on the Property Committee. He has always tried to stay true to the original vision of our founders. We look at the octagonal sanctuary, the octagonal sounding board, and the octagonal baptismal font and think that our founders had a vision of the physical architecture and furnishings of our church and also a vision for the family of faith that we would become.

PPC has meant a lot to Jim and his wife Beth. Rachel Dart's memorial service was held at PPC in 1990, and Jack's in 2005. Jim and Beth's daughter, Jennifer, was baptized, confirmed, and married at PPC.

Jim has taken great joy, over the years, in watching PPC children grow up – progressing from sitting on the floor during the "Children's Time", to "coloring in the pews" during the service, to offering their "Youth Sermon" in their senior year of high school. His hope for the future is that PPC will continue to grow and attract new families to help carry on the vision of our founders.

From the Associate Pastor



Notes

From the Associate Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Given our culture of "more-more-more" and the abundance which surrounds us, it can be very difficult to truly appreciate the extent of our privilege. Yet, as Christians we are called not only to appreciate our privilege and give thanks for all our blessings, but also to understand the inequality (and yes, injustice) that exists when we have so much and others have so little and to work for an end of such injustices. It is a daunting call, to right injustice, particularly when we are the beneficiaries, but it is our call as Christians. For, as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed on behalf of God, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice" (Isaiah 58:6).

Accordingly, this Lent during the Time for Young Disciples each Sunday, the children and I have been trying to think a little more intentionally about injustice and how we can help. We have been and will continue each Sunday to think about one thing (food, electricity, schooling, etc.) that we often take for granted. We have been trying not only to say thanks to God for these things, but to "loose the bonds of injustice" by giving back toward solutions through the One Great Hour of Sharing (see www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/special_offerings/one-great-hour-sharing-offering for more information). For example, on the first Sunday in Lent, we talked about all the things we have to eat, and the children were challenged to pick a day, keep track of all the different types of things they eat that day, and then give a coin or dollar for each different item as we seek to make sure all people have proper

nutrition. Simple acts such as these not only build awareness and appreciation of our privilege, but provide a direct connection with solutions for the injustices that are linked to our privilege.

So, this is an open invitation, to spend some time as we continue the Lenten journey considering how you can seek, or maybe already are seeking, to "loose the bonds of injustice" in some way, large or small. May God bless you on the Lenten road as together we strive for clean hearts and right spirits (Psalm 51:10).

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kendra



From the Music Director

Not Only a Day, but a Season

Easter – can be referred to in many ways: The Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord; The Eighth Day of Creation; Passover, or "The New Passover". All these names point to the same thing, namely - the central belief of Christianity –the day that Christ overcame death.

According to Scripture, Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday following Passover. (See Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-3, Luke 23:56-24:3, and John 20:1). For this reason, ancient Christians celebrated Easter (which they called Passover) on the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover, which is 14 Nisan on the Jewish calendar, and which is tied to celebrating the spring harvest. The only exceptions were in Syria and Mesopotamia, where ancient Christians celebrated Easter on 14 Nisan, no matter which day of the week it happened to be.

No one in ancient times denied that the Resurrection took place on a Sunday. (Which became "The First Day" of the week – a change from the Hebrew Sabbath.) There was huge disagreement on which Sunday to hold the celebration. Why? Several reasons – the "moveable" date of the Passover, the switch from the Jewish Calendar to the Julian (Roman) calendar, which allowed both for 2 Passovers in a 12 month period, and the celebration of a spring harvest before spring actually happened.

Confused? So was everyone. So in 325, the Council of Nicea was convened to deal with Arianism and to standardize the date of Easter. The Council of Nicea, noting that Syria and Mesopotamia represented a small minority, required them to conform to the practice of the majority. The bishops from Syria and Mesopotamia readily agreed to this ruling and

their churches complied with it. The Council of Nicea also ruled that all churches must celebrate Easter on the same day. This clearly implies that they instituted a standard method for calculating the date of the full moon after the spring equinox, but the documentary evidence for it has not survived. Some ancient writers, notably Ambrose, felt that the Council of Nicea prescribed the mathematical formula that we presently use to fix the date of Easter, but we can no longer prove it.

The Western Church applies the Nicene formula to the calendar as reformed by Pope Gregory in 1582. (This calendar reform resulted in the Gregorian calendar that we use today for secular purposes.) The Eastern Church applies the Nicene formula to the old Julian Calendar, which was instituted by Julius Caesar and served as the civil calendar of the Roman Empire before the birth of Christ. The Eastern Church also applies the formula in such a way that Easter always falls after the Jewish Passover.

I once took a course in which the Professor made the statement, "Every Sunday is a little Easter- and every Easter should be one big Sunday." So on the Day of Resurrection, we celebrate in a big way – special music, flowers, shouts of "Alleluia" to the God who, through the Son, triumphed over death.

The Easter Season lasts 50 days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, and includes the celebration of the Ascension of Christ. It is often called "The Great Fifty Days".



Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Women's Retreat in May



Planning is underway for a one-day retreat for the women of the church. Save **Saturday, May 4th, 10am-4pm, at the Garrett Park Town**

Hall for a day of rest and rejuvenation!

Register now for Vacation Bible School 2013



Children between the ages of 3 (potty trained)-4th grade (in the fall of 2013) are invited to join us July 8-12, 9:30am-12:30pm, for the *Everywhere Fun Fair* where kids celebrate God's welcoming love and

learn how to be a good neighbor.

Registration is now open to PPC members only. We will open registration to members of the community beginning March 15th. Please register online on www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Space is limited, however, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration will be closed early if capacity is reached.

Holy Week Schedule

March 24	11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
March 28	7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
March 29	7:30 p.m.	Good Friday
March 31	9 a.m.	Easter Worship
	10 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
	11 a.m.	Easter Worship

Easter Flower Fund

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event with a contribution to our Easter Flower Fund. Dedications will be listed in our Easter Sunday Bulletin. Please use the "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelopes found in the pew racks and make a note on the envelope and/or check that it is for Easter Lilies and include your dedication phrase. Please place your envelope in the offering plate or mail/return to the church office. **The last date for contributions is Sunday, March 24th.**



**We are planning on featuring spring floral arrangements and lilies in the Sanctuary. Proceeds from the Easter Flower Fund will be given to PPC's Mission Committee. **

Please note there will not be fresh flowers in the Sanctuary during Lent. For those who have made a normal flower donation during Lent, your dedication will be listed in the bulletin and the funds will be used for a flower arrangement in Fellowship Hall. We will continue our flower sharing program throughout Lent, and the arrangement will be delivered to a housebound member following our fellowship time after worship.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Saturday March 16th Dinner at Hunters Inn Followed By Hexagon's "A Raucous Caucus"

Please join fellow church members for an evening of fellowship as we enjoy good food, and delicious political satire! Hexagon's 2013 musical comedy revue is called, "A Raucous Caucus", and PPC's very own Kathy Jeffers is once again a member of the cast! Hexagon's beneficiary this year is the ALS Association: DC/MD/VA Chapter, which helps people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and their caregivers. For more information about Hexagon, and the ALS Association, please visit Hexagon's website at www.hexagon.org

We will meet at Hunters Inn at 5:30 for dinner, and then drive individually, or carpool, to Hexagon at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., in Silver Spring. Tickets for the show are \$28 per person, and we'll go Dutch for dinner. Reservations are required so please RSVP ASAP by signing up on the sign up sheet in the narthex, or contact Courtney Koonce at ckkoonce@comcast.net, or (301)208-1130.



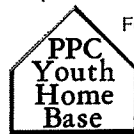
PPC Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30 in the church parlor. Discussion is followed by lunch at Hunter's Inn for those who are interested in continuing the discussion. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions.

March 19 - *The Long Ships*, by Frans Gunnar Bengtsson
April 16 - *Main Street*, by Sinclair Lewis
May 21 - *Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, And A Dream*, by H. G. Bissinger
June 18 - *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway

Upcoming Youth Fellowship Events

Ropes Course On Sunday, March 17



Following worship, all youth in grades 6-12 are invited to lunch and an afternoon of climbing at Go Ape: Rock Creek. The Go Ape treetop adventure course is made up of 6 zip lines, numerous rope ladders, 44 "bridge" crossings, and 2 tarzan swings. Waiver required. Please bring \$20 to help cover costs (scholarships available). RSVP to Pastor Kendra by Tuesday, March 12 (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Youth Retreat

Save the dates of April 19-21 for the spring youth retreat. We'll travel to the Drumheller's house in St. Michael's for a weekend of fun and reflection.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines



Have you heard adults and youth talking about the great time that was had by all last summer in Oak Hill, West Virginia? Now is your chance to spend a week in service while getting to know other youth and adults in the congregation. The friendships last forever.

All members of PPC (youth currently in grade 8 and above AND adults) are invited to participate in a week of service, Saturday, June 15-Saturday, June 22, 2013, in Hazard Kentucky. We will be serving with the [Housing Development Alliance](#) of Hazard, Kentucky. Volunteers work on various phases of construction, including site preparation, shingling, digging footer drains, framing floors and walls, painting, and landscaping. Construction experience is not required. A carpenter will always be onsite to guide us through each project.

We will be staying at [First Presbyterian Church of Hazard](#) in various Sunday school and fellowship rooms where we will cook our own meals. We will shower at the nearby [Hazard Pavilion](#), which has a heated 25-meter pool, two tennis courts, three racquetball/handball courts, a 1/12 mile long track, a weight room, a sauna, and an aerobics room that are available to us free of charge.

Trip participants are asked to contribute \$300 toward the cost of the trip. Scholarships are available. Please speak with Pastor Sean or Pastor Kendra privately if a full or partial scholarship is needed. Participants are also expected to be involved actively in various fundraising efforts throughout the year.

TO SIGN UP:

Submit signed [participant covenant](#) and a \$50 non-refundable deposit to Pastor Kendra as soon as possible. Deadline to register is Sunday, March 17th.

LIKE TO COOK?

If outdoor, physical work isn't exactly your thing, but you like to cook for lots of people, consider joining our mission team as a cook. All team participants will rotate on to kitchen staff, but it is great to have someone who can coordinate and prep stuff ahead of time if we get stuck on the job site. Talk to Pastor Kendra if you are interested.





**Resource
Center News**

I am very excited about some of our new books. Sean has recommended Henri Nouwen's book, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. It is a marvelous little book that has been around for many years.

The sub title is misleading because its message is for everyone. I agree with one reviewer who called it "an absolute treasure".

The *Final Words From the Cross* by Adam Hamilton is another treasure especially to read during Lent. In six chapters, he comments on the last six hours of Jesus' life. He hopes to make the reader to see Jesus more clearly and love Him more deeply.

The other book that I would like to suggest is *Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross* by Erik Kobell. Kobell tells us how we get our faith right but live it wrong.... because we are human.

The Lenten books are on the shelf under the Reference Books-- straight ahead when you enter the Library.

Don't forget to sign the book card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box on the shelf near the computer.

Nancy Tietjen

We continue to keep in our prayers...



PRAYER the Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Bob Lynch, nephew of Nancy Tietjen; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Jacqueline Alarie, sister of Mark Alarie and aunt of Isabella, Christian, and Alexander; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Marjorie Van Egmond; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Colleen Mitchel, daughter of Kay Mitchel.

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

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Permit No. 200

Sean Miller, Pastor
Kendra Grams, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries
Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist

ADULT EDUCATION, Sundays at 9:45

FORUM CLASS - (meets in the Library)
March 3, 10, 17, and 24 – Bruce Douglas, Secularism

FAITH MATTERS - (meets in the Parlor)
Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by E-mail to admin@potomacpresbyterian.org or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

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ADULT EDUCATION, Sundays at 9:45 a.m., Beginning September 8

FORUM CLASS - (meets in the Library)

September 8 – Tom Miles, Where has the Church* Been?

September 15 – Tom Miles, Where is the Church* Now?

September 22 – Tom Miles, Where is the Church* Going?

*the Church universal

September 26, October 6 -- James Cubie; Two week series on the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah and the "prophetic" voice in the church today

FAITH MATTERS - (meets in the Parlor)

Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB - (meets in the Parlor)

Tuesday, September 17, 10:30 a.m. --Catherine the Great, by Robert Massie

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by to admin@potomacpresbyterian.org or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church
September 2013

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

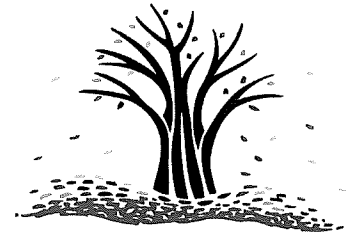
"For Everything There Is a Season"

As I write this article, I can hardly believe that we are less than a month from the kickoff of our fall season. It seems as though I was just in Hazard, Kentucky, but that was over two months ago. Now, on my morning runs through my neighborhood, I see signs on the front of elementary schools that say, "Welcome Back Students." Our college students are heading back to school, and summer vacations are coming to an end. The season of summer is winding down, and I hope that these months have afforded you and your family true moments of renewal and escape from being over-programmed and over-committed as we so often find ourselves throughout the year.

As much as I would love for summertime to continue on for months, I am anxious for our fall season to arrive. For me, personally, that means a lot more evening meetings and weekend commitments, but it also means welcoming what I believe will be a tremendously exciting time in the life of our congregation. We will kick off the program year with a renewed emphasis for our children's and youth music, and we look forward to special Families on the Fourth Sundays where we will welcome the leadership of our children and youth in all aspects of our worship life. We will begin a new members' class at the end of September and welcome two young adults as members of the congregation as they complete their Confirmation process. We anticipate a very special evening of celebration on Friday, November 1, as we celebrate our 50th



anniversary with a dinner at the Pooks Hill Marriot (look for an invitation in the mail in early September), and an anniversary celebration in worship on All Saints' Day, November 3.



The fall season at Potomac Presbyterian Church is going to a busy, vibrant time. Most importantly, I hope that this fall season will provide you with an opportunity to connect and reconnect with your faith community in new ways. Commit to making Sunday morning worship a cornerstone in your family's weekly schedule. Look for new ways to involve your children and youth in our dynamic Christian Education program. Why not try an Adult Education class on Sunday mornings, either in the Library or in the Parlor? Perhaps you might introduce a friend or a neighbor to the church by inviting them to Rally Day on September 8.

Grounded in gratitude and humbled in prayer, we gather as the children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, who calls us into community, and sends us into the world to serve.

May this be a season unlike any other in the life of Potomac Presbyterian Church!

In Christ,

Pastor Sean



One of the reasons I love being in ministry with the Potomac Presbyterian community is because we are truly an

intergenerational family! And in the past few years, we have seen many blessings come from our intergenerational family. Intergenerational friendships have taken root on mission trips. Laughter has brought us together around Rally Day dunk tanks (my swimsuit is ready again this year). Scripture has come alive through intergenerational readings and drama.

This year we are excited to build on these Spirit-filled moments by worshiping together as the entire PPC family of faith every fourth Sunday of the month. Children's Worship (held other Sundays in the lower level) will not meet on the fourth Sundays so that the children can participate in the entirety of worship with the rest of the PPC family.

Children are a vital and important part of the congregation with wonderful gifts to share. They bring great energy and joy to all aspects of our life together. And, children learn the rhythms and importance of worship by being present, observing others, and being involved.

As Carolyn C. Brown, a Certified Christian Educator in our denomination says, "In the congregation's worship we take our place among all of God's people. Simply being in the room and walking through the rites and rituals connects us to people of all ages in our community—it helps us all know that we are part of something that is bigger than we are, something that is powerful and good. Children see the youth and adults that they know as teachers, coaches, and the 'big kids' singing and praying. The stories told and songs sung by people of all ages have a different importance. Biblical stories and songs are no longer kid stories and adult hymns, but the shared, loved stories and songs of the whole congregation."

In worship, we come into God's presence as a community, as a family of faith. On the fourth Sunday of each month, we look forward to this new, wonderful opportunity to strengthen our intergenerational community and enhance our worshipping life.



We will be making a special effort to make sure worship is accessible and engaging for people of all ages (children, youth, and adults) from the introit all the way to the benediction. We will welcome the contributions of the Children's Choir, intergenerational drama, and other creative elements. We hope that everyone will embrace this opportunity to be enriched in faith in the coming year.

In Christ,

Pastor Kendra

Rally Day, SEPTEMBER 8
pizza, carnival, dunk tank, bounce house, cake walk, egg toss, and 50th Anniversary Time Capsule

LIBRARY NEWS



There has been quite a bit of news about Lincoln and The Battle at Gettysburg so I thought you might be interested in the books we have in the Library about that subject.

Allen Guelszo's book, *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President* "offers the first thorough intellectual portrait of Lincoln that illuminates the depth of his religious reflections..." (John Diggins)

The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words by Ronald White shows how Lincoln's major speeches developed. It is an outstanding book that will inspire and fascinate you.

Religion and the American Civil War is edited by Randall Miller and others. The authors of these essays show that in victory or defeat those on both sides of this war looked to God for meaning. It fills a gap in Civil War scholarship and American religious history.

Ronald C. White, Jr. wrote *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural* which was a New York Times Notable Book. In this speech, Lincoln called the whole country guilty and pleaded for unity and reconciliation.

Each one of these books is as fascinating as the other.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Dine with Nine 2013



Adults of all ages, singles, couples and especially newcomers are cordially invited to evenings of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners of 8-10 people are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. The first of these dinner events will be scheduled for January, then meet 2-4 more times during the winter and spring months, with each couple or singles taking turns hosting. If you can't commit for the spring, please add your name to the sub list. Sign-up sheets will be found in the Sunday bulletin starting September 15 or contact Beth Rudnic for more information at egrudnic@gmail.com or (301) 869-4622. Once groups are formed, the initial host/hostess will contact you with the date, time, and location of the first dinner.

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

We continue to keep in our prayers... the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Bill Stanton; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnavant



Amazing Race Youth Kick-off

On Sunday, Sept. 15, from 5:00-7:30pm, all youth, grades 6-12, are invited to participate in the "PPC Amazing Race II," with dinner to follow. We'll gather at the Baarman House (10009 Hall Road, Potomac) and split into teams who will race from place to place, completing tasks to receive their next clue. We'll finish up with some relaxed fellowship over dinner and preview the year ahead.

Fall Parent Dinner to Include Speaker on Seeking Abundant Life with Youth in the Midst of "Busyness Culture"

Parents of youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join the Youth Ministry Team for dinner, fellowship, and discussion on Friday, Sept. 13 from 7-9pm at the Eng Home (7800 River Falls Drive, Potomac). Following dinner, we'll share important information about our continued efforts to strengthen the youth ministry at PPC. We'll also be in conversation with the Rev. Jessica Tate about how, in the midst of our "busyness culture," parents and youth can seek the abundant life, which is promised in scripture. Parents needn't bring anything. Please RSVP to Kendra by Monday, Sept. 9.

SAFeway ESCRIP – FUNDS FOR PPC YOUTH



You can earn funds for our youth programs while you shop at Safeway. There is **no cost** to you and our young people will benefit. Safeway will contribute a percentage of your purchases to Potomac Presbyterian Church. **We earn between \$500 and \$700 every school year in this way!**

Here's how to sign up:

- If you don't already have one, first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store.
- After you have your card, fill in the information on the form below and **mail it to me, e-mail it to me, or give me a call.**
- Use your Safeway club card (or phone number) whenever you shop at Safeway and that's all there is to it!

Thank you for supporting our young people and our church! -Karen Wise

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Safeway Club Card #: _____ **(11 digits)**

Have I signed you up in the past? Great! I saved all your information, and will just renew you automatically again this year. You don't need to do anything! (Questions about the escrip program or want to sign up for yourself? Go to www.escrip.com) Please call me if you have any questions.

Karen Wise, 9812 Clydesdale Street, Potomac, MD 20854, 301-299-2826, karensuewise@gmail.com

DEACON CORNER



This year the PPC Deacons will be having three Deacons' Coffee Hours during Fellowship to kick off the fall season.

The Deacons hope to become better acquainted with all the members of their assigned groups. The coffees will be held:

- September 15 for the Deacon groups of *Philip Shively, Sally O'Neal, and Jon Davies.*
- September 22 for the Deacon groups of *Courtney Koonce, Nelda Coligan, and Gloria Leber.*
- September 29 for the Deacon groups of *Sigrid McCutcheon, Kay Norvell and Sonia Russo.*



There will be Starbucks coffee and lots of goodies. Be sure to stop by the table of your deacon to chat and to get to know other members of your group.

In September the Deacons will also be planning the College Care packages to be sent to all college students in October. Be sure the church has the new addresses of all college students. A care package will assure students away from home that they are still an important part of PPC.

STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

New Stephen Ministry Class to Begin This Fall

We currently have five people committed to begin class this fall and would like to recruit at least one more to join us. Training will start in late September/early October and continue through early spring of 2014. Classes are Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. If you have gifts for caring, listening and encouragement, please prayerfully consider if you would like to be part of this exciting ministry. For more information, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Karen Karch, 301-330-0633, SpecialKBK1@aol.com; Bob Stow, 301-987-7085, bobstow1@mac.com; Sherry Johnson, 301-765-8924, SIJohnson03@aol.com.



**Check Out
Stephen Ministry
Website!**

Learn more about Stephen Ministry at www.stephenministries.org Click on the gray tab on the left to hear Care Receivers tell their stories and listen to a short two minute video on *What Is a Stephen Minister?* You can even link to the website from PPC's web page.

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



First things first – where did the summer go? Didn't it just begin? I don't know about you, but summer went by very quickly for me. I hope you enjoyed your break...because things are going to get busy for the music groups at PPC- and it starts right after Labor Day!

The first group to rehearse will be the Children's Choir on Wednesday, September 4. You read correctly – **Wednesdays at 4:30p.m. is the new Children's Choir rehearsal time.** This new day and time gives us a chance to explore a few more things regarding singing, being in a choir, music, and some fun games! I hope to see children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade on Wednesdays this fall!

Our Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals the very next day, Thursday, September 5. A very slight change for now – **Bells will begin at 6:45 p.m. and then Sanctuary Choir will begin at 8 p.m.** This will help several folks who have a hard time getting through rush hour traffic in order to be at rehearsals on time. If you haven't been part of these groups before – we'd love to have you become a part of the group. How? Just come to the first rehearsal and find out – all are welcome!

Last to meet will be two groups that I will be part of for the first time: Children's Sunday School, and the PPC Youth. I will be involved in the early part of Sunday school with our children every Sunday beginning September 8 (Rally Day) from 9:45 to 9:55 a.m. to get Sunday mornings off to a musical start; and then I will be involved with our youth and music when they will be involved in Worship on Sunday mornings. This will be a new experience for all of us... and I look forward to it

with great anticipation that new and good things are about to happen!

See you soon,
Tom Andrew
Director of Music & Organist

FAMILY POTLUCKS

This year, the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring periodic family potluck dinners. Families will gather for a potluck dinner at a member's home from 5:00-7:00pm on selected Sundays. Children will be invited to eat first. Then experienced caregivers will be on hand to help supervise the children and facilitate play activities. Accordingly, parents should be able to eat and converse without having to keep an "eagle eye" on their children. Plan now to participate in the first family potluck which will be on Sunday, September 22, 5:00-7:00pm (location TBD).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BEGINS AGAIN FOR ALL AGES

Christian Education (i.e. Sunday School) for all ages will begin again on Sunday, September 8, and meet each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45am.

- Caring teachers will explore Bible stories with children in broadly-graded classes in the lower level of the church.
- From Sept. 8 through Oct. 13, youth in grades 6-12 are invited to come explore the meaning of gratitude with Pastor Kendra and various members of the congregation.
- Two classes are offered for adults. **Faith Matters** meets in the Parlor for lively and thoughtful discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. The **Forum** class meets in the Library to hear and discuss presentations on a wide range of faith related topics.

MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION UPDATE

In June, all PPC members received a brochure describing the plans to expand our Potomac Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden. Since then, we have made much progress and are pleased to present an update. We have received our building permit from Montgomery County and have received bids from construction companies.

As we are ready to move ahead with construction, niches are now available to be purchased by congregation members. Through December 31, 2013, niches are priced at \$4,500 per niche. After January 1, 2014, a niche will cost \$5,000. Each niche holds four urns.

If you are planning to purchase a niche, we encourage you to do it now. If we have enough niches purchased by the end of September, we will be able to proceed with construction in October and November of this year. While there are no available niches remaining in the existing memorial garden, the planned expansion will provide 55 more niches which will be allocated on a first-come basis.

If you are interested in selecting and purchasing a niche, please contact Rev. Sean Miller, Sigrid McCutcheon or Mary Margaret Smith. The Garden Expansion plans with numbered niches are in the church office for your viewing.

We are excited about this PPC ministry as it nears reality. Contributions to the designated Memorial Garden Fund are always much appreciated. Thank you.



Potomac Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Committee
Nelda Coligan, Jim Dart, Bobbe Hartzog, Sigrid McCutcheon, Bob Mecklenburg, Sean Miller, Cecie Phair, Nelia Scioli, Mary Margaret Smith, Ed Tennent, Nancy Tietjen, and Harry Tovmassian



IN APPRECIATION

Dear friends,

Our family wanted to thank you for being our church home for the year we were in



Maryland. We so appreciate your welcoming us into worship, Sunday School, youth group and the life of the church. PPC is a special place, and we feel very blessed to have found you all. Hopefully, our paths will cross again someday, and if you are ever in North Carolina, please look us up.

In Christ, Michael, Jennifer, Ben, Elizabeth and Andrew Feiler

The Nahabedian and Mamalian families would like to thank PPC for its outpouring of support and compassion upon Barbara's passing in July. The overwhelming love this church family showed each of us was truly humbling and we are deeply grateful.

PARKING TASK FORCE SELECTS DESIGN CONTRACTOR

As we reported last fall, the Task Force has been exploring potential approaches to PPC parking lot extension as our church grows in membership and the construction of a new Potomac Elementary School is in the planning stages. As we stated in our prior report, the impact of construction at Potomac Elementary School may seem to be a distant issue. However, the sooner PPC has a sound plan for parking and completes the parking lot construction, the better we will be able to accommodate church growth and be prepared for any parking restrictions that we may experience at the School. As we have already seen, our use of the school parking lot on Sundays often competes with other groups that rent the school facilities at the same time. This competing parking situation would likely continue after school renovation. If we don't have our own expanded parking facilities, the school parking capacity will remain similarly constrained as it is now.

In the past months, we have developed a Scope of Work/Request for Proposal for a plan to expand our parking while keeping closely apprised of the progress of the school construction at Potomac Elementary. Our Scope of Work/Request for Proposal for the design phase was sent to qualified contractors in the area.

Five contractors responded to our Scope of Work and four were responsive to our requirements. The Task Force examined each of the four remaining proposals in depth, interviewed the bidders, and checked their references for previous work done that was relevant to our parking lot requirements. After careful consideration, we selected the contractor who offered the best skills, experience, and value to complete the work required. Site Solution Incorporated (SSI) of Germantown, Maryland was selected to

complete the first two phases of our parking lot work. It is our plan to initiate the contract in July with SSI and have a completed design plan by the end of the first quarter of 2014.

With that design plan in hand, we will have a detailed understanding of the parking lot construction requirements, environmental needs, and all state and local government design approvals obtained. We will then be well prepared to explore construction options in late 2014 or early 2015. Potomac Elementary School plans would be in place with school renovation expected to begin in mid-2016. Thus we could have our parking expansion completed before school renovation begins.

The Task Force will continue to make progress reports to the congregation as the process unfolds. In the meantime, please contact any member of the Task Force if you have questions or comments. See us in person or contact us by e-mail.

(parkingtaskforce@potomacpresbyterian.org)

PPC Parking Task Force Members:
Tom Cookerly, Chris Cyrway, Bill King, Sean Miller, Susan Mitchell, Bob Plumb, Paddy Simpson, Bob Stow and Ed Tennent



WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

In our 50th anniversary year, we are celebrating our longtime members, but also welcoming our newest members into the fold. Gwynne Jenkins-McMillan joined PPC this past spring and we welcome her, her husband Mark McMillan, and daughter Imogen, as we look toward our future together.

Gwynne was raised in upstate New York – outside Albany – with two older sisters. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church and says that the church “made me who I am” and is grateful for the moral foundation and framework it has given to her life.

Gwynne and Mark are avid cyclists and first met as members of a long distance biking club in Baltimore. Their routes could run up to 100 miles on an outing! On one trek – a mere 32 miler – Gwynne had a nasty fall and Mark, a nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center, came to her rescue. As she says, “the rest is history!”

They now live in Rockville, and are preparing for Imogen to enter kindergarten this fall at Rock Creek Valley Elementary. Mark often picks up Imogen from her pre-school on his bike with a chariot for Imogen behind. Mark, who works weekends, has completed new member classes with Sean, and has enjoyed helping Pam Drumheller and Lynda Tennent with wallpapering in the redecorated parlor area. Imogen has ‘an ecstasy for life’ and greets each day with joy according to Gwynne. They have enjoyed creating a ‘landscape conservation garden’ together in their yard, enjoy visiting Brookside Garden’s butterfly conservatory, and Imogen, the ‘animal rescuer’, takes care of any injured creatures they may come across.

Gwynne’s education is in the field of medical anthropology. She holds a bachelor’s degree and a Ph.D. – both from SUNY Albany – as well as a Master’s degree in Public Health from

Johns Hopkins. Her field research was done in Costa Rica. She now works at the National Institutes of Health where she is a Senior Policy Advisor for Health Care Research.

Gwynne was attracted to our church by our care of each other, and our care for our building – the temple of God. When she first visited PPC, she says she was struck by what a strong intergenerational church we are. She remembers Sally O’Neal describing our congregational care efforts. She was also impressed by our picture wall in Fellowship Hall! (Thanks Joe Curry!) In particular, she likes the fact that the maintenance of the wall is something that the congregation does – not driven by the pastor or the staff – that shows the congregation cares for and about each other. She always enjoys the sermons and says she has particularly liked the parlor Bible study classes. She mentions the classes led by Chris Dowd and Ed Tennent and their emphasis on communal learning.

There have been dark days in her life. The loss of her sister due to pancreatic cancer 5 years ago still seems fresh. But she looks to the future with hope. She looks forward to being in service with her family at the church, to watching Imogen grow in her spirituality and in her relationship with God, and to growing older with what she calls “an awesome group of people” at PPC.

50th Anniversary News



September 2013

September 2013

October 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30												

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	8 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Ral 12:00pm 1:00pm Rally Day Carni 12:00pm 12:15pm Dedication of 3:00pm 5:00pm Eagle Scout Co	9 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class 11:00am 12:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm 7:30pm Congregational Care Committee 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	10 7:30pm 10:00pm Acoustic Committee	11 8:30am 9:30am 50th Anniversary Steering Commit 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 3:00pm 4:00pm Collingswood Bi 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting 6:45pm 7:45pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	13 7:00pm 9:00pm Dinner for Parents of Youth (Eng Home)	14
Sep 8 - 14	15 Steeple to People Deadline 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educ 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee	16 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class 12:00pm 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting	17 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry	18 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm 10:00pm Montgomery Bird Club	19 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting 4:00pm 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 6:45pm 7:45pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	20	21
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Sean Miller, Pastor
Kendra Grams, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries
Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist

ADULT EDUCATION, Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

October 6 -- James Cubie, *The prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah and the "Prophetic" Voice in the Church Today*

October 13 & 27-Richard Thayer, chaplain at Ingleside/King Farm, *Hospice Care in its Current Form*
October 20-Kendra Grams, *The Amana Church Society: Pietists Listening for the Spirit for over 150 Years*

November 3 -- Sean Miller, *In Celebration of PPC at 50*

FAITH MATTERS - (meets in the Parlor)

Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB - (meets in the Parlor)

Tuesday, October 15, 10:30 a.m. **Cod: A Biography of a Fish That Changed the World** by Mark Kuriansky

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by to admin@potomacpresbyterian.org or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church
October 2013



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

"There Is Life In Him Yet!"

During my sermon on September 22, I mentioned a few examples of how the PC(USA) is inspiring new life and new engagement with the church for youth and young adults today. One of many examples of this new, creative, and inspiring work in the denomination is NEXT Church. Here is the NEXT Church mission statement:

*The mission of NEXT Church is to foster relationships among God's people:
sparking imaginations;
connecting congregations;
offering a distinctively Presbyterian witness to Jesus Christ.*

Trusting in God's sovereignty and grace, NEXT Church will engage the church that is becoming by cultivating vital connections, celebrating emerging leadership and innovation, and working with congregations and leaders to form and reform faith communities.

NEXT Church empowers church leadership within the PC(USA) to foster growth and innovation, both of which are desperately needed in a critical time for the church and its relationship to culture and society. The director of NEXT Church, the Rev. Jessica Tate, recently led an engaging workshop with PPC parents of youth and sparked some important conversation about how to raise our children against the grain of our over-programmed and hyper-busy culture. I hope you will visit nextchurch.net to read more about what important ministry is happening through NEXT Church.

Another important initiative is called, "1001 Worshipping Communities." In June 2012, the 220th General Assembly declared a commitment to a church-wide movement to create 1,001 worshipping communities in the next 10 years. These communities are being formed all over the country, and as one of the movement's core values proclaims, "There is nothing more transformative than the people of God gathered together to worship the risen Christ and sent out to serve the world in Christ's name. God's Spirit is moving throughout the church, whispering the same things and inspiring new models, fresh vision, and an awareness that is bringing God's people to understand and embrace again the truth that 'It's all about congregations.'"

We often hear statistics about the church in "decline," comparing the numbers of those who are actively attending church to similar statistics a generation or two ago. I am confident, however, that when you take a look at these and other inspiring movements in the life of the PC(USA), you will find not a church in decline, but a church in Reformation. The church is raising up new leaders who are committed to providing the next generation of youth and young adults with the opportunities to connect and engage with the church in new ways

I hope you take a few moments (or more!) to read online about these new and creative initiatives that are happening in the church today, as together, we give thanks for God who is always at work in the church to bring new life and hope. Or, as our ancestors in faith would have said, "The church is to be reformed, and always being reformed." Glory be to God!

Pastor Sean

NOTES FROM THE SESSION

Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

After a short break for the month of July, the Session met for their regular August and September meetings. During October, the Session will meet jointly with the Board of Deacons.

In August the Session heard from Mary Margaret Smith on the progress toward an expansion of the PPC Memorial Garden. The building permit has been obtained from the county, and proposals from two construction companies have been obtained. Since the original intention of the Memorial Garden Committee and the Session was to expand these facilities using Memorial Garden funds alone, there will be some reliance on advance niche purchases to support construction. The committee will be updating the congregation on progress toward construction, anticipated to begin either this fall or next spring.

The Session also received two reports from Elder Dan Drumheller on the progress of the Acoustic Committee. This committee has set aggressive objectives that will likely be implemented over a period of years, but, as Reverend Miller noted during the August meeting, a number of their findings can be implemented in the nearer terms.

In September the Session approved a job description for a staff position providing administrative support to Reverend Grams and our Family/Youth Ministry program. The position will allow Reverend Grams to devote more of her time to volunteer and lay leader development. It is anticipated that the position will be filled during 2014.

Please mark your calendars for November 10; the Session has approved this date for a

congregational meeting following the worship service for election of officers.

Additional information on any of these items can be obtained from your Elder representatives.

September 20, 2013

POTOMAC DAY PARADE

All members and friends of PPC are invited to march in the PPC delegation at the Potomac Day Parade on Saturday, October 19. We'll gather at the church at 9:30am for refreshments and pre-parade face-painting before heading across the street to join the parade line-up. Please note that River Road between the church and the Village closes for the parade at 10:00am. All ages welcome, including strollers, wagons, and dogs on leashes. As we are celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, we are hoping to have 50 people in the parade. Sign-up to participate in Fellowship Hall.



FIRM FOUNDATION, SHINING FUTURE

During worship on Rally Day, September 8, we announced the leadership of the *Firm Foundation, Shining Future* capital campaign. By now, you have probably seen the logo appear on banners in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, and even in this issue of the Steeple to People. You will receive the Vision Brochure in the next two weeks, which outlines the vision for this campaign, built upon our congregation's rich heritage and the great excitement with which we venture together into our shining future.

The *Firm Foundation, Shining Future* campaign is dedicated to deepening our connection to the community through inspiring worship, thought-provoking and enriching Christian Education for all ages, and dedicated mission to our brothers and sisters in need.

We are blessed with a group of dedicated leaders who are pouring their hearts, souls, and minds, into making this campaign a great success. Below you will find a list of the campaign leadership and their responsibilities. You will be hearing more from them in the next month, but you are welcome to ask them any questions about the campaign at any time:

- **Campaign Co-Chairs:** Wendy and Tom Kuhn; Camille and Cliff Kendall
- **Coordinator:** Pat McMillen
- **Prayer Team Chair:** Nancy Tietjen
- **Communications Team Co-Chairs:** Carole Hudgings and Dan Drumheller
- **Advance Commitment Team Co-Chairs:** Bridget and Fred Newton; Lynda and Ed Tennent
- **Children's and Youth Team Chair:** Ann Hill

- **Connections Team Chair:** Gregg Johnson



WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

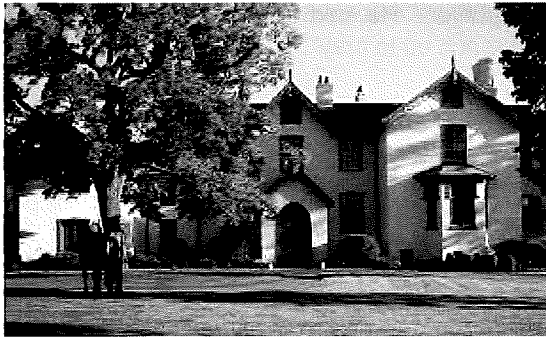
We continue to keep in our prayers... the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Bill Stanton; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnivant



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Trip to President Lincoln's Cottage

The Fellowship Committee is planning a visit to Present Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldier's Home on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The home is located in NW Washington, DC. Tickets have been reserved for a docent led tour of the Cottage, as well as a short movie and exhibits in the Education Center. Following PPC Bible Study, we will share a light lunch (provided by the Fellowship Committee) and then leave for the Cottage for our afternoon docent tour of the home where Abraham Lincoln spent time during the summers of his presidency. Sign up by Sunday, October 6 on the board in the narthex. Price per ticket is \$12.50.



Dramatization of "Beverly – An Autobiography" by Ann Marshall Davis

Come see Book Dramatist, Ann Marshall Davis on Monday, October 7 at 1pm in the Multi-Purpose Room at Ingleside at King Farm. PPC's own Ann Marshall Davis will be presenting "Beverly - An Autobiography", which is the story of Beverly Sills who, for more than three decades, captured America's heart with her glorious vocal artistry and salty intelligence. The program lasts for one hour.

For twenty years, Ann Marshall Davis was a book dramatist in the San Francisco Bay Area offering condensations of fiction, non-fiction and

biography – exactly in the author's own words – to book clubs, retirement homes, churches, women's groups and civic clubs.

Please come for lunch before in the church Library! Arrive at 11:45 and enjoy lunch, fellowship and a devotion from Pastor Sean, after which we will carpool over to Ingleside for Ann Marshall's presentation. Sign up on the poster in the Narthex, or RSVP to Courtney Koonce at 301.208.1130, or ckkoonce@comcast.net

YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS



Senior High Lord's Table to Lunch Table

On Sunday, October 6, Senior High students (grades 9-12) are invited to carry the community experienced at the Lord's Table during worship to the Lunch Table after worship. Senior High students should gather outside Pastor Kendra's office after worship so we can head over to Potomac Village together for a relaxing lunch from 12:15-1:15pm.

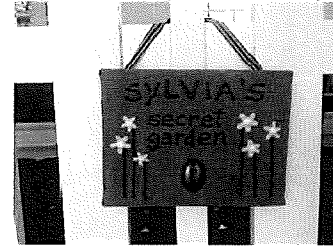
Save the dates:

- The Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) will gather on Friday, October 25, 6:30-9:30pm, for dinner, fellowship, prayer, and reflection.
- The Senior High Youth Group (grades 9-12) will gather at the church Sunday, October 27, 6:30-8:00pm, for snacks, fellowship, prayer, and reflection.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sometimes, by the grace of God, needs are fulfilled and dreams are realized faster than you ever imagined possible. Sylvia's Secret Garden, the new area for children and families in Fellowship Hall, is a perfect example.



Last December, on the Sunday before Christmas, we had the Fellowship Hall set up for a special intergenerational Sunday School event (which by the way, we are doing again this year on December 22—so mark your calendars). As part of that special learning opportunity, we had set up a family reading area with books, bean bags, and an area carpet. Unexpectedly, during our weekly time for coffee, refreshments, and conversation after worship, several of the children gravitated toward that area and really seemed to enjoy having a place to relax with their cookies and a few books. A number of parents and adults remarked that we should have an area like that every week. I agreed and added it to the "wish list" for when there were special funds for such a project, but I had no idea when such funds would be available.

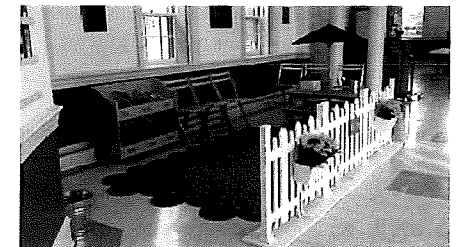
However, not even a month later, through a generous memorial gift, funds were suddenly available. In memory of Bobbe's mother, Sylvia Fitton, Bobbe & Bill Hartzog made a generous gift to the church. While they asked that the funds be used for children's ministry to honor Sylvia's own commitment to children, they generously offered the Christian Education

Committee the opportunity to direct the money to a specific project. And immediately, the Christian Education Committee recalled the need for and dream of having a child and family-friendly area in Fellowship Hall on a weekly basis.

Cyndy Mamalian enthusiastically agreed to take charge of designing the area and recommended the garden theme. The child-sized picnic table offers children a place to enjoy their lemonade and cookies or draw a picture. The books and floor pillows offer young ones a place to relax with Bible stories or other encouraging tales. The piles of toys and green area rug offer children of all ages the opportunity to use their God-given energy to create and play. And the wooden folding chairs for adults offer parents, grandparents, and all adults the opportunity to pull up a chair next to the children and read, draw, eat, or play with them. Everyone loved the garden design and so the shopping began. Sylvia's Secret Garden is now nearly complete, and we look forward to dedicating this space following worship on October 6.

By the continued grace of God, Sylvia's Secret Garden will be a welcoming space for children and families for many years to come, further embodying the promises we make at each baptism to guide and nurture God's children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ.

With thanksgiving,
Pastor Kendra



DEACON CORNER



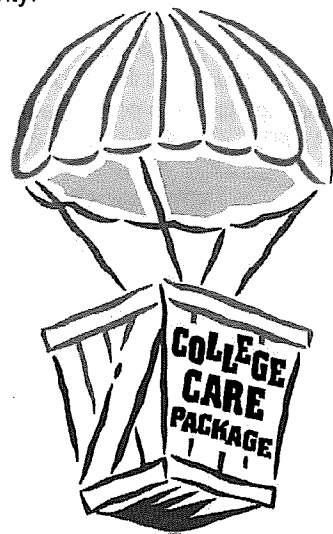
The late summer and early fall have been busy times for our nine Deacons. There have been projects to complete and Fellowship hour coffees to serve. We are thankful for the help from those of you who have volunteered to participate alongside us in so many ways.

By the time that you read this article, the special Deacon Group terrace coffees will have been held. It is a time for the Deacons to connect in a personal way with each of you and hope that you have enjoyed becoming more acquainted with those families within your individual Deacon Groups.



This month's big project is the mailing of gift packages to the special group of young people who are our college students. At the September Deacon meeting, we began the planning stage for this project which carried over into October and included the item selection, obtaining the current college addresses, and then mailing these small gifts to thirty of these special students. This is a favorite project for the Deacons, as we have

little contact with those young people, other than occasionally in church when they are home for holidays or vacations. It gives us the opportunity to let them know that we care about them and that they continue to be in our hearts and prayers. Sonia Russo is leading this activity.



As we look ahead, we will soon welcome several new families into our church membership. A new member breakfast will be prepared by the Deacons on October 20 and we look forward to adding these new members into our Deacon Groups.

Our last activity for the year will be the planning and coordination of the Williamsburg Breakfast on December 8. This is a most popular event early in our Advent Season.

Deacon Sally O'Neal

MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION UPDATE

After much planning, PPC is ready to move ahead with the construction of the Memorial Garden Expansion, which will make available an additional fifty-five niches to our congregation members. Each niche can hold four urns. Niches are currently priced at \$4,500 each (through December 31, 2013), and \$5,000 (after January 1, 2014). If enough niches are purchased by the end of September, we will be able to proceed with construction in October and November of this year. At this time, five of the fifty-five niches have been purchased.

If you are interested in selecting and purchasing a niche, please contact Rev. Sean Miller (sean.miller@potomacpresbyterian.org), Sigrid McCutcheon, (sigridm@comcast.net), Mary Margaret Smith (mmjs44@gmail.com), or Jeanne Grillo (admin@potomacpresbyterian.org).



The Garden Expansion plans with numbered niches are in the church office for your viewing. We are excited about this PPC ministry as it nears reality. Contributions to the designated Memorial Garden Fund are always much appreciated.

Potomac Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Committee
Nelda Coligan, Jim Dart, Bobbe Hartzog, Sigrid McCutcheon, Bob Mecklenburg, Sean Miller, Cecie Phair, Nelia Scioli, Mary Margaret Smith, Ed Tennent, Nancy Tietjen, and Harry Tovmassian

LIBRARY NEWS

Because, prayer is a big part of our -- *Firm Foundation, Shining Future* campaign, I have put some books that might help us with our prayer life on the book cart. These books are quite varied in content and I get really excited about some of them.

Catherine Marshall, a familiar author, has written *Adventures in Prayer*. In this classic, she gives practical guidance on the basics of prayer and shares her personal discoveries.

Richard Foster says "coming to prayer is like coming home--Nothing feels more right..." Lewes Smedes writes that Foster's book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* has helped him to walk with Him on the path of prayer. He said that it is an answer to "Lord teach us to pray".

A very humorous book is-- *If You Want to Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat* by John Ortberg. He writes that when human beings get out of the boat and encounter Jesus, they are never the same. He encourages us to "to face our fears and step over the gunwhales" to find the Master waiting for us.

Nancy Tietjen

**Resource
Center News**

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

"Welcomed home" is how Jodi McGill felt after she joined PPC with her brother Lloyd Smith this past spring. "Alice Smith gave me a big hug and didn't let go!" It was like coming home because Jodi, Lloyd, and their sister Shelley grew up at PPC in the 1960's and 70's when David Uhl was our pastor and Mary Cathey was our Christian Education director. Jodi was confirmed at PPC and Lloyd was baptized at our church. The year that Jodi graduated from high school at Holton Arms was Pastor Uhl's last year with PPC.

Jodi remembers that her mom, Carol, was involved with the church Strawberry Festival – a big, annual event at that time. Her mother helped in hand-painting aprons and tennis skirts for sale. Her father, David, helped out with the youth groups – "The Seven Tens" and the senior highs. Still too young to be in the youth group herself, Jodi sometimes tagged along with her dad as he chaperoned the ski trips. By the time she was old enough to be in the youth group, Calvin Koonce had taken over as youth mentor. Jodi has fond memories of spring musicals, ski-trips, and 'real' camping (in tents!) with other young people from our church.

Jodi credits her brother Lloyd with leading them both back to PPC. He came to the church as a visitor first and convinced Jodi to visit as well. Last year, as a visitor, Jodi sat in the pews at PPC along with her daughters Carolyn and Madeleine and listened to stories about the church mission trip to West Virginia. In particular, Jack White's reflections made a big impression! The girls listened to the stories and the reflections and both immediately decided they were 'in' for the next mission trip. This year, as a new member, Jodi sat in the pews and listened to the reflections from this year's mission trip to Kentucky. Her daughter Madeleine shared her experiences as part of the sermon, and her daughter Carolyn sang as part of the service. Both girls are looking

forward to participating in another mission trip next summer. Jodi says they immediately found a connection with our church.

Jodi lives in Bethesda with the girls and her husband, Peter, who works in commercial real estate, and enjoys golfing whenever he can. Their son, Ryan, is a sophomore at Penn State and is studying engineering. Carolyn, a junior at Whitman High School, is interested in education and music, and Madeleine, a freshman at Whitman, is thinking about chemical engineering. Jodi serves as the President of the Whitman PTSA.

PPC is a smaller church than her previous church home at Chevy Chase Presbyterian, and Jodi likes our church's smaller size. It helps her feel that she is 'known' in the congregation. Her hope for the future of PPC is that the youth group will continue to grow and flourish and that her girls will enjoy the same strong church family connection that she experienced at PPC when she was their age.

50th Anniversary News



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



After a break for the summer, all the choirs at PPC have resumed rehearsals this fall.

A few highlights from each choir:

- Children's Choir now rehearses on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30pm. We meet downstairs in the 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School room to sing; learn about music, church, and Worship; play games; and more every Wednesday. It is not too late to be a part of the Children's Choir – come see all the things we're doing! Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited.
- The Bell Choir now rehearses at 6:45pm on Thursday evenings, and is preparing to perform in early October.
- The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 8pm. We have two new singers this fall. We've welcomed Nels Ackerson and Charlie Nahabedian to our choir.

Maybe you've thought about singing with us – now would be a good time to start! The 50th Anniversary Service on November 3 will be here before you know it...come help us celebrate!

A lot is happening – we would love to have you be a part of the music at Potomac Presbyterian Church!

MISSION NEWS

Cardiac Team to Ecuador

The Por Cristo Cardiac Team will travel to Quito Ecuador on October 11. This will be our 24th annual trip to Ecuador. We anticipate a busy week of teaching the Ecuadorians how to improve their care of children with heart disease.

All aspects of cardiac care are involved, including open-heart surgery, intensive care, echocardiography and cardiac catheterization. The Ecuadorian doctors and nurses have made enormous advances in their ability to provide quality cardiac care which is reflected in excellent surgical results.

We work in a large public children's hospital in Quito. It has 273 beds and is always full. The clinics are bursting with children, waiting in long lines to be seen. Some cardiac patients travel long distances by bus to be seen by our team.

The joy and happiness seen in the faces of the parents whose children are helped makes our small effort so very worthwhile.

The Mission Committee and others at PPC have been steadfast supporters of Por Cristo and the cardiac team for many, many years. The generosity of PPC has provided much relief to numerous little cardiac patients in Quito.

The gratitude of those children is forwarded to PPC each day.

Blessings and Peace,

Tom Hougen

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

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Sean Miller, Pastor
Kendra Grams, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries
Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist

ADULT EDUCATION, Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
FORUM CLASS - (meets in the Library)
November 3-Sean Miller, *In Celebration of PPC at 50*
November 10, 17, 24 -John Yieh, *three part series on The Lord's Prayer*

FAITH MATTERS - (meets in the Parlor)
Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB - (meets in the Parlor)
Tuesday, November 19 - *In Pursuit of Reason: The Life of Thomas Jefferson*, by Noble Cunningham

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by to admin@potomacpresbyterian.org or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church
November 2013



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Sarah and I were delighted to share our news with the congregation that we are expecting our first child, due May 5. We are grateful for the well wishes and words of kindness that we have received!

We shared our news with the congregation in Fellowship Hall after Gratitude Sunday, during which we as a congregation considered how we are called to a lifetime of gratitude throughout all seasons of our lives. We heard wonderful testimonies and expressed our thoughts with words and pictures on gratitude cards, now displayed throughout the Narthex. I have been reflecting quite a bit about gratitude this season, as we are celebrating our 50th anniversary and looking forward to our shining future ahead. And, I have been thinking about the difference between saying "thank you," and being "grateful." Thank you may be a polite response when someone has done something for you, but gratitude is a spiritual response to the grace of God known to us in Jesus Christ. As a Pastor, I hope that every time we gather in worship on Sunday morning, we sense that grace revealed to us in Word and Sacrament, through music, and revealed in prayer. We cling to grace as a life raft when we are overwhelmed with heartbreak and loss, and we proclaim God's grace through our acts of compassion, justice, and love. In fact, as I said recently in a meeting, if I had to preach the same theme every week, it would be grace, but the variations on that theme would be the countless ways that I have experienced grace in my life and have seen acts of grace break

down barriers, restore relationships, and transform lives.

For grace, I am grateful, and my prayer for our congregation is that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ would be known in us, and through us, in the worship, Christian Education, and mission to which we are called. For "grace has brought me safe thus far," says the beloved hymn of the Church, and with hope in Jesus Christ, we look forward to that same grace that leads us now into the next chapter of mission and ministry together.

Pastor Sean Miller

WITH
Gratitude



Brothers and Sisters,

As we conclude our celebrations of PPC's fiftieth anniversary this month around dinner tables (on November 1) and around the Lord's table (on November 3), I am reminded that this month also marks a personal anniversary for me: the first anniversary of my ordination to the ministry of Word and sacrament.

There are many moments in the last year that have inspired me and made me grateful to serve as your pastor. I wish I could name them all, but that would certainly fill one Steeple to People newsletter all by itself. Accordingly, I will rejoice with you in a recent event that I believe showcased the best of PPC: our participation in the Potomac Day Parade.

Just a few Saturdays ago, nearly forty adults, youth, and children from PPC marched in the Potomac Day Parade. We met in Fellowship Hall before the parade for coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, and face painting. Then we joined the parade line-up across River Road so that we were ready to pass out candy and PPC reusable grocery bags when the parade began. We carried banners to let the community know they are welcome to worship with us at any time, we smiled, we waved, and we were so generous with the candy, that we ran out before we reached the top of the hill!

It was a wonderful event for all ages, and I believe it highlights some of PPC's best qualities:

- **There was an important role for everyone.** Children prepared the candy buckets. Adults and children helped sort and pass out candy and grocery bags. Youth happily did face painting for the children. We even had a college student home on fall break who helped by carrying a banner.



- **Committees worked together to make this event a success.** The Fellowship Committee and Church Growth & Involvement Committee chairs, Courtney Koonce and Susan Haynes, worked together and with their committees to harness the various gifts and talents on both committees to make it a fun and inviting event for everyone.
- **The event was a pleasing reminder to me of how warm, friendly, and caring the PPC family truly is.** All those from the PPC family who participated took the time to greet one another and introduce themselves to people they did not yet know. And throughout the parade, I think it was clear to the community that the PPC family enjoys being together and welcomes all who come through our doors seeking a church home and hoping to grow in Christian faith.

As I look forward to my continued service here at PPC, I cannot wait to see the ways God will help us grow in faith, young and old side by side; serve together in Christ's name, individuals and committees bringing their many gifts; and care for one another, old friends and new faces alike.

With joy and thanksgiving,
Pastor Kendra

MISSION NEWS

Fall Workday - Stepping Stones Shelter

When: November 16, 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Stepping Stones Shelter,
1070 Copperstone Ct
Rockville, MD 20852

What: We'll be doing yard work and interior cleaning/repair, and organizing donations. More details to follow.

Who: Children and adults.

Questions? Contact Susan Mitchell, Susan Mitchell, susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com.

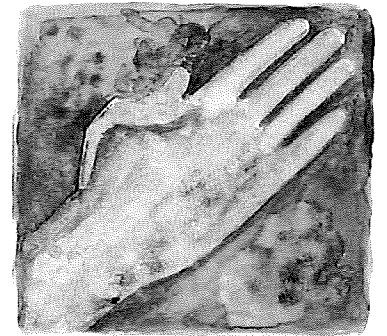


STEPPING STONES SHELTER

MOVING FAMILIES FORWARD

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

We continue to keep in our prayers... the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Bill Stanton; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnivant; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones



CHANGES OF CONTACT INFORMATION

New Address:

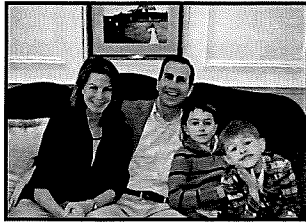
Miriam and Robert Conley
8300 Burdette Rd, #612
Bethesda, MD 20817

New Email:

Pat McMillen
pmmcillen1@verizon.net

**NEW MEMBERS
WELCOMED OCTOBER 20, 2013**

Joe, Jen, William, and Connor Gawronski



moved a little over a year ago to Potomac from Westfield, New Jersey, where they had lived for the previous ten years after meeting in New York City, where they both worked at Salomon Smith Barney. They were active members of the First Baptist Church of Westfield. Jen was raised American Baptist at a church in Frederick, Maryland, and Joe, Roman Catholic in Colonia, New Jersey. They selected Potomac Presbyterian after attending several local churches and finding that this was the one they kept wanting to visit again. The connection to the sermons, the vibrancy and warmth of the congregation, and the commitment to teaching the youth are a few of the things that stood out about Potomac Presbyterian and made it a fit right away. Jen just opened a Bar Method fitness studio in the Kentlands with her childhood best friend. Joe is a Jersey Boy and still runs an institutional brokerage firm in NYC, so he can often be found on the Acela. Jen and Joe have two sons, William (7) and Connor (6, just this past week). Will is a second grade student at Bullis and Connor is in Kindergarten at Potomac Elementary. "Our whole family is looking forward to being part of the PPC family."

Beatrice Ruby Suorkor Laryea was born by Presbyterian parents in the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church of Ghana Accra. As a youth, memorizing of Bible quotations, prayers, and reading of the Bible was a way of life for her. At an early age, she was preaching as a lay preacher for various groups of the aged in the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church.

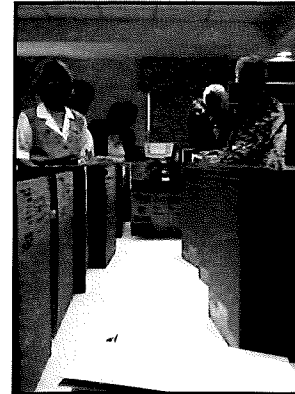
Beatrice is a secretary by profession. As Adults Volunteer, she helped the aged and invalids after Sunday Service. She visited those who were sick, prayed for them, helped them financially, and provided Activities of Daily Living to those who needed it. Emma Lamiokor Bortey of Kinkawe Church is her mentor and instrumentalist in reading and translating of the Bible from English to the local language for those who do not understand English.



About ten years ago, Beatrice was trained at the Resurrection Presbyterian Church as a Lay Preacher and Deaconess. Juliana O. Ayetey, of Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church and of blessed memory, enrolled Beatrice at the Ga Presbytery Bible School which she did successfully. She was the chairperson for the Welfare Association of the Great Commission International where she also taught and translated English to the local language for about nineteen years.

Due to the successful completion of various courses and the spiritual upliftment, which Beatrice obtained at the Bible school and throughout her life, she was effective in assisting the works of God in the community where she was ordained as a Reverend Minister by the International Clergy Association (ICA) in Oct 2011. As a co-worker in the vineyard, Beatrice works mostly with the aged as the Holy Spirit empowers her. Her ministry includes hospital visitation and encouraging others to hold on the faith. Presbyterian teachings provide a pathway for her to answer the call of God for the Church and the community.

DEACON CORNER



Care Packages for College Students

The preparation of care packages for our college students has, over the years, been one of the PPC Deacons' favorite projects. It was my privilege this year to oversee that

venture. Our goal was simple: we wanted our college students and young adults to know PPC loves them, is thinking of them, and continues to pray for them, wherever they are. For me, it's been a few years, but how well I remember that phone call that started with the words, "Hey Mom, you won't believe what I got in the mail today!"

In 2013, however, Moms, Dads, and Deacons face some challenges. With so much techie wizardry at their 24/7 access, what will thrill or even generate a response from our college students? With physical mail almost as obsolete as the Pony Express, who at college will bother to check their old-fashioned mailbox? When you can get anything you want at lightning speed off the Internet, what is unique and worthy of these mailings? In 140 characters or less, and maybe thinking "out of the box" a little bit--what would YOU put into the boxes if you were a PPC Deacon?

My highly qualified intergenerational consultants, offering their services pro bono for a charitable cause, assured me that the answer is simple and still rudimentary: **CHOCOLATE. And...homemade goodies, popcorn, granola bars, power bars, dried**

fruit snacks, or anything else yummy put together by loving hands. (That was exactly 140 characters.) And so, on October 6, a bevy of loving Deacon hands assembled the aforementioned goodies and more, **plus a nice letter from Pastors Sean and Kendra** and a devotional booklet into 27 boxes, for our young adults who are studying in places as close as College Park and as far as South Africa, and the following day they were mailed.

In Worship, we have lately been hearing about mustard seed faith and mustard seed ministry, as taught by Jesus (Luke 17:6). Perhaps, caring for our college students falls into that esteemed description of faith. And, we have also recently focused on two young New Testament youths. First, on young Eutychus, who couldn't stay awake while Paul talked on and on, and fell down several flights from his window sill seat as a result (Acts 20: 7-12). And secondly, we thought of Timothy, Paul's protégé, who talked about "fighting the good fight of faith" (1 Tim 6:12). Granted, if I were sending a care package to Eutychus, it would include some No Doz or a small portable stadium chair, and for Timothy, I might send some stationery for his letters or some nice soft boxing gloves, but whatever the commodity and whichever the century, we Deacons would pray that the overwhelming message transported would be love.

Our young people have all the excitement, hard work, and temptations of being on their own as they pursue their academic goals and learn who they are as independent human beings. We want them to remember, above all else, that each and every one of them is God's child, most dear, and always loved--by their nuclear family as well as their church family. May God bless all the youth of PPC, of all ages.

- Sonia Russo

ADVENT NEWS

Jesus is the reason for the season...

Many of our committees have been busy planning for a glorious Advent! Below is a summary of what to anticipate as we prepare our house of worship for the celebration of Christ's birth.

12/1	HOPE	Christmas Evergreens and Wreaths, Stable for the Nativity Scene, Advent Wreath candle lighting
12/8	LOVE	Williamsburg Breakfast, Chrismon Tree, Additions to the Nativity Scene, Advent Wreath candle lighting,
	5-6pm	Music for Advent
12/15	JOY	Poinsettias, Additions to the Nativity Scene
	5pm	Children's Pageant followed by spaghetti dinner
12/18	7pm	Longest Night of the Year Worship
12/22	PEACE	Additions to the Nativity Scene
12/24	CHRIST	Christmas Eve – Christmas Joy Offering
	5pm	Family Candlelight Worship
	7 & 11pm	Candlelight Communion Worship

WILLIAMSBURG BREAKFAST, DECEMBER 8

The Deacons are once again planning the annual Williamsburg Breakfast to start the Christmas Advent Season. The Breakfast will be held this year on Sunday morning, December 8, at 9:30am. All are invited to come and bring some form of bread or pastry to share. In keeping with tradition, a continental breakfast of ham, fruit, cheese, coffee and juice will be provided. Singing of Christmas carols, scripture readings, and entertainment by members of the congregation will be included.

A "Gift Giving Tree" will be decorated with names of those less fortunate families in the area that may be "adopted" by those who wish to provide Christmas gifts or food baskets as suggested on the name tags. These gifts will be distributed by the members of the Mission Committee the following Sunday.

The Deacons are looking forward to seeing you at the Williamsburg Breakfast to begin our Advent Season with a spirit of love, hope, and joy.

MUSIC FOR ADVENT

Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist, and Jennifer Robertson, Section Leader, will present a program of music for the Advent and Christmas Seasons on December 8 at 5pm.

Come and enjoy a program of organ and vocal music to prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child.



- 162 funerals and memorial services performed
- 10 names on the "Roll of Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Stated Supplies" who have guided us and walked with us along our journey of faith
- 192 Elders
- 169 Deacons
- 1,812 total church members
- 57 Stephen Ministers
- \$1.6 million given over the past 50 years through what was first referred to as "benevolence giving" and we now call mission
- Thousands of volunteer hours to mission efforts

We have been truly blessed:

*"Countless blessings, countless blessings,
And blessings more to follow, praise His name!
I am lost in love and wonder,
for they far the stars outnumber,
And blessings more to follow, praise His name."*

"Countless Blessing" by Lelia N. Morris, 1908

FIRM FOUNDATION, SHINING FUTURE



Prayer and Meditation Event

Save the date! All are invited to PPC on November 16 from 9:00am–5:00pm for a time of reflection and meditation to give thanks for our blessings and for our Firm Foundation and lift up our hopes and prayers for our Shining Future. Families and children are invited as we will have interactive activities and supervision for our children. Come and leave at your discretion during the day. For additional information, please contact Nancy Tietjen, dettmar@comcast.net.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Lock-in

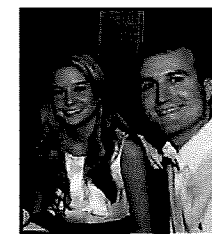
Saturday, November 9, beginning at 7:00pm, all youth (grades 6-12) are invited to bring their sleeping bags, pillows, and a change of clothes as we lock the youth in for the night. We'll play games, enjoy snacks, feast on late-night pizza, watch movies, and spend some time in Bible study and prayer. In the morning, we'll enjoy breakfast together before Sunday School and worship.



NEW MEMBERS

WELCOMED OCTOBER 20, 2013

Adam and Emily Fizyta were married in March 2012 by Pastor Sean, after which they began attending worship services at PPC. Adam grew up in Gaithersburg and graduated from the University of Maryland in 2008. Emily grew up in Concord, North Carolina, and graduated from Davidson College in 2010. They live in Urbana, Maryland, and both work for the family businesses. Emily works at the family winery, Catocin Breeze Vineyard, while Adam manages the other family business, Poltron, a distributor of automotive components manufactured in Poland.



50 Years Ago...

As we celebrate PPC's 50th anniversary, we take a look back at what life was like in 1963. That was the year The Beatles recorded their first album, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, and President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. It was also the year that Potomac Presbyterian Church was formed.

50th Anniversary News



Other facts from 1963:

- Mickey Mantle signed a one-year \$100,000 contract with the Yankees.
- The U.S. Postmaster General inaugurated the use of zip codes.
- Video instant replay was used for the first time in a sports telecast.
- Life expectancy was 69.7 years. It is now 78.7.
- A new house cost \$12,650 and the average annual income was \$5,807.
- Gasoline cost 29 cents per gallon.
- *Petticoat Junction*, *My Favorite Martian*, and *Bonanza* were popular TV shows.
- The Washington Beltway was still under construction, and construction on the metro system had not yet begun.

Our earliest church members describe the Potomac Village of 1963 as a sleepy crossroads in the middle of horse country. A great deal has happened in our town and in our church since that time. What has not changed

is our commitment to be, as our mission statement says, "*An active Christian community devoted to worship that stirs the soul, education that engages the mind, and service that sends us out into the world.*"

Our congregation, which first gathered in 1963 in the all-purpose room of Potomac Elementary School, was originally known as Potomac United Presbyterian Church. It was officially organized and recognized as the 68th church in the Presbytery of Washington City. There were 51 charter members. Our first budget (in 1964) was for a total of \$12,936.40.

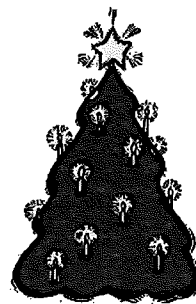
In the early years, our hymns were sung from *The Hymnbook*, published in 1955. These red hymnals were replaced later by the blue hymnals we have now, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, published in 1990. Our earliest church services might have included the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Rise Up, Oh Men of God," and "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" from the old red hymnbook. The 'new' blue hymnal includes 'new' additions such as "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ," "Here I am Lord," and "How Great Thou Art."

Cal Reid, Clerk of Session, records the details of the life of our church in two red, hefty, leather-bound books. These books, our official Church Registers, note every marriage, baptism, and death performed over the years. Here are some numbers from the stories those books tell:

PPC by the Numbers

- 392 active members as of publication
- 584 infant baptisms performed since the church began (there were also 68 adult baptisms)
- 319 marriages listed on the Church Register

GIFT GIVING TREE



Gift Giving TREE

At the Williamsburg Breakfast (on December 8) the Mission Committee will have its annual Gift Giving Tree. On the tree will be names of 85 children in our community who would appreciate receiving a holiday gift. Please share your Christmas joy with these children.

Pick the name of a child from the tree and purchase a gift--there will be suggestions from the parents. Please return the wrapped gift to the church before worship on Sunday, December 15. There will also be cards requesting \$20 donations for the purchase of Giant gift cards for the parents. Your generosity will make the holidays happier for these families from the Stepping Stones Shelter and Interfaith Works Friends in Action Program.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND

Please consider making a donation to the Christmas Decoration Fund in memory or honor of a loved one. Place donations in the Sanctuary Flower Fund pew envelopes. Please note "Advent Decorations" on your check. Donation envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or dropped off in the church office.

Memorial and honor dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please take home a poinsettia plant after Christmas Eve in gratitude for your contribution. Excess funds will be donated to the Mission Committee.

Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 8th. Thank you for your generosity!

Please contact Bob Stow (301-987-7085 or bobstow@mac.com) if you are interested in helping us decorate on November 30!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REGISTRATION



This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00pm. Children ages 5 through fifth grade are invited to participate. Speaking and non-speaking roles are available. All participants must be available for a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14, from 9:00-10:30am. Participants with speaking parts must attend drama on Thursday, December 5, from 4:00-5:00pm; Sunday December 8, from 12:00-1:15pm; and Thursday, December 12, from 4:00-5:00pm. Registration information went out in the mail. If you did not receive registration information in the mail or have questions, please contact Pastor Kendra. Registration is due Sunday, November 10. You may complete the registration by returning the

mailed form or by completing the online form.

November 2013

November 2013							December 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 27 - Nov 2	Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
						12:00pm 1:30pm Twelfth Grader Lunch 6:00pm 9:30pm 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner (Pooks Hill Marriott)	
Nov 3 - 9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - All Saints (Communion), 50th Anniversary, Child 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 12:00pm 1:00pm Cookbook Sale 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deacons Meeting (Parlor) 6:00pm 7:30pm PPC Family Serving Dinn	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:00pm 9:00pm Acoustic Committee, Library	12:00pm 5:00pm The Lord's Table at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, MD 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Finance and Stewardship Committee 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		7:00pm Youth Lock-in
Nov 10 - 16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Youth Lock-in 9:45pm 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 12:00pm 12:30pm Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers 4:00pm 6:00pm New Officer Training	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm 7:30pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sean's Office) 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	4:00pm 8:00pm Presbytery Meeting 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	Steeple to People Deadline	9:00am 5:00pm Prayer and Meditative Event 9:00am 12:00pm Fall Mission Project (Stepping Stones Shelter)
Nov 17 - 23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship -Commitment Sunday 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mission (worship) 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 4:00pm 6:00pm New Officer Training	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	STP MAILING 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:00pm 10:00pm Montgomery Bird Club	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop (Fellowship Hall) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		9:00am 11:00am PASTCF (Library)
Nov 24 - 30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Children in Worship, Children's Choir 12:00pm 1:15pm Youth Council Lunch 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and Tom Andrew at Ingleside	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall)	7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)		Thanksgiving (Office Closed) 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	Office Closed	

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854

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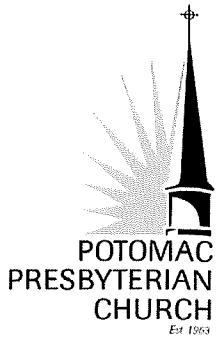
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The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church

A spiritual destination within a growing congregation.

December 2013



H O P E P E A C E
Love Joy

Sunday, December 1, Hope

11:00am Worship, Matthew 24:36-44
*"The Spirit of Advent—
Part One: Staying Awake"*

*Wednesday,
December 18*

7:00pm
Longest Night of the
Year Service

Sunday December 15, Joy

11:00am Worship, Matthew 11:2-11
*"The Spirit of Advent—
Part Three: Thinking About Jesus"*
5:00pm Children's Christmas
Pageant followed by
spaghetti dinner

Sunday, December 8, Love

9:30am Williamsburg Breakfast
11:00am Worship, Matthew 3:1-12
*"The Spirit of Advent—
Part Two: Making Straight Paths"*
5:00pm Advent Music, sanctuary

For all who experience
grief or loss during
this season.

Nursery care provided

Sunday December 22, Peace

11:00am Worship, Matthew 1:18-25
*"The Spirit of Advent—
Part Four: Risk"*
12:15pm Caroling at Koonce home
with lunch provided

Christmas Eve

5:00pm Family Candlelight Worship
7:00pm & 11:00pm Candlelight Communion Worship

Luke 2:1-20
"Giving Birth to Jesus"

Nursery care provided for 5:00pm & 7:00pm services

Potomac Presbyterian Church

Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor

Rev. Kendra Grams, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

Tom Andrew, Director of Music and Organist

301-299-6007, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

*We are an active Christian community devoted to
worship that stirs the soul,
education that engages the mind,
and service that sends us into the world*

Who among us has not longed for quiet and simplicity during Advent? Who among us has not felt the sting of loss or the pain of grief more acutely during this season? Who among us as not longed for hope in a broken and fearful world?

We encourage everyone to attend a special worship service of reflection, silence, music, and hope, called "The Longest Night of the Year." This worship service will be held on **Wednesday, December 18, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary**. Everyone in our family church is invited and encouraged to attend. Think especially of a neighbor, friend, or family member, who may be feeling a little "blue" during this season, and extend a warm invitation to them.

Scripture declares, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." May it be so for all of us during this busy Season. May we find and hear the simple yet profound promise that a Savior will be born.

Blessings,
Pastors Sean and Kendra



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

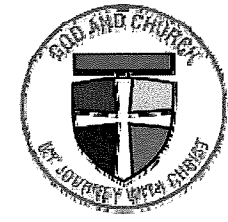
Intergenerational Christian Education

On December 22, everyone is invited to participate in our intergenerational Christian Education event in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:45am. There will be various activity stations where young and old alike will be invited to engage with the Advent spirit and Christmas story in various ways. We will decorate cookies, make ornaments, read stories, lift up prayers, and share memories with one another as we continue to prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ child anew.



God and Church Award

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the God and Church program. The God and Church program leads young people in a study of the church and worship. Participants also complete service projects that will give them a better understanding of the mission of the church. Pastor Kendra will be leading this program in January and February. Any interested participants should notify Pastor Kendra by December 8 so that a class schedule can be created.



Adult Education, Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Forum Class - (Library)

- December 1- Rev. Kendra Grams, *Introduction to "The Gospel of Matthew in the Lectionary"*
- December 8-Williamsburg Breakfast, no class
- December 15-Jim Reichley, *"Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?"*
- December 22-Intergenerational event, in Fellowship Hall
- December 29-No class

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Discussion of Scripture passages that will be read in worship.

Men's Book Club - (Parlor) Tuesday, December 17 - *Enemies: A History of the FBI*, Tim Weiner

Library News

I was very excited when the latest issue of **Presbyterians Today** arrived the other day. The main article is *Religion and Science: Can We Talk?* written by Henry Britton, who is pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Other articles are *Talking Science and Religion in One Congregation*, *Climate Change in the South Pacific*, *Hospice: Faith and Science at the End of Life* and the last is a study of Psalm 19-*Can Science Glorify God?*

This magazine, as well as others, is available for you to borrow on the honor system. Take it home and then return it the following week.

While you are in the library, I invite you to browse and see all the wonderful materials that are there for you to borrow. Just sign the card in the back of the book or DVD and put it in the brown box by the windows.
Nancy Tietjen

YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle School Advent Party - Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us in celebration on Friday, December 13, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Mamalian home as we enjoy dinner, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. Friends welcome.

Sr. High Advent Party - Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join us in celebration on Saturday, December 14, from 6:00-9:00pm, beginning at the Asbury home as we enjoy a progressive dinner, games, and a gift exchange. Friends welcome.

Save the Dates

- January 3-Winter Dinner for Parents of Youth, 7:00pm
- January 5-Youth Laser Tag & Pizza night, 5:00pm
- January 26-Youth Sunday

On Sunday mornings throughout January, the youth will be preparing for Youth Sunday during the Christian Education Hour. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the planning for and leadership of Youth Sunday Worship.

MEMORIAL GARDEN REMINDER

If you are thinking about purchasing a niche in the planned Memorial Garden Expansion, you may want to consider making that purchase in December 2013, as the current niche price of \$4,500 will increase to \$5,000 on January 1, 2014.



WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...



We continue to keep in our prayers... the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Nancy Rabin, sister of Ed Ebert; John Love, brother of Elsie Reid; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Bill Stanton; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnivant; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones

CHANGES OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Scott and Courtney Koonce
9004 Potomac Station Lane
Potomac, MD 20854
301-339-8838

Compton Jones
Aberdeen House,
14304 Bauer Drive,
Rockville, MD 20853

Ed Ebert new email: eebertjr@gmail.com

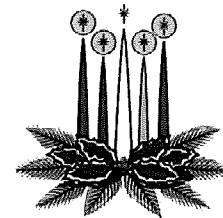
ADVENT NEWS

Did you know?...

The Evergreen Wreaths and Garlands: Evergreens have long been considered symbols of eternity, a sign of God's everlasting nature, and an indication that the faithful will experience eternal life in communion with God in Jesus Christ. The evergreens we use to decorate our sanctuary will remind us of God's abiding love in Jesus Christ, and of our eternal fellowship with Him.

The Advent Wreath:

The Advent Wreath is a simple circle of evergreen branches. Since the branches come from nature in its winter's sleep, the evergreens testify to the continuation of life. Bending the

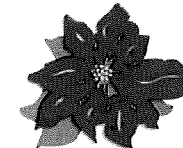


branches so that the ends touch to form a circle further symbolizes life without end. Four candles encircle a central, Christ candle. The candles signify God's Son as the light of the world.

Customarily, there are four candles for the four weeks in Advent. They are lit throughout Advent, but the Christ candle is not lit until Christmas Eve. The Advent Wreath sets the mood of waiting in the dark for the day when Christ was born.

The Poinsettia:

The most popular flower of the Advent-Christmas season is the bright red poinsettia. Actually, the red petals are not the blossoms of the plant. The blossoms are the small yellow cluster found at the center. This attractive flower was discovered growing wild in Mexico, by Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, and he brought some of the plants to America. The poinsettia speaks to us



symbolically, in several ways. First of all, the star-shaped formation of red leaves calls to mind the star which shone at that first Christmas. The color of the flower symbolizes the fact that the babe of Bethlehem became the Savior of the world, as he shed his blood upon the cross of Calvary.

The Christmas Tree:

The Christmas tree is a wonderful sign of God's love and faithfulness. Never losing its green color, the Christmas tree reminds us of God's steadfast love, which endures forever. It is said that Martin Luther was the first person to decorate his home with a Christmas tree. That was over four centuries ago! From this first Christmas tree in the Luther household, the custom spread. Now Christmas trees are used in homes, in churches and in communities- wherever the birth of Christ is celebrated and the love of Christ is shared.

The Chrismons:

The use of Chrismons on the tree began in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, in Danville, Virginia. Chrismons, or "Christ's Monograms", are handmade designs forming the familiar symbols of the Christian faith. These symbols speak to Christians of the deep meaning of the Gospel. The fish is the most ancient symbol for our Lord, and was used as an easily recognized secret sign by early Christians. The first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" form the Greek word for "fish". There are many designs for the symbol of the cross. The Anchor Cross was called the cross of hope by first-century Christians; it reminds us that Jesus is the Hope of the world. The Chi Rho Cross combines the first two letters of "Christ" in Greek-the "chi" shaped "x" reminds us of the manger of Jesus, and the "rho" is shaped like a shepherd's crook, and reminds us of the first visitors to the manger.



The Lights:

The symbol of light is central in the Christian message that Jesus is the Light of the World. As Isaiah 9:2 promises: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Advent is a time to remember that Jesus brought this powerful light into the world, and no amount of fear, darkness, or misery can put that light out. Christmas lights and candles also remind us of the glorious light of the Christmas angels as they spoke to the shepherds, and of the steady light of the star that led the Magi to Bethlehem. Sometimes the light of Jesus is most evident in difficult times, just as the stars can only be seen in the dark of night. Candles placed in the windows serve as a guide to all who pass by in the darkness, and as an invitation to all those looking for shelter, just as Mary and Joseph sought shelter on the first Christmas Eve.

"Transformations and Whispers"-John A. Dallas

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND

Please consider making a donation to the Christmas Decoration Fund in memory or honor of a loved one. Place donations in the pew envelopes. Please note "Advent Decorations" on your check. Donation envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or dropped off in the church office.

Memorial and honor dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please take home a poinsettia plant after Christmas Eve in gratitude for your contribution. Excess funds will be donated to the Mission Committee.

Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 8.

Please contact Bob Stow (301-987-7085 or bobstow@mac.com) if you are interested in helping us decorate on November 30!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Everyone is invited on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00pm, to the Children's Christmas Pageant entitled "Unto Us A Child is Born." In this retelling of the birth of Jesus, we imagine how a



contemporary talk show might have covered the events surrounding the birth of Christ. We watch in wonder as a skeptical host learns the truth of that first Christmas and comes to believe that Jesus' birth is truly a very

special gift from God.

A spaghetti dinner for all will follow the pageant. Donations made at the dinner will go to support the 2014 PPC Mission Trip to Bayville, New Jersey.

As a reminder for parents, children with main or supporting role should plan to attend drama rehearsals on:

- Thursday, December 5, 4:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, December 8, 12:00pm-1:15pm (pizza lunch provided)
- Thursday, December 12, 4:00-5:00pm

All participants should plan to attend the dress rehearsal on:

- Saturday, December 14, 9:00-10:30am

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Immediately following worship on Sunday, December 22, we will gather at the Koonce home (9004 Potomac Station Lane, Potomac) for a pre-caroling luncheon. Tom Andrew will warm up the carolers, and off we will go to spread Christmas goodwill and cheer! Even if you cannot join us for lunch, we would love for you to join us for caroling.



season. Interfaith Works hopes to provide each of the shelter's residents with a very simple gift: a shoebox, wrapped in gift paper, and filled with very basic items. This is a holiday project in which the entire family can participate—a personal card or drawing from a child would be a lovely addition.

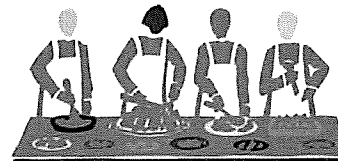
If your family would like to support this mission project, please fill a shoe box with (travel sized):

- pen
- good quality mid-calf high crew socks (1 pr)
- toothbrush/toothpaste
- pocket size 2014 calendar
- steno pad (or writing tablet)
- package of disposable razors
- soap, shampoo, lotion, deodorant
- comb (or brush for women's boxes)

The tops and bottoms of the boxes should be wrapped separately, so that the boxes can be opened while wrapped. **Please leave the boxes in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 15.** If you have any questions about this project or need empty boxes, please contact Janet Dunlop (janetdunlop@comcast.net). Thank you for your participation in this project!

PPC at Sophia House

The Wilkins Avenue Women's Assessment Center, (part of Interfaith Works and commonly known as *Sophia House*), provides emergency shelter, meals, and social services aimed at establishing self-sufficiency for single adult women who have been living on the street or at other unsuitable places.



Sophia House relies on volunteers to prepare food 365 days a year. **As part of the coalition of congregations, PPC provides a dinner and breakfast for 30 women on the first Sunday of each month.** Sophia House is located on Wilkins Avenue in Rockville.

Dinner is served by volunteers at 6:30pm. Volunteers arrive between 6:00 and 6:15pm to set up and prepare. They serve dinner, converse with the women, and usually leave between 7:15-7:30pm. Dinners generally consist of a main dish, a couple sides, dessert, and beverages. Meals must be warm and ready to serve – there is only a microwave in the kitchen area. There is room for about 2-4 people comfortably to serve the women. We leave the breakfast items, (for example, cereal, fruit, hard-boiled eggs, bagels/muffins), for the next morning.

Some people may hesitate to volunteer because they find it daunting to cook for 30 people, but we provide suggested menus and recipes of items to bring based on what other people have done. PPC volunteers consist of any combination of families, individuals, and groups. It's fun to put together groups of people to cook and serve, and gives good meaning to "many hands make light work". It's very nice for families with younger kids to get involved—it provides the opportunity for them to interact with those that are less fortunate than us, and to find out that, in many ways, they are not so different than any of us either.

Volunteers are needed for 2014! A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall, or you can email Kitty Cowie, at catherineccowie@gmail.com (don't forget the middle initial c).



The PPC Mission Committee supports a number of local, national and international organizations. We frequently receive letters from these organizations expressing their appreciation for our support and letting us know how our contributions have extended their work. Below are three such acknowledgements:

"On behalf of everyone at Stepping Stones Shelter, I wish to thank you for your generous support of our programs. Your contribution makes hope possible for families who are struggling with homelessness. It is through the investments of

our many community partners that we are able to provide a temporary, safe home, and the many supports that our families need to move forward from the crisis of homelessness to stability."

-Stepping Stones Shelter

"WOW! Thank you so much for your generous donation of so many hard working hands and strong backs. Your kind hearts, generosity, time and effort to work at one our Interfaith Housing Coalition homes was amazing. We commend your social conscience and desire to bring joy to the less fortunate." **-Friends-in-Action, Interfaith Works**

"Thank you for your recent gift to Presbyterian World Mission. The generosity of people like you is enabling lives to be transformed in every region of the world. Our mission workers help people escape poverty's grip, share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and work for reconciliation in some of the world's most troubled places... Our mission personnel serve in almost 50 countries giving testimony to Christ's love in word and deed." (support of Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan in Bangladesh and Magda Iskander in Egypt) **-World Mission, Presbyterian Mission Agency**

Your PPC Mission Committee thanks you for your generous support in joyfully serving God with thinking minds, working hands, and loving hearts.



Gift Giving
TREE

Gift Giving Tree

The Mission Committee invites you to participate in its annual Gift Giving Tree at the Williamsburg Breakfast. On the tree will be names of 85 needy children in our community who would appreciate receiving a holiday gift. Pick the name of a child from the tree and purchase a gift—there will be suggestions from the parents. Please return the wrapped gift to the church before worship on Sunday, December 15. There will also be cards requesting \$25 donations for the purchase of Giant gift cards for the parents. This is a great opportunity to teach our children about the joy of sharing and to make the holidays happier for the families from Stepping Stones Shelter and Interfaith Works.

Toiletry Gift Boxes for Interfaith Works Shelter

During this season, when we celebrate the miraculous gift of our Lord's birth, what better way to express our gratitude than to share a small portion of our many blessings with our brothers and sisters in need? Once again, Interfaith Works has offered us an opportunity to express our thanks by providing a bit of comfort to the more than 100 men and women who will seek emergency overnight shelter from the cold at the Community Vision facility in downtown Silver Spring during the holiday

Deacon corner

The Deacons have been busy with fellowship, congregational care, and several special events since Labor Day.

We hosted our annual "Coffee's on the Terrace" in September for our Deacon groups. The weather was perfect, as each group had a special time for fellowship after the worship service. This is one of the times during

the year when the Deacons have an opportunity to get to know those in our group a little bit better. It was rewarding to see everyone enjoy the "Coffee's on the Terrace."

The Deacons hosted our second "New Member Breakfast" in October. Courtney Koonce provided leadership as the Deacons prepared a buffet breakfast for our new members on the Sunday morning that the congregation welcomed these individuals as members of Potomac Presbyterian Church. It was a special opportunity for the Deacons to introduce ourselves to our new members, and for all of us to get to know each other. The New Member Breakfast is quickly becoming a tradition for the Deacons.

Williamsburg Breakfast

Hosted by the PPC Deacons

This year's theme is

A Season of Love

Sunday December 8, 2013,

9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Please bring a breakfast food to share
(to serve 6) and a small bell to ring
during carol singing.

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

*You may pick up a name from the Gift
Giving Tree, and spread the joy of
Christmas to a family in need.*

This fall, we prepared care packages for our college students. It is a nice chance for the Deacons to reach out to our college students and let them know we are thinking of them. Sonia Russo led the Deacons in this effort and wrote a nice article in last month's Deacon's Corner about the College Care Packages. We received many notes of thanks and appreciation from our college students.

The Williamsburg Breakfast is fast approaching on Sunday, December 8, the second Sunday of Advent. The Deacons look forward to hosting this special event every year in Fellowship Hall. It is a festive occasion when our congregation can share food, conversation, scripture readings, Christmas carols, and prayers. Please remember to reach out after the Williamsburg Breakfast and take a name tag from the "gift tree" at the back of Fellowship Hall. It is a nice opportunity to "adopt a child" from less fortunate circumstances and bring a measure of Christmas joy.

Lastly, many new people and families—some with young children—are attending our Sunday morning worship service. Please reach out and offer a greeting to our visitors, and let them know that Fellowship Hour follows the service.

Philip Shively, Deacon

December 2013

December 2013						
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January 2014						
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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 1 - 7	Dec 1 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Firs 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 12:30pm Collect Toiletr 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac 12:15pm 1:15pm Senior High Lu	2 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:00pm 9:00pm Acoustic Committee, Library	3 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	4 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	5 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm 5:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	6	7
	8 9:30am 11:00am Christmas Tree 9:30am 10:45am Williamsburg B 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:15pm Christmas Pag 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 12:30pm Collect Toiletr	9 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meetin	10 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	11 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:00pm 10:00pm Montgomery Bird Club	12 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm 5:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	13 6:30pm 8:30pm Middle School Christmas Party	14 9:00am 10:30am Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 6:00pm 9:00pm Senior High Christmas Party
Dec 8 - 14	15 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Equal Exchang 12:15pm 2:00pm Youth Ministry	16 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	17 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	18 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:30pm 8:30pm Longest Night o	19 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 7:00pm 9:00pm Young Adult/Co 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	20	21
	22 9:45am 10:45am Intergenerational Christian Ed 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Chi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:30pm 4:00pm Caroling (at Ko 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and	23 STP MAILING 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop	24 5:00pm 6:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship 7:00pm 8:00pm Christmas Eve with Communion 11:00pm 12:00am Christmas Eve, Communion by Intinctio	25 Christmas Day - Office Closed	26 Office Closed 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	27 Holy Lands Trip	28 Holy Lands Trip
Dec 15 - 21	29 Holy Lands Trip 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Led by College Students, Children in Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	30 Holy Lands Trip 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	31 Holy Lands Trip	Jan 1, 14	2	3	4