

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854

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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church
A spiritual destination within a growing congregation.

February 2014

PPC in the Holy Lands A Journey Into the Fifth Gospel

Standing at the front of a coach bus just three days after Christmas, I read the passage from Mark 8 where Jesus asks the disciples the famous question, "Who do you say that I am?" I told our group that our nine day journey through Israel and Palestine would be a journey into the heart of that question. What we found in our journey through the "Holy Lands," were countless opportunities to reflect upon the person of Jesus and the Christ of our faith—the One who called the fisherman at the Sea of Galilee, and the one who calls us as disciples at Potomac Presbyterian Church.



The PPC Pilgrims on the shore of the Sea of Galilee

I have asked two of the PPC pilgrims, Bob Stow and Karen Wise to share a brief word about an experience that was meaningful to them. Here is what Karen and Bob had to say:

Karen Wise: *As we walked in the footsteps of Jesus we encountered Him in a different way with each new place we visited. On our third day we spent time on a boat in the Sea of*



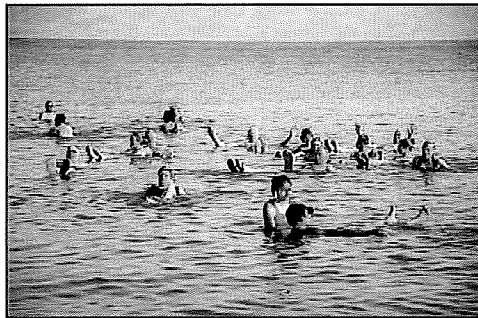
Masada—The last stand against Roman occupation

Galilee. That morning we watched fishermen pulling up their nets and pictured Peter and Andrew doing exactly the same thing some 2,000 years earlier. Onboard the boat we sang gospel songs, read scripture, and passed the peace. The captain cut the engines and we drifted through the water in quiet meditation.

They say there are "thin" places in the world where the boundary between heaven and earth is thin and God is close. For many of us that day our boat ride took us to a thin place. We had visited Nazareth where we met Jesus as a child, and we had visited Cana where we met Jesus as his mother's son on the cusp of his ministry. Later in the day we would visit Capernaum and meet Jesus, surrounded by crowds, as teacher, healer, and miracle worker.

But in the silence on the Sea of Galilee we met Jesus in another way. It was here that Jesus called Peter and Andrew to drop their nets and follow him. It was here that he walked on water

and gave hope and courage to his fearful disciples. " 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid...' And those in the boat worshiped him, saying 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"



Floating in the Dead Sea

Bob Stow: *Our PPC pilgrimage to the Holy Lands in Israel was a life transforming spiritual experience by linking geographical context from the sites we visited to our study of the Bible. One of many memorable experiences took place in the Garden of Gethsemane. The first half of our trip was spent around the Sea of Galilee as we experienced where Jesus walked with his disciples, preached to the people, and performed miracles. The impact of Jesus' ministry here was uplifting and exciting with crowds of people following wherever he went. Jesus must of felt energized with his ministry's impact. The second half of our trip transitioned to Jerusalem, the seat of both Roman power and the Jewish religious hierarchy. Here we walked the road where Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, but then realized the clash that occurred between Jesus and the authorities. This was brought into focus as we experienced reflective Bible readings, discussion, and meditation in the Garden of Gethsemane. This was impactful on us all as we contemplated how Jesus felt when he prayed for God to take the cup leading to death on the cross away from him, but then prayed "not my will, but thy will be done." At this moment in the Garden, many of us understood in a new way Jesus' very human emotion, as during tragedy in our own lives, we have often*

prayed for deliverance, while placing our fate in God's hands at the same time.



The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem

I hope you will continue to enjoy the pictures and stories on the trip blog, which is available by visiting the PPC website. Most importantly, I do hope that you will ask any of the PPC pilgrims to share what was meaningful to them about the trip, for there were so many deeply meaningful, spiritual, and eye-opening experiences.

We were richly blessed and challenged to encounter Jesus in new ways, not only in the beautiful cathedrals and mosaics, but in the land, the people, and even in the deep conflict that is so integral to that part of the world. Indeed, our eyes were opened, and we hope that this will be the first of several pilgrimages to the Holy Lands.

Pastor Sean



The PPC pilgrims prepare to enter the site of the nativity

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; 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; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones; Ralph Panico, brother-in-law of Bob and Louise Plumb

"The Shively family thanks everyone for the outpouring of notes and prayers during their difficult time after the passing of Catherine Shively, mother of Philip Shively. We are deeply grateful."

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Tom Cookerly
8300 Burdette Road, #445
Bethesda, MD 20817

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

HEXAGON 2014 – Saturday, March 15 Hunter's Inn at 5:30 and Hexagon at 8:00.



Please join fellow church members for an evening of fellowship as we enjoy good food, and delicious political satire! Hexagon's 2014 musical comedy revue is "Midterm Madness", and PPC's very own Kathy Jeffers is once again a member of the cast! Hexagon's beneficiary this year is Sarah's Circle, an award-winning affordable housing residence and wellness center which provides comprehensive programs and services for very low-income seniors. For more information about Hexagon and Sarah's Circle please visit Hexagon's website at www.hexagon.org

We will meet at Hunter's Inn at 5:30 for dinner, and then drive individually, or carpool, to the 8pm performance at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Avenue, in Silver Spring.

Tickets for the show are \$23 per person, and we'll each pay our own way 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) 339-8838.

Serving Angels

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. [Hebrews 13:2](#)

The Community Ministry of Montgomery County has once again offered PPC the opportunity to practice hospitality by providing hearty and delicious meals and warm fellowship to the residents of the Wilkins Avenue Women's Assessment Center (formerly the Community Based Shelter) in Rockville the week of March 2nd through March 8th. The shelter serves up to 36 adult women, who attend professional or treatment programs during the daytime hours and work diligently on the issues related to their homelessness.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hours on February 9, 16, and 23, for those who are able to assist, and a shopping list of pantry staples and toiletries will also be available. You may also call Janet Dunlop at (301) 838-0583 or e-mail her at janetdunlop@comcast.net to volunteer or to obtain additional information.

For many years PPC has been a most faithful and enthusiastic supporter of this mission opportunity. The meals lovingly prepared and the fellowship extended are always most greatly appreciated by the women whom PPC serves during the week. It is truly amazing to see how the shelter residents, once strangers (and perhaps, even angels), quickly become friends in Christ over a meal and conversation shared – a true blessing for all who participate.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

February 2 - Holy Lands Pilgrimage, Part II (Fellowship Hall)

February 9 - David McAllister-Wilson, President of Wesley Theological Seminary

February 16 - TBA

February 23 - Kendra Grams, topic TBA

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Men's Book Club - (Parlor)

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

February 18-*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson

March 18-*American Emperor: A Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America*, David Stewart

April 15-*The Roberts Court: Struggle for the Constitution*, Marcia Coyle

Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the annual Women's Retreat, which will be held Saturday, March 22, from 10am-4pm, at Garrett Park Town Hall.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

With Christmas behind us and Lent still a month away, these winter months can seem like "down" time, in which we expect little. But we should expect much, and be open to great things, for this is the season of Epiphany.

On the day of the Epiphany, January 6, we remember the wise men and their journey to Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. We remember that God broke into the world anew by sending Jesus to live among us. We remember how the star broke into the night sky calling the wise men to pay attention to God's gift of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Throughout the season of Epiphany, we celebrate God's presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness.

In worship on January 5, as a way to help us pay attention to how God is breaking into our lives and guiding us to follow Christ, everyone was invited to take a "star gift" or "star word" before departing worship. Each star has a word to ponder during the year ahead.

I got the word "patience." I immediately laughed, and thought to myself, "Really, God? Really?" But still, this year I am committed to praying patiently—watching—waiting to see how and when God is calling me to be more patient and when God is calling me to be less patient or reserved. I'm pondering how God is breaking into my life anew and calling me to a deeper walk with Christ.

If you missed worship on January 5, there are still plenty of "star gifts." Drop by my office, and I'll be happy to gift you with a "star word." Take your star home and hang it up where you are sure to see it every day.



In the year ahead, may these "star gifts" help us all pay attention to the ways in which God is speaking to us, breaking into our lives, shining into the darkness. Pay attention to how that word plays out in your daily life. Remember, it's not a magical word, but it's a way to pay attention to the ways in which God might be speaking to you, gifting you, and abiding with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Kendra

From the Clerk of Session

The Session met on January 20 for its regular meeting with the new team for 2014. The focus of the meetings this year will be strategic planning and development as Potomac Presbyterian Church continues to be positioned as a spiritual leader in the area. The Session discussed the Vision Statement and will finalize this goal in the next months.

Elder Dan Drumheller gave a report on the progress of the Acoustic Committee. The group continues to make progress in the replacement of the organ and other physical changes to improve the sound quality in the Sanctuary. Acoustic tuning and speech reinforcement systems will be the first actions to address this issue.

Elder Nancy Tietjen gave a report on the progress of the expansion of the Memorial Garden. The sale of niches and memorial name plates has provided sufficient funding for the project to move forward. More information on the timeline and scope of the expansion will be provided as developed.

Elder Paul Mammalian presented the financial summary for 2013. This included detailed statements and fund balances. He also reported that the Audit is close to completion.

Pastor Kendra Grams reviewed Safe Church Training and procedures. All officers in active service and all members that work with youth or children are required to complete the training. The recruitment of a staff position for administrative support continues.

Other business included the election of Rob Wescott to the position of Chair, Endowment Committee, and also the election of Calvin

Koonce to serve a three year term on the Endowment Committee. The attendance report showed the average attendance for worship service to be 165, up 20 from the previous year. The Christmas Eve services hosted 478 people in three services.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 9, 2014, for the Annual Congregational Meeting. This will include a luncheon and will begin after the worship service.

Additional information is available from your Elder representatives.

Susan Haynes, Clerk of Session



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9, 2014**. Lunch will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

The Annual Report will be available electronically and a link to the report will be sent via the Thursday Spirit. If you would like a hard copy mailed to your home, please contact the church office by phone (301-299-6007) or email (admin@potomacpresbyterian.org).

Printed copies will also be available for pick up.



2014 PPC MISSION TRIP BAYVILLE, NEW JERSEY

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Each summer, youth and adults from PPC are invited on a week-long mission trip to an area in need. Each trip is enriching in its own way. We always learn more about our brothers and sisters in need, but most often, we come to a deeper understanding of how God is at work in the world and how we can follow Christ more faithfully.

In 2013, we traveled to Hazard, Kentucky, to conduct home repairs for disadvantaged residents. Here are a few reflections from members of our Kentucky Mission Team:

"After the week I feel like I have a new understanding of God's plan for us. I don't think we're necessarily supposed to know what it is. It's not always about figuring out our careers, or making our relationships with our friends and families perfect. It's not even about having a clear layout of a project and following it step by step. As much as we'd like it to be perfect, God's plan is messy and unclear. It's about living with love and compassion, and just seeing where that takes us. It's about opening our eyes and seeing God in strange and unexpected places, like underneath a house in Hazard, Kentucky. After six mission trips, I now see how Taylor said those words ["God has a plan for you"] to me so many years ago with such confidence. Because it's not about figuring out exactly what God's plan is, but simply knowing that he has one."
-Emily Petti, sophomore at Cornell University

"Later that day, Fiona and I were talking and she said to me 'If Steve [the carpenter who dressed in worn out blue jeans and old t-shirts] was walking down River Road, could you imagine how much criticism and judgment he would get because of the way he looks?'...I couldn't help but realize that, as sad as it is, we come from a community where he would get a thousand stares and many people would make comments about the way he looks, despite that he has a wonderful personality. My eyes were...opened when Steve made me understand that judging someone before you get to know them is one of the worst things a person can do—that you can't judge a book by its cover. His kind heart and his encouraging words throughout the day really changed my perspective on the way that we think of others before we truly know them."
-Haley White, senior at Wootton High School



"God opens the eyes of people every day, we just have to stop and allow them to open. I walk away from my experience [in Kentucky] understanding that God truly does everything for a reason. God will test you but only for your own good. You may not know why or how he is testing you, but you should always trust what he has in store for you. Sometimes one has to take a leap of faith... I know I was meant to go to Kentucky. I know I was meant to meet all these new people... [On] Saturday June 15, I had one friend, in the PPC mission group, just one, my sister, Carolyn... [On] Sunday June 30, I have 24 new friends, the PPC mission group."

-Maddie McGill, freshman at Whitman High School

This summer, June 14-21, we are traveling to Bayville, New Jersey, to assist with ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. Are you being called to New Jersey? Are you being called to a week of service? To a week working, eating, sleeping, and reflecting with your brothers and sisters in Christ? To a week that might even change your life? If so, or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Kendra. The deadline to register for the 2014 New Jersey Mission Trip is Sunday, March 2.

Deacon corner

On January 11, 2014, new and returning members of the Session and the Deacons met in Fellowship Hall for a day of fellowship, reflection, and planning for the upcoming year. Pastor Sean, Pastor Kendra, and Gayle Goff did a wonderful job guiding our bagel and coffee-fueled group's discussions about our church's continuing mission and vision for our future.

For 2014, the Deacons welcome Nels Ackerson, Jerry Bonaparte, and Louise Plumb, serving three year terms as Deacons, and Beth Dart, serving a one year term. These new faces replace Nelda Coligan, Gloria Leber, Sigrid McCutcheon, and Sally O'Neal. Last year was my first year as a Deacon, and I would like to personally thank Nelda, Gloria, Sigrid, and Sally for their patient mentoring (including guiding me through the mysteries of the operation of the church's coffee maker and dishwasher). Over the next month, Deacons will be contacting their group members.

Finally, I'd like to highlight the ongoing work of two Deacon-lead committees. Courtney Koonce continues in her role as chair of the Fellowship Committee, which does a wonderful job coordinating Fellowship Hour, Dine with Nine, the Coffee Exchange Project, the Williamsburg Breakfast, and other special meals and celebrations throughout the year. Sonia Russo will chair the Congregational Care Committee in 2014, taking over from Sally O'Neal. For those unfamiliar with the committee, Congregational Care provides services to any church member in need of assistance due to, for example, disability, illness, death of a family member, and any other traumatic life experience. Anyone who feels they could benefit from some prayer support, a visit, some lasagna, or any other support service provided by the committee should contact their Deacon, Pastor Sean, Pastor Kendra, or a member of the Congregational Care Committee.

I look forward to an exciting 2014 with new faces and a renewed vision.

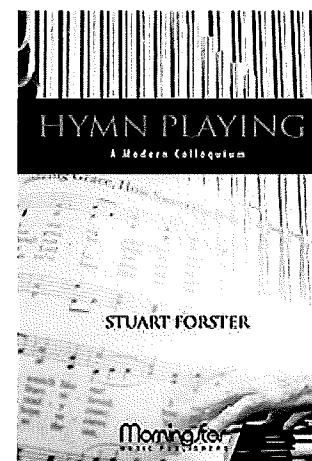
Jon Davies



A Note From the Music Director

So many of you have shared kind words about the music at PPC – I have passed them along to our choirs, on your behalf. They are greatly appreciated. All the choirs took a well-deserved break for a couple of weeks after Christmas; it gave me a chance to look back at a few things, for a change.

I've been reflecting on what a busy fall we have just been through! Celebrating our 50th Anniversary, a capital campaign, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas – it all came and went so very quickly! What an exciting time to be part of this congregation! We have so much to be thankful for... and so much to look forward to in the future.



So what started my reflection? Books. My wife Judy often gives me a book for Christmas – sometimes a book she thinks I'll like, sometimes one I've mentioned that I'd like to have. This year, I got one of each – one by a mystery

writer I've come to like, and one about playing hymns. I read *Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium* first.

I can hear some of you saying; "Why, Tom? You know how to play hymns." My best answer is... I always think I can learn *more*. It might surprise you to know that there are very few books on playing hymns; and actually, it isn't taught very often, either. Most of my organ lessons have been on playing organ "literature," not hymns. I'm not alone – Stuart Forster, the author of the book, says playing hymns has been passed down by "osmosis and guesswork" for years. He has interviewed 11 leaders in the world of hymn-playing about "how they do what they do." I find the book fascinating... both reaffirming and challenging, all at once. I have some new ideas to think about and to try out... without forgetting that singing hymns is something we all do *together*.... If I'm doing something so obvious that you stop singing to listen - I've failed at my responsibility to help us all sing.

So I have some work to do, and I value your input. Let me know if (or when?) I go too far astray. Let me know when something works for you. Most of all... keep singing. Singing hymns – experiencing the synergy of poetry, music, and community- can lead us to memorable experiences of Spirit, God's presence, and worship. As one hymn puts it... "a more *profound* Alleluia!"

Tom Andrew

February 2014

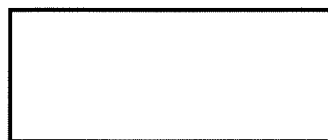
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Jan 26 - Feb 1							
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March 2014

"A Long Way From Home"

When we arrived in Jerusalem, our group of Holy Land pilgrims began with prayer and Scripture at the Mount of Olives. Soon, we began to walk slowly and carefully down from the mountain to the Garden of Gethsemane below. There, we read the story of Jesus, begging his disciples to stay awake with him; yet after withdrawing for a time of prayer, Jesus soon returns to find the disciples asleep. We recalled times in our lives when we have been betrayed, and we remembered how we too have been one who has betrayed friends and loved ones.

By the time he reaches the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus has come "a long way from home." By that time, of course, Jesus of Nazareth had traveled a very long distance on foot, a journey that would have taken several weeks to finish. While the region around the Sea of Galilee was marked with lush vegetation, serene hills and wandering valleys, the city of Jerusalem was noisy, crowded, and full of city life. Jesus, who was raised in the small backwater town of Nazareth, found himself in the center of the political and religious arena. Accompanied by disciples who once caught fish at the sea, Jesus now cannot convince them to stay awake. At the Garden, during the last week of his life, Jesus is, literally and spiritually, "a long way from home."

The 40 day season of Lent is an invitation for us to walk alongside Jesus from the serenity of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem and the cross at



Calvary's hill. Lent invites us to consider why Jesus must go to the cross, and how, as New Testament scholar Rolf Jacobsen has suggested, "God crossed the great abyss of sin and death that once separated us from God. Precisely because we could not make that journey ourselves," Jacobsen writes, "the Triune God did it for us."

As people of faith, how will we respond to God's astonishing act of Divine love, obedience, and sacrifice?

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and we will gather for worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm for the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Communion.

WEDNESDAYS in Lent

7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Scripture, Silence, and Song

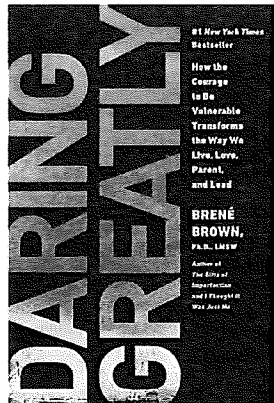
Then, new this year, all are invited to gather on Wednesdays in Lent, for a time of worship beginning at 7:30 pm. Wednesday evening worship will be simple in format, including readings of Lenten Scripture, song, and silence. The Sanctuary will be available for prayer before worship begins, and following worship, you will be invited to remain in the Sanctuary for silent prayer and meditation.

Whether we were gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer or singing and sharing communion at the empty tomb, we were overwhelmed by the knowledge that our Lord and Savior made the journey from the Sea to the City and to the Cross. Why not set aside Wednesday evenings at 7:30 during Lent on your calendar as one way that you will mark the season this year? I look forward to these times as we turn inward to consider our own journeys of faith and looking outward to the son of God, who walks a lonesome valley "a long way from home."

Pastor Sean

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Working with children and youth, I often talk about and contemplate the dynamics of belonging. But what we too easily forget is that we all thirst for belonging. Cliques are not unique to teenagers, nor are teens the only people who experience peer pressure.



Recently, Dr. Brené Brown's research on vulnerability, shame, and belonging has been gaining more and more attention in various circles. Parents, CEO's, pastors, teachers, and even Oprah are paying attention to her research findings.

In her book *Daring Greatly*, Brown writes the following about belonging: "Belonging is the innate human desire to be part of something that is larger than us. Because this yearning is so primal, we often try to acquire it by fitting in and by seeking approval, which are not only hollow substitutes for belonging, but often barriers to it. Because

true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance."

We have to love ourselves and dare to be ourselves in order to know true belonging. To love ourselves, we have to believe that we are valuable as we are, that we are enough, that we don't have to be perfect to be valuable or loved.

And so, I often reflect that if there is only one Biblical story I can teach children and youth (and adults), it would be the story of Jesus' baptism. If there is one thing I want every person to hear and believe, it is the pronouncement of God's love which Jesus heard at his baptism—"You are my child, beloved. With you I am well pleased."

In other words: You are enough—you are valuable as you are—dare to be who you are.

Think how different the world would be if we all believed that we are enough and dared to be our authentic, imperfect selves.

I dream of that day, because I'm confident that we'll all be kinder, gentler, and more compassionate not just to others, but also to ourselves. I dream of that day, because I believe that day we will be glimpsing the kingdom of God—where we all belong just as we are, where we all are loved and accepted just as we are.

To live into this dream, this Lenten season, I'm making it part of my journey to spend a few moments every day reminding myself that I'm enough, that I don't have to be perfect, that I am loved just as I am. I hope and pray that you will do the same.

In Christ,

Pastor Kendra

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; 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; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones; Ralph Panico, brother-in-law of Bob and Louise Plumb

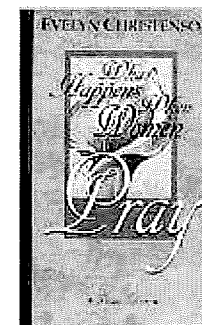
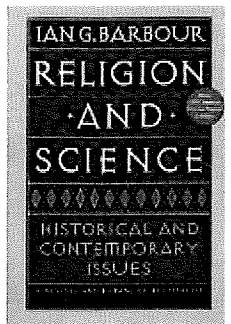
The Pereles Family would like to thank everyone for the incredible outpouring of cards, notes, and prayers during this very difficult and sad time for their family with the loss of Lori Ayanian, Susan's mother. We will always be grateful for the support we received from our PPC family.



Resource Center News

Several new books have been added to our collection and are on the book cart for you to borrow.

One of those books, *Science and Religion* by Ian Barbour, was requested. It is a contemporary discussion of the many issues surrounding our understanding of God and religious experience in the scientific age. This revised and expanded edition of *Religion in the Age of Science* and has received several awards.



What Happens When Women Pray by Evelyn Christenson has many excellent reviews. One was "Don't miss this fantastic book on prayer". It is a wonderful little book answering questions you may have about prayer or if you are unsure if prayer is really important. If so, this book is for you. It is OK if men read it also.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

March 2, 9, 16, 23-R. Bruce Douglass, Director of the Reformed Institute, *Reinhold Niebuhr, Christ and Culture*

March 30, April 6, 13-Dewey Wallace, *Walter Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel*

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

March 18-*American Emperor: A. Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America*, David Stewart

April 15-*The Roberts Court: Struggle for the Constitution*, Marcia Coyle

May 20-*The Dawn of Innovation: First American Industrial Revolution*, by Charles Morris

June 17-*Double Cross: The True Story of D-Day Spies*, by Ben Macintyre

Women's Retreat: The Pilgrim Way

The women of PPC are invited for a relaxed day of fellowship and reflection on Saturday, March 22, 10am-4pm, at the Garrett Park Town Hall. The retreat will be led by Kendra Grams and Ruth Everhart. Ruth is the author of *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land* and has been a Presbyterian pastor since 1990, serving congregations in three states. Together we will explore Christian pilgrimage. What are the gifts of pilgrimage? Do those gifts still apply, in our bustling world? Can we practice this ancient discipline in our everyday lives, or does it require airfare? Cost is \$35. Sign-up on the poster in the narthex or by contacting Jeanne Grillo (admin@potomacpresbyterian.org).



The National Capital Presbytery met on January 28, 2014 at National Presbyterian Church. During the meeting, NCP:

- Celebrated LaJuan Quander's 30 years of employment (she's the longest serving employee on staff) with the National Capital Presbytery.
- Saw a video on Equipping Leaders.
- Approved alternative means to measure a particular candidate's competency in Biblical exegesis.
- Received revisions to the Financial Policies for first reading. Commissioners are encouraged to submit comments and ideas on the proposed changes to the Leadership Council.
- Approved 2014 NCP Compensation Policies for Pastors and Christian Educators.
- Postponed until the May meeting consideration of the motion to designate an Administrative Commission for Wheaton Community Church, directed the Committee on Ministry to meet with the WCC session to resolve the issues giving rise to the motion, and directed WCC to pay 3 months' severance to the Rev. Park at the end of his contract.
- Approved the Overture "On Amending W-4.9000" which would permit a teaching

elder to comply with or deny a request to marry a same-sex couple in a jurisdiction in which such marriage is permitted and the session to permit or deny the use of church property for such a purpose.

- Approved the Overture "Authoritative Interpretation of W-4.9000 for Marriage Equality" which would permit, but not require, a teaching elder to perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple and a session to permit use of the place where the community gathers for worship and which would withdraw earlier, contrary, Authoritative Interpretations.

Sara M. Coe
Stated Clerk
National Capital Presbytery
scoc@thepresbytery.org
240-514-5352

Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 5, 7:30pm -Ash Wednesday

April 13, 11:00am-Palm Sunday

April 17, 7:30pm-Maundy Thursday

April 18, 7:30pm-Good Friday Tenebrae

April 20, 9:00am & 11:00am-Easter



A Note
From the

Music Director

Why Do We Sing Hymns in Church?

Last month I wrote about a book I'd been reading, *Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium*. So many of you were kind enough to tell me one of two things: either you enjoyed the article (one person even got the book from me and read it), or that you really had never thought much about hymn playing (several of you shared that thought).

This month: a brief consideration of "hymn singing" itself. Why do we sing hymns in church? A great question; the answer could fill a book. I'll try to give a brief answer, here.

First, the Bible says we should sing hymns. Writers in both the Old and New Testaments mention singing praise to God (which is inherent in the meaning of "hymn"). Psalmists, Prophets and Apostles all mention singing hymns (see Psalm 51:14-15; Isaiah 12:1-6, and Ephesians 5:18-19). Not just hymns, but "Psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs" (Col.3:16) as ways of not only praising God, but as ways to "teach and admonish" each other. Remember that Christ and his disciples sang a hymn following the Last Supper; Revelations is filled with descriptions of the heavenly beings and the saints filling heaven with their songs of praise to the Lamb on the throne.

Secondly, church fathers and reformers believed we should sing. Martin Luther, who had been a monk in an Augustinian monastery, loved the church too much to let it remain corrupt, and set out to reform church doctrine and hierarchy. He knew the power of hymns, since monks sing them several times a day at their daily "offices" (services). In Luther's time, the congregation did not sing at all during the service; one of his great gifts was combining the Latin hymns and biblical songs of his monastic life into German, setting them to tunes people were familiar with, thus allowing people to praise God with their voices and music during worship. John Calvin, another great Protestant reformer, heard German congregations singing while he was exiled from Geneva (his home), saw the good and powerful thing this music was, and began to see how he could set some of the translations of the Psalms he knew to music, which eventually became the Genevan Psalter – one of the first great songbooks of the Church.

From those beginnings, as time passed, other streams of hymnody developed. In every age, new hymns gave voice to people's efforts to praise God in their own vocabulary, with new enthusiasm and understanding. From Isaac Watts in England to North American hymn writers, Asians, Africans, South Americans – new hymns give voice to some of our best thoughts, our beliefs, and our gratitude to the God who creates and sustains us.

MISSION NEWS

PPC Mission Committee: Dreaming for the Future

The PPC Mission Committee is eagerly planning for future mission programs that will strengthen and focus its activities. The timing for such planning could not be better: We have an energetic committee (and hope new members will join us) and an enthusiastic congregation, and also have great opportunities afforded by funding from the Firm Foundation, Shining Future Campaign. You may remember that a key component of this Campaign was to expand and sustain PPC mission activities, ensuring that the PPC community extends its service both locally and throughout the world.

Through internal discussions, conversations with PPC members, and feedback from the Session, the Mission Committee identified the following characteristics as central to PPC mission programs:

- Intergenerational activities – activities for all age groups, particularly our youth
- Hands-on projects – that convey how our dollars convert into actions that help others
- Sustainable activities – long term activities that make a difference
- Projects with which we have a personal identification
- Activities that address the issues of poverty or homelessness, and not just the symptoms, as we seek to change lives
- A mix of local, national, and international ministries
- Focused activities – fewer overall activities consistent with identified themes

In addition, we have identified the themes of Hunger, Homelessness, and Healing to shape and guide our future ministries.

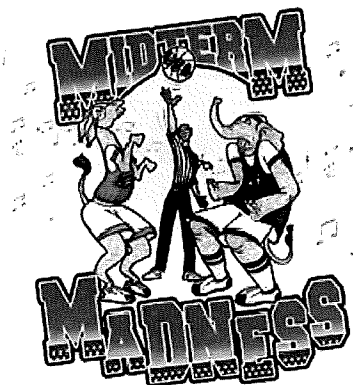
During a very productive brainstorming session in early February, Pastor Sean challenged us to "dream big" in thinking about how to rejuvenate PPC's mission activities. We identified strengths of PPC that could benefit partner organizations, selected "families and children" as a focus, and discussed several potential programs for the next 3 to 5 years. During the next few months, we will meet with three key local organizations (Interfaith Works, Stepping Stones, Rainbow Place) and explore several international ministries that might be a good fit with our resources and strengths. We will also be working with the Finance Committee and the Session to determine how best to use monies from the Firm Foundation, Shining Future Campaign.

We welcome your questions, comments and input about any aspect of the Mission Committee activities, and encourage you and your family to participate in the mission projects already scheduled. This is an exciting time as we seek to strengthen our impact as we go out into the world to be the church.



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

HEXAGON 2014 – Saturday, March 15, Hunter's Inn at 5:30pm and Hexagon at 8:00pm



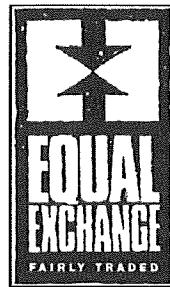
Please join fellow church members for an evening of fellowship as we enjoy good food, and delicious political satire! Hexagon's 2014 musical comedy revue is "Midterm Madness", and PPC's very own Kathy Jeffers is once again a member of the cast! Hexagon's beneficiary this year is Sarah's Circle, an award-winning affordable housing residence and wellness center which provides comprehensive programs and services for very low-income seniors. For more information about Hexagon and Sarah's Circle please visit Hexagon's website at www.hexagon.org.

We will meet at Hunter's Inn, in Potomac Village, at 5:30pm for dinner, and then drive individually, or carpool, to the 8:00pm performance at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995

Georgia Avenue, in Silver Spring. Tickets for the show are \$23 per person, and we'll each pay our own way 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) 339-8838.

Equal Exchange Coffee Sale - Sunday March 16

Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World" and PPC is proud to offer quarterly sales of coffee and chocolate to help those enterprises achieve their goals. Please support these noble efforts by purchasing Presbyterian Coffee Project's coffee, chocolate, and tea which will be for sale in Fellowship Hall following Worship on March 16. Cash and checks are accepted



MISSION NEWS



2014 PPC MISSION TRIP

BAYVILLE, NEW JERSEY

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

We sing hymns *together* – young, old, clergy, laity, women, men, strangers and friends. Sometimes familiar hymns remind us of who we are. Less familiar or newer hymns can give us insight into our faith, and teach us about becoming the people God wants us to be. John Calvin said, "Singing subdues the fallen heart and retrains wayward affections." St. Augustine said, "Singing is praying. When one sings one prays twice. While singing in the front of the Lord, we are in touch with the deepest center of our heart." So... sing hymns. Our singing doesn't have to be perfect; Psalm 100 says "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you people". Just sing the best you can... it's good for you.

Tom Andrew



Thursday, February 13, was a day of reflection. The snow fell and the city and schools were closed for the day. As I looked out at the snow, I thought of a prayer that I not thought of in years – The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892 – 1971). Since then, I have thought of little else. I would like to share the prayer here:

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.
Amen.*

The Deacons look forward to a new year of partnering with our Deacon Groups, and of reaching out to the congregation through the Fellowship Committee and the Congregational Care Committee.

Philip Shively

March 2014

March 2014							April 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 23 - Mar 1	Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1
							12:30pm 2:00pm Fellowship Event - Baby Shower
Mar 2 - 8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Deadline to Register for 2014 Mission Trips Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 9:45am 10:45am New Member Class 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Communion 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 12:15pm 1:30pm Sr. High Lords's Table t	Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall)	Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Endowment Committee (Ash Wednesday Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:30pm 8:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship	Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W	Provide Meals for the Wilkins Avenue W 9:00am 11:00am PASTCF (Library)
Mar 9 - 15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 9:45am 10:45am New Member Class 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - First Sunday of Lent 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sean's Office) 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 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) 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Lent Worshi	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		STP DEADLINE 5:00pm 10:00pm Hexagon, preceded by dinner at Hunter's Inn
Mar 16 - 22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 9:45am 10:45am New Member Class 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Second Sun 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mission (w 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshmen 12:00pm 1:00pm Equal Exchange Coffee 12:00pm 1:00pm Mission Trip Stock Sale	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 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) 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Lent Worship	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 5929 - 3rd Grade (Fellowship Hall) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	6:30pm 9:30pm Middle School Youth Group	10:00am 4:00pm Women's Retreat (Garrett Park Town Hall)
Mar 23 - 29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9:00am 10:00am New Member Breakfast 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Third Sunday of Lent, Children's Choir, Child 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshmen 12:00pm 1:00pm Mission Trip Stock Sale 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and Tom An	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	STP MAILING 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Lent Worship	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	7:00pm	Youth Retreat
Mar 30 - Apr 5	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
	Youth Retreat 10:00am 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Fourth Sunday of Lent 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshmen 12:00pm 1:00pm Mission Trip Stock Sale 12:15pm 1:15pm Youth Council Lunch	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall)					

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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

April 2014

“Living With Faith, Everyday”

On Sunday, October 26, we will welcome the President of Princeton Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, for our Berger Lecture. From 1993-2002, Craig served as Pastor of National Presbyterian Church, in Washington DC, and I know many in our congregation remember Craig fondly from his days in our area. Craig will teach and preach at PPC on October 26, and I hope you have already marked that special date on your calendar.

Craig is a regular contributor to *The Christian Century* magazine, and recently he wrote a terrific article called, “One Calling of Many,” in which he describes a conversation with a soon-to-be graduate of Princeton Seminary about her “calling.” She was concerned, as Craig describes, about which one of two job offers she would take right out of seminary. She wanted to understand to which church she was being “called.” One position was at a church in Chicago, the other was at a church in New York. Craig reminded her to be grateful that she has choices, when the reality is that many seminary graduates do not have that luxury. That didn’t seem to be quite enough for this bright, young student.

As his hour-long conversation with this soon-to-be church leader draws to a close, Craig writes: “When the hour is over Jill comments that I still haven’t told her where I think she should go. I think about saying, ‘I doubt God is up all night worried about this choice.’ I even consider: ‘Do you really believe God is thinking, ‘I hope she

doesn’t go to Chicago because I can’t help her there?’”

It is a magnificent article, and I hope you will read the article in its entirety. We have a copy of this issue in our church library. For Craig notes that we have many callings—pastors and church members alike. And, all too often, when we speak of our singular “calling,” we mystify the word to suggest that to find our calling is to somehow find the one right job or serve on the one church committee at the perfect time in our lives.

Yet our singular calling—the one that always matters, no matter what our profession or involvement in the church, is the answer to that old question that we used to teach in catechism class:

“What is the chief end of humankind? To glorify God and enjoy God forever.”

That is a far more expansive way to understand, and discern, how we are being called as children of God. For no matter how we work as “little Christs” (the original meaning of “Christian”) in our professional lives, we all have in common this important privilege and responsibility.

To borrow a word from Craig’s article, let’s work on “demystifying” the way we talk about call, so that it is not only about finding the perfect job at the perfect time, as if God were only concerned with what we do for a living, or even the committee on which we serve at the church. Let’s



ask a new set of questions—questions that provide more expansive answers. What if these were the kinds of questions were the questions that guided us in our everyday faith? What will I do today to glorify God? How did I enjoy God today?

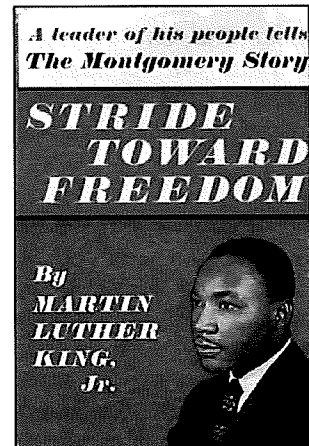
May the answers to these questions point us all not only to what we do during the day, but toward the One who is the Author of our lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Sean

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Both out of necessity of profession and sheer love of books, I have quite the personal library (which I kick myself for every time we have to move). Recently, several new books have come across my desk, among them the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Stride Toward Freedom: The*



Montgomery Story. Growing up in the Great Plains, we read Cather rather than King, and learned of the Civil Rights movement only through bland, one-sided textbooks. Accordingly, I found King's first person account of the Montgomery Bus Boycott fascinating, revealing, and enriching.

Many things struck me about King's reflections. Still, I've been pondering most deeply his reflections about the conditions and realities which provided the good soil for the Montgomery Bus Boycott both to occur and to give such great momentum to the Civil Rights Movement at large.

King talks about the organization of local leadership, the long history of oppression that wearied so many, and the catalytic nonviolent action of Rosa Parks. But he is clear that there is more to the story.

As King writes, "...every rational explanation breaks down at some point. There is something about the protest that is suprarational; it cannot be explained without a divine dimension. ...some extra-human force labors to create a harmony out of the discords of the universe. There is a creative power that works to pull down mountains of evil and level hilltops of injustice. God still works through history His wonders to perform."

Having been taught that King was the "Father of the Civil Rights Movement," I was struck by King's humility and his deep sense of gratitude and openness to the work of the Spirit. I was moved by his way of articulating and lifting up God's presence at work in history and in spite of history. He names so clearly that sometimes there is no rational explanation for the way history, events, or projects unfold.

Sometimes the only thing that explains reality is that "*some extra-human force labors to create a harmony out of the discords of the universe,*" that God is speaking, moving, changing, and transforming creation still.

The Kingdom of God is breaking into the world. We read it in Scripture. We pray for it. We declare it. But rarely, do we rest with that knowledge. Rarely, do we look to our history and lift up the moments in which God most surely had and has a hand. As we continue in Lent and approach Easter, may we be inspired by King's humility and name where God is at work not only in our own lives and in our church family, but also in the world at large, in the unfolding of history all around us.

In Christ,

Pastor Kendra

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Registration: Children between the ages of 3 (potty trained)—4th grade (in the fall of 2014) are invited to the Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School, July 7-11th, 9:30am-12:30pm, where children will imagine and build with God. Register online at www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration will be closed early if capacity is reached.



Volunteer: Adult and youth volunteers are needed:

- the week of June 2 to assemble pre-VBS mailings
- the weeks of June 23 & June 30 for craft prep, supply sorting, decorations prep, etc.
- Sunday, July 6, 11am-2pm to decorate church
- during VBS week to assist with teaching, programming, and/or in the office
- on Friday, July 13, 12:30-2:30pm to prep for celebration lunch
- the week of July 14 to assemble the follow-up mailing

Please register online at www.potomacpresbyterian.org or contact Volunteer Coordinator Ann Hill (annchill@gmail.com) with questions.

Donate or loan supplies: We would like to have the following items donated:

- used (burnt out) light bulbs of any kind/shape
- empty paint cans (it's fine if there's a little dry paint in the bottom)
- used paint brushes that are going to be thrown out
- lab beakers & measuring cylinders that are to be discarded (plastic preferred but will take glass)

We would like to borrow a couple lava lamps (please clearly label lamps with your name so that we can return them after VBS). All items can be placed in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

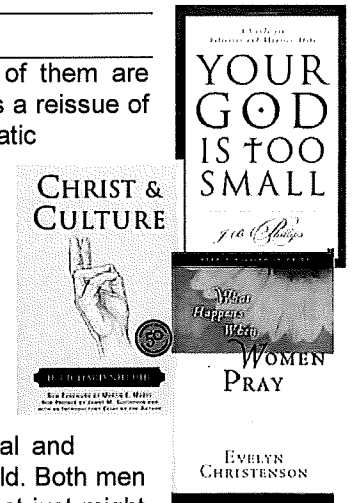
RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Several new books have been added to our library collection. Three of them are classics which are decades old. *Your God is Too Small* by J.B. Phillips is a reissue of his 1952 classic. It is said that people's ideas of God have remained static from childhood into adulthood. Phillips explores ways in which we can find a truly meaningful God for ourselves.

Bruce Douglas has recommended two books that will augment his March lectures in the PPC Forum Class. Both are by H. Richard Niebuhr, who still is recognized as an authority on Christian ethics. *Christ and Culture* is still studied by seminary students. His message is as true today as it was 50 years ago. He challenges a new generation to be true to Christ in a materialistic age.

What Happens When Women Pray by Evelyn Christenson is a practical and biblical book about prayer that has been used in seminars around the world. Both men and women have learned to pray in more personal and believing ways that just might change your life.

All are now available to be checked out. Remember to sign the book card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box on the shelf by the computer.



MISSION NEWS

PPC Delivers

Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night, prevented 100 hardy souls from PPC from delivering on their commitment to provide a week of delicious and nourishing dinners and lunches, much-needed pantry supplies, and warm and lively fellowship to the most appreciative residents of the WAWAC shelter in Rockville. The Mission Committee thanks all PPC members and friends who gave so generously of their time and talents to the shelter residents. All who participated truly served as God's eyes, ears, and hands as you translated abiding faith into action to support our neighbors in need.



Spring Mission Project

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 26, when we will be working with Interfaith Works to help those in need in Montgomery County. We will be painting and possibly planting a vegetable garden. More details to follow. Be sure to sign up in Fellowship Hall as the date nears or contact Susan Mitchell. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

March 30, April 6, 13-Dewey Wallace, *Walter Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel*
April 27-TBA

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

April 15-*The Roberts Court: Struggle for the Constitution*, Marcia Coyle
May 20-*The Dawn of Innovation: First American Industrial Revolution*, by Charles Morris
June 17-*Double Cross: The True Story of D-Day Spies*, by Ben Macintyre

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



PRAYER
CONCERNS

...the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; 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; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones; Ralph Panico, brother-in-law of Bob and Louise Plumb

From the Clerk of Session

The focus of the Session meetings this year continues to be strategic planning and development for use as a guide for all activities at Potomac Presbyterian Church.

At the February Session meeting, the Session discussed the Guiding Principles to assist making the strategic plan useful and relevant.

Elder Dan Drumheller gave a report on the progress of the Acoustics Committee. The group continues to make progress in the replacement of the organ and other physical changes to improve the sound quality in the Sanctuary. Acoustic tuning and speech reinforcement systems, as well as HVAC noise issues, continue to be priorities.

Elder Paul Mammalian presented the financial summary for January 2014. Receipts in January were very strong. He also reported that the Audit is close to completion, and reviewed issues that will be addressed to comply with accounting rule changes.

Elder Cookerly reported on several issues from the Personnel Committee. The PPC Family and Medical Leave policies are being reviewed. The Session approved the addition of a Tenor Section Leader for the Choir.

Pastor Kendra Grams reminded the group that the Women's Retreat will be March 22. Recruitment and fundraising continues for the June Mission Trip to New Jersey. Staff goals for the year include expanding pastoral care to youth and families. The recruitment of a staff position for administrative support continues.

Other business included the report showing current average attendance for worship to be 135. It was noted that worship in March would include

a baptism and the welcoming of new members. The Season of Lent will include Wednesday evening services for meditative contemplation, scripture and music. These will begin at 7:30.

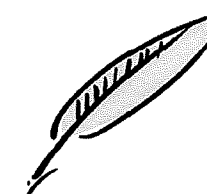
The Annual Congregational Meeting was held February 9, 2014 in Fellowship Hall. Several committees presented annual reports and the pastoral Terms of Call were discussed and approved.

Additional information is available from your Elder representatives.

Susan Haynes, Clerk of Session

The National Capital Presbytery (NCP) met on March 18, 2014 at National Presbyterian Church. During the meeting, NCP:

- Approved the recommendations of the Wilson Lane Commission for the disposition of the Wilson Lane property.
- Waived the designation of the DC Equipping Ministry Resurrection Fund in order to give Northminster Presbyterian Church a loan of \$255,000 to replace their heating and air conditioning system.
- Heard a report on the process adopted by the Leadership Council for use should a church wish to disaffiliate from the PC (USA).
- Approved an overture from the Session of Church of the Pilgrims on maternal and child nutrition, which will be forwarded to the 221st General Assembly for consideration.
- Concurred with an overture originated by the Presbytery of Hudson River on gun violence prevention. Concurrence will be relayed to the 221st General Assembly.
- Denied a request to concur with the Overture on Engaging Presbyterians to Witness for Palestinian Human Rights and for Ending the Occupation of Palestine which was originated by Grace Presbytery.



Quill
of the Stated Clerk

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON HOLY WEEK

How did our observance of Holy Week come about? We trace our observances back to the early church.

Some of the best insight into Easter worship comes from a woman (perhaps a nun) named Egeria. Her *Diary of a Pilgrimage* contains a firsthand account of Easter in late fourth century Jerusalem. In those days, preparation for Easter began seven weeks before the date. The intent was to prepare for Easter by reliving the mystery. By hearing the Word and acting it out—not just for a day, but over a period of time—the message took hold more firmly.

According to Egeria, what we call Holy Week was known as the “*Great Week*” in fourth-century Jerusalem. This week in which we remember the climactic events of Christ’s arrest, conviction, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection is the most extraordinary week in the Christian calendar, the week in which the redemption of the world happened, in which the re-creation of the world began.

Here’s how Egeria describes some of the events of the “*Great Week*”:

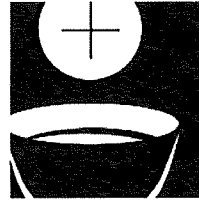
On **Palm Sunday**, Christians assembled at the top of the Mount of Olives. Grasping palms and branches in their hands, they sang, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,” and walked slowly to the church in Jerusalem.



The bishop of Jerusalem, symbolizing Christ, was in the midst of them. When night fell, evening prayers were celebrated, concluded by a prayer in front of a cross erected for the occasion.

On **Thursday evening**, Communion was celebrated. Then all went home to eat their last meal until Easter, and later returned to worship all

night, re-enacting the gospel accounts of Thursday night.



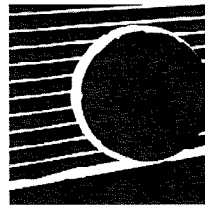
Early on **Friday**, Christians proceeded to Gethsemane, where they read of the Lord’s arrest. Egeria reported “there is such moaning and groaning with weeping from all the people that their moaning can be heard practically as far as the city.” They went to the place of the cross, where the words of Pilate were read. Then the bishop sent the crowd home to meditate, instructing them to return about the second hour, so that all would be “on hand here so that from that hour until the sixth hour you may see the holy wood of the cross, and thus believe that it was offered for the salvation of each and every one of us.”

On **Friday night**, a cross was put on a table and the people passed by “touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; after kissing the cross, they move on.”



On **Saturday**, worship was conducted at the third and sixth hours. After nightfall, the **Easter Vigil** was held.

The glorious service on **Sunday morning** (after the vigil) celebrated the Resurrection of Christ through readings, antiphons, preaching, and the Eucharist.



Egeria tells that the Easter Celebration did not end on Easter Day - for *eight more days* the Christians gathered in worship. The fast was over. They no longer identified with death, but with resurrection and life. These festive services were in sharp contrast to the sober preparations for the Passion.

Tom Andrew, Director of Music

FELLOWSHIP OUTING TO HILLWOOD MUSEUM



Please join the Fellowship Committee on Tuesday, May 6, for an outing to Hillwood Museum (www.HillwoodMuseum.org), the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Enjoy a guided tour of the mansion including the featured exhibition of artifacts belonging to Catherine the Great, eat lunch in the café, walk the beautiful spring gardens, explore the orchid greenhouses and visit the museum shop. A full day is planned to enjoy this elegant setting.

We will carpool to the museum from PPC at 9:45am and return to the church at approximately 3:30pm. More details, including the lunch menu, will follow in the Sunday bulletins and the Thursday Spirit. Admission to the museum with a guided tour and lunch will be \$35.00 per person. There will be a sign-up poster in the Narthex beginning March 30. Please call or email Louise Plumb at 301-762-2769 or Lplumb@aol.com, if you have any questions.

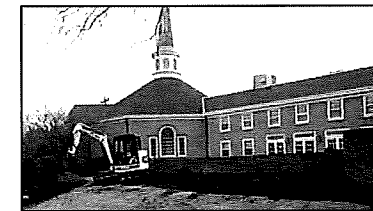
BABY EXPRESS

If you would like to help provide meals for **Sarah and Sean** after **Baby Miller** is born, please send an e-mail to Sonia Russo at soniaarusso@hotmail.com, or leave her a message at 301-926-7580. As the time approaches you will be contacted and asked to sign up online. Many thanks,

Sonia Russo, Congregational Care Committee ,
and Courtney Koonce, Fellowship Committee



MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION



With the groundbreaking on March 12, 2014, the construction of the Expansion of PPC’s Memorial Garden has begun. It is important, for personal safety and the safety of the project, that all PPC members stay away from the construction site. The work will be completed in May. Fifty- five niches are being added to the current forty-four. Drawings of the expansion plans are available in the church office and the cost per niche is \$5,000.

For many months the Memorial Garden Committee has been working on the landscaping for the expansion, and it promises to be both beautiful, practical and in keeping with the current design. With the cost of the construction reducing the Memorial Garden Fund, we are asking for donations for the landscaping. Plant material will range from \$200 for trees, \$100 for various shrubs and \$50 for other plants. All contributions should be made to “Potomac Presbyterian Church” with “PPC Memorial Garden” specified in the memo line and are fully tax deductible. Any and all donations are gratefully accepted.

Our perpetual care will continue with this larger and more established memorial garden, and we are happy that this place will continue as an important ministry of the Potomac Presbyterian Church. We always welcome your comments and concerns.

In God’s service, your fellow PPC members, the Memorial Garden Committee: Nelda, Coligan, Jim Dart, Bobbe Hartzog, Bob Mecklenburg, Sigrid McCutcheon, Sean Miller, Cecie Phair, Nelia Scioli, Mary Smith, Chair, Ed Tennent, Nancy Tietjen, and Harry Tovmassian

Deacon corner

"The promise of spring"

Although I first noticed a flock of robins in our backyard on a very cold day at the end of January, the promise of spring seemed a long way off. As it continued to snow into March, spring still seemed to elude us. Yet, emerging through the snow as it receded were the tiny shoots of crocus and daffodil bulbs struggling toward the sunlight. It was a sure sign that spring was on the way.

As a new Deacon, I realize how quickly our church seasons flow from one to another, as events are anticipated, planned and celebrated. Our Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Sunday School teachers, committee leaders, committee members and volunteers work together to make each season a meaningful journey for our church family.

We were led toward the promise of the Easter season through the Ash Wednesday Worship Service, with the imposition of ashes from last year's palms and the Sacrament of Communion. This year throughout Lent, Wednesday evening worship services of song, meditation and scripture continue our journey toward Easter.

The Fellowship Committee invites you to enjoy a simple supper in the Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 17. Following the supper, we will be led into the sanctuary for worship. Please invite a friend or neighbor to share this glorious Easter season with you.

Like spring, Easter and its promise are just around the corner!

Louise Plumb

ACOUSTICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

In 2008, a committee was formed to research and recommend the installation of a sound system in our sanctuary. Over a year later, the work of the committee was put on hold due to financial constraints. Then, in 2012, the committee began its work again, this time supported by the anonymous memorial contribution of \$50,000 given for the purpose of installing a sound system. Many in our congregation have become increasingly frustrated and concerned that we are not able to hear members of the church speaking from the lectern during worship.

As the committee began its work anew, Tom Andrew informed the committee and the Session that the 25-year old Allen electronic organ was on its "last legs." For the last two years, the committee has researched both sound systems and investigated the replacement of our electronic organ, bringing regular updates to the Session. Both projects are very complicated and have required numerous conversations with acoustic consultants and organ specialists. The replacement of the electronic organ in particular has many complex layers, as any replacement organ will require structural changes in the Sanctuary and will impact the location of the choir. The current arrangement of speakers in and above the balcony is an antiquated system and will require upgrades and modifications, no matter what kind of replacement organ is purchased.

The committee continues its work in 2014, and will bring recommendations to the Session with frequent updates to the congregation. Though it has been a complex and at times challenging process, there is great potential to drastically enhance our worship space, so that we will continue to live into our church's mission statement, supporting our congregation's love of "worship that stirs the soul."

LENT & EASTER AT PPC

As we approach Holy Week and Easter at PPC, note the following:

Wednesdays in Lent

Brief contemplative worship services of Scripture, silence, and song continue each Wednesday in Lent (through April 16) at 7:30pm. Photographs taken by John and Kay Norvell on PPC's Holy Land Pilgrimage earlier this year also guide our meditations during worship. Nursery care for infants is available.



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee, photo by John Norvell

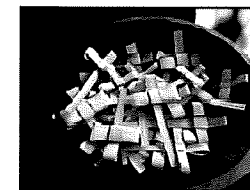
Easter Flower Fund

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event with a contribution toward lilies for Easter Sunday. Dedications will be listed in our Easter Sunday Bulletin. Please make a note on the pew envelopes that it is for Easter Flower Fund and include your dedication phrase. You may either place your envelope in the offering plate or mail/return to the church office. Checks should be made out to "Potomac Presbyterian Church." **The last date for contributions is Sunday, April 6.**



Intergenerational Christian Education

On Sunday, April 13, 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 stories of Holy Week through books, crafts, prayer, songs, and other activities.



Holy Week Calendar

Sunday, April 13

9:45am-Intergenerational Christian Education*
11:00am-Palm Sunday Worship*

Wednesday, April 16

7:30pm-Evening Lenten Service*

Thursday, April 17

6:30pm-Simple Dinner, provided by Fellowship Committee
7:30pm-Maundy Thursday Worship*

Friday, April 18,

7:30pm-Good Friday Tenebrae Worship*

Saturday, April 19

9:00am-12:00pm-Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

Sunday, April 10

9:00am-Easter Worship*
10:15am-Easter Egg Hunt
11:00am-Easter Worship*

**Childcare available in the nursery with care provided by Rosalinda Alonso, our Nursery Caregiver.*

Easter Egg Hunt

The entire congregation is invited to the church lawn at 10:15am on Easter Sunday as the children of the church help us all remember the surprise and wonder of Easter by hunting for Easter Eggs and discovering what surprises they hold. Please bring a basket in which to collect the eggs. Older children who will not be "hunting eggs," youth, and adults are invited at 9:40am to help hide eggs!



April 2014

April 2014							May 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30 - Apr 5	Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
			9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Finance and Ste 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministr	9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Lent Worship	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		9:00am 11:00am PASTCF (Library)
Apr 6 - 12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Co 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 1:30pm Sr. High Lord's 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 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 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Len	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	6:30pm 9:30pm Middle School Youth Group	11:00am 2:00pm Kilby wedding
Apr 13 - 19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Palm Sunday 9:45am 10:45am Intergenerational Christian Ed 11:00am 12:00pm Palm Sunday Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	STP DEADLINE 9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministr	9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 7:00pm 10:00pm Montgomery Bird Club 7:30pm 8:30pm Wednesday Lent Worship	Maundy Thursday 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:30pm 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Supper 7:30pm 8:00pm Maundy Thursd	Good Friday 7:30pm 8:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae	9:00am 12:00pm Prayer Vigil
Apr 20 - 26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Easter Sunday 9:00am 10:00am Easter Worship 10:15am 10:45am Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am 12:00pm Easter Worshi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref	Office Closed	9:30am 12:30pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Library) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:30pm 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 5929 - 3rd Grade (Fellowship) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir		Spring Mission Project 7:00am 12:00pm Tentative GS Yard Sale
Apr 27 - May 3	27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Children's Choir, Children in 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 2:00pm Youth Ministry	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) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (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			

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

May 2014

A New Covenant

Sarah and I are excitedly awaiting the birth of our little girl sometime in the next two weeks. We are eager to welcome her into the world, our home, and our family of faith. Sarah and I are so deeply grateful for your loving kindness and support all along the way over these last nine months, for your well wishes and support, for your outpouring of generosity with gifts of all kinds, and most importantly, for your prayers for us and for our little girl-to-be.

As you know, when she arrives, I will be spending time at home with Sarah and our families throughout the month of May. Many of you have encouraged us to "get some sleep now!" knowing how exhausting those first few weeks can be. The congregation approved two weeks of paternity leave for me, and I will be adding some personal vacation time as well. I will miss some very special Sundays of worship in May, including Mother's Day, Stephen Ministry Sunday, and Faith and Freedom Sunday, and we will hold you all in our hearts and prayers while we are away.

Yet, I do look forward to some time away as we all get adjusted to our new lives together. I will not be in the office while I am away. Please contact Pastor Kendra with anything that you need during May. If a pastoral emergency arises, she will contact me as needed. When I return, I look forward to jumping right back into preaching, teaching, and leading PPC with you. I expect to be back in the office sometime in late May or early June.

Until then, Sarah and I are preparing to embark on a new journey as parents and enter into this "new covenant" of parenthood. We will miss you all while we are away for this brief time, but look forward to seeing you again very soon as we welcome our little one into the world and into our church family.

With gratitude for your support and your continued prayers for the life-changing weeks to come,

Pastor Sean





Many of us know the parables of Jesus, but too often we forget to tell and retell the parables which we live and experience. Parables are short stories that teach us something moral, spiritual, or both moral and spiritual. I have many parables from my ministry experience. Today, I want to share just one recent experience.

First, a bit of background: as I've sure most of you have noticed, we have lots of young boys right now in our congregation. Accordingly, the first/second grade Sunday School class (and the third-fifth Sunday School grade class) is almost always completely full of boys. And these boys embrace the energy with which God created them! Because I get to teach them often, I know their energy well and try to think of as many active ways to engage them with the Bible as possible. (All of our teachers do a great job of this! We can never thank them enough for all the love and energy they pour into these boys.) Some days, coming up with active ideas for engaging them is easier than others.

One Sunday shortly before Holy Week, the story of Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet was on the schedule. It occurred to me that there was no better way to teach this lesson than to actually wash the boys' feet. My very next thought—the boys will never sit still for this and somehow it will turn into water play with water everywhere. Third thought—it's only water.



So, we read and talked through the story and then one by one, I washed the boys' feet. They couldn't wait for their turn. They commented that the water was cold, but agreed it probably was for the disciples as well. They sat still while I washed and dried each foot in turn. I got to have a quiet uninterrupted conversation about service, love, and humility with each of them. They received this gesture of service with humility, calm, and awe. It was the most Spirit-filled ministry experience I'd had in weeks.

Why do I call this a parable of ministry? For many reasons. But for starters, I believe it is a story that has much to teach us about resting in the Holy Spirit, trusting the leadership of the young, opening ourselves to new experiences, and celebrating the holy moments that sneak up on us.

Boys (you know who you are)—thank you for teaching me more about all these things!

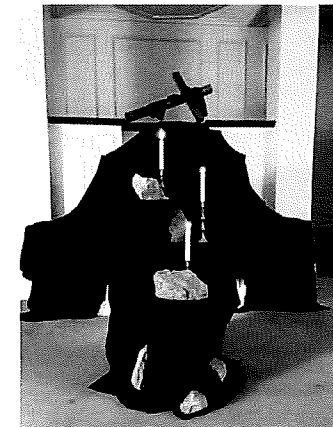
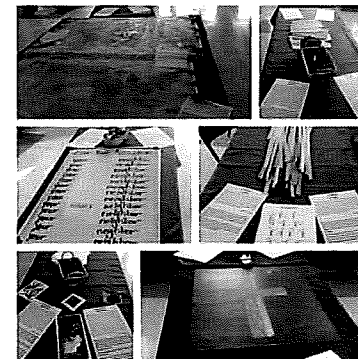
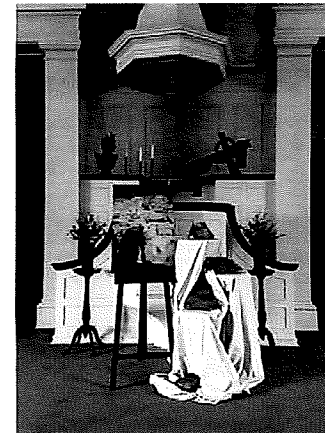
In Christ,
Pastor Kendra

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*; *John Love*, brother of Elsie Reid; *Dave Gorman*, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; *Betsy Sanders*, sister of Marcia Boogaard; *Terry Fortune*, son-in-law of Martha Brame; *Patty Dunnavant*; *Ed Ebert*; *Compton Jones*; *Ralph Panico*, brother-in-law of Bob and Louise Plumb; *June Kitts Carey*, mother of Bob Carey; *Dr. H. K. Lee*, father of Hyun Lee.

PICTURES FROM LENT AND HOLY WEEK



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

May 4 and 11-Rev. John Lee, *The Past and Future of the Reformed Project*

May 18-Tom Hougen, *Mission to Ecuador 2013*

May 25-Faith and Freedom Sunday

June 1-TBA

June 8-Rev. Sean Miller, Topic TBA

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

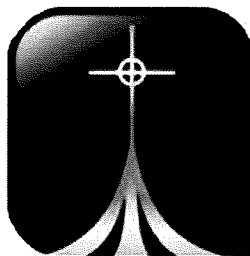
May 20-*The Dawn of Innovation: First American Industrial Revolution*, by Charles Morris

June 17-*Double Cross: The True Story of D-Day Spies*, by Ben Macintyre

Presbyterian Association of Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith

PPC's chapter of the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (PASTCF) will meet in the parlor, on Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m. PASTCF is a national organization for the discussion of the impact of science and technology on religion, especially Christianity. Contact John Norvell with questions norvellj@msn.com. PASTCF will meet on:

- Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. in the parlor
- Saturday, June 14, 9:00 a.m. in the library



Deacon corner

When I was a teenager, my parents thought it would be a wonderful learning experience for me to spend a summer painting our house. It truly was a learning experience in the sense that a few days into the project, we all discovered that it was a bad idea.

My painting career experienced a brief renaissance during the early years of my marriage when painting provided a great excuse to sequester myself in a room with some good music and junk food. Eventually, Heather questioned why it took me so long to paint such small rooms, and with the arrival of our kids, the painting supplies were retired.



When Susan Mitchel announced the Interfaith Works painting project in Church, I remember thinking it would be a great service experience for Colin (and it would give me a good excuse to purchase some donuts). After the service, I signed us up. Friday evening I had to work late, and by early Saturday morning I was questioning my commitment to the painting project. After all, Colin had a Saturday evening swim meet that I would certainly be better "prepared" for if I spent

the early afternoon sleeping on the couch. While I was sitting on the couch considering additional non-painting options for the morning, Colin came downstairs ready to go and asked me when we were going to leave. He was so excited about the painting project that I considered tempering his enthusiasm with some words of caution from my teenage house-painting experience, but decided to keep my mouth shut. When we arrived on-site I wasn't surprised by how the other volunteers made us feel welcome. But I was surprised and humbled by how everyone's enthusiasm continued for the entire project even after the coffee and donuts ran out. Speaking for myself, there were few expert painting techniques applied during the day, but in the end the rooms looked good. And, the other volunteers from our Church, including Colin, taught me a lot about cheerful giving and service. It was a good start to a busy Saturday.

Deacon Jon Davies



ACOUSTICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Are you aware of the Acoustics Committee at PPC? Not really? Not sure? Let's bring you up to date.

As far back as 2008, a group was formed to investigate the need for a sound system in the PPC Sanctuary. They met with an acoustical consultant, a study of the Sanctuary acoustics was done, and the results studied for improvements that could be made to enhance the worship experience. For several varied reasons, no action was taken at that time, and the committee went inactive.

In 2012, the committee was re-activated. In addition to a sound system, as part of considering the overall acoustics of the Sanctuary, the committee began to discuss the placement of the organ and its speakers, as well as the problems with the location of the choir. It was brought to their attention that the organ itself had begun to exhibit problems and signs that it was coming to the end of its effective life (including being unplayable for a Sunday Worship service during the summer of 2011).

After consultation with another acoustical consultant, we have been deliberating about inherent problems of our Sanctuary design, improving the acoustics of the room versus installing a speech reinforcement system (a sound system), the placement of the choir and organ, background noise from furnaces, and several other matters.

Currently, the Committee has reached the following stage in our deliberations:

1. We have identified a vendor for a speech reinforcement system. Next steps will include type of microphones to be used, and discreet placement of the speakers involved for optimal performance. (There is designated funding available for this step.)
2. We are in the process of finalizing our choice of organ vendor. (Our present choice is to pursue a pipe organ instead of an electronic one; this will require Session approval to use funds from the "Firm Foundation Shining Future" Capital Campaign.)
3. We are meeting with an architectural firm to consider several modifications to the Sanctuary, including location of the organ, location of the choir, and several other steps we can take to enhance our worship experience. (Again, this will require Session approval.)

All of these decisions are 'inter-related' the decision in one area affects the decision to be made in the remaining areas. All of these aspects are further complicated by the very shape of the PPC Sanctuary – an octagonal space, such as our Sanctuary, complicates the acoustic properties of the room, and thus makes any correction or enhancement a complex proposition.

While by no means a complete list of our deliberations, this is a summary of several of the concepts the Acoustics Committee has been exploring for more than a year now. We will be asking for your thoughts and comments about many of these aspects in the days ahead. We will keep you informed about our actions in future newsletter articles, and in some congregational meetings designed to discuss several of these concepts in detail.

Tom Andrew, on behalf of the Acoustic Committee

MISSION NEWS

Support the New Jersey Mission Trip

Fundraising and final planning for the 2014 PPC Mission Trip is now well underway. Please plan to support the thirty PPC members traveling to Bayville, New Jersey, in June to assist in ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. You can support this important mission project in the following ways:

- **Eat pancakes** and donate to the PPC Mission Trip on Sunday, May 18-Following worship that morning, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall for a pancake lunch. A freewill donation will be taken.
- **Pray for our continued preparations.** Please pray for our logistical planning and that God would prepare us to serve with servant hearts.
- **Write encouraging notes.** We work long hours on the trip itself and a kind word from home is always appreciated. In late May and early June, there will be a "mailbox" in Fellowship Hall along with supplies to write to the mission team. We hope you'll take a minute to write a note of encouragement which we will read while we are away.



We also want to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our stock sales fundraiser in late March and early April. We were able to raise over \$4000 toward our trip costs.



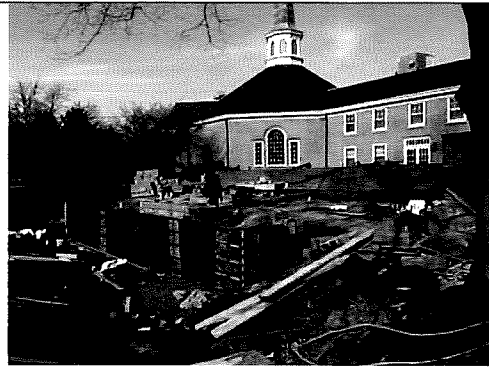
Local Mission Week

During the week of July 21-25, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. each day, youth entering grade 6-12 (in fall 2014) are invited to participate in a week of service and fun. Cost is \$75/person. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Register early as space is limited.

MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION PROGRESS



MARCH 11



APRIL 9



MARCH 18



APRIL 17



MARCH 27



APRIL 28

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

Register:

Children between the ages of 3 (potty trained)–4th grade (in the fall of 2014) are invited to the Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School, July 7-11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., where children will imagine and build with God. Register online at www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration will be closed early if capacity is reached.



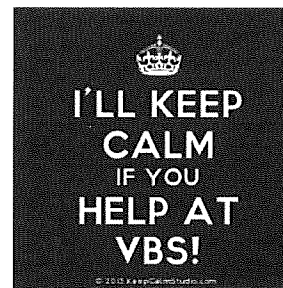
Donate or loan supplies:

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- used paint brushes that are going to be thrown out
- lab beakers and measuring cylinders that are to be discarded (plastic preferred but will take glass)

We would like to borrow a couple lava lamps (please clearly label lamps with your name so that we can return them after VBS). All items can be placed in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteer: Adult and youth volunteers are needed:



Summer is quickly approaching and so is PPC's Vacation Bible School! Being held July 7-11, VBS is not only important to the children of PPC, but also provides a chance to provide meaningful Christian Education to children in the community. There are many opportunities to help with VBS, some requiring just a few hours of time and others for the week. No special skills are required other than a desire to make this important program a success. Please contact Ann Hill (annchill@gmail.com, 301-318-9368) so she can provide you with details.

May 2014

May 2014							June 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27 - May 3	Apr 27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
					12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)	6:30pm 9:30pm Middle School Party (Augustine/Alarie home)	9:00am 11:00am PASTCF (Library) 9:30am 12:00pm Reformed Institute Board Meeting (Library)
May 4 - 10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Co 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac 12:15pm 1:15pm Senior High Lo 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sean's Office)	9:45am 3:30pm Fellowship Event (Hillwood Museum) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Finance and Ste 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministr	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 (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		6:30pm 9:00pm Senior High Party (Mason home)
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
May 11 - 17	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Senior Recognition, Mother's 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	STP DEADLINE 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir		
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
May 18 - 24	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Ste 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Mission Trip F		10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Library)	4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4) 7:00pm 10:00pm Montgomery Bird Club	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
May 25 - 31	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Faith and Freedom, Children i 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	Memorial Day - Office Closed	7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (Parlor) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	STP MAILING 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30pm 5:30pm GS Troop (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Room) 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir loft)		

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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

June 2014

“My Sundays in May”

Sarah and I will never forget May 2014 as the month in which we celebrated the birth of our daughter, Hannah. Hannah was born on Saturday night, May 3, at 8:08 pm, and for the next four Sundays in May, Sarah and I had the rare opportunity to experience Sunday mornings outside the usual routine of a Pastor’s family.

Every Pastor has a different Sunday morning routine. My routine includes coming to church early Sunday morning, starting a pot of coffee, and doing my final preparations for teaching and preaching. I usually see Sarah for just a few moments after worship, before heading to a meeting or to make pastoral visits, oftentimes not returning home at the end of the day until the late afternoon or early evening.

But Sundays this May made for a very different kind of routine. I must confess to not remembering many of the salient details of May 4, as Hannah was turning one day old and we were trying to figure out how to hold her, care for her, and feed her under the watchful eye of the wonderful nurses at Shady Grove Hospital.

The following Sunday, we spent as a family at home, exhausted and enjoying the time with Hannah. We celebrated Sarah’s first Mother’s Day with brunch in Rockville, where Hannah slept and Sarah and I wolfed down a huge meal. We were both so tired and hungry! The restaurant was busy, and outside people were out walking, having coffee, reading the newspaper, and enjoying the beautiful day. It is rare when a Pastor can enjoy a Sunday morning outside of church—and even though it may sound like heresy—this Pastor loved sleeping in, having

brunch, and then coming home for a family nap that afternoon!

Over the next two Sundays, Sarah, Hannah, and I went to church. On the third Sunday in May, we worshipped at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, enjoying worship led by two great colleagues in ministry.

Then, on Memorial Day weekend, we treasured the opportunity to worship as a family in the pews at PPC for the Faith and Freedom service. It is a very rare occasion for a Pastor’s family to worship together in their own congregation, and we savored the chance to sit beside you and worship God in our beloved community of faith.



Why do I share these experiences?

With summer coming, many in our congregation will be traveling, some for long weekends at the shore and some for extended vacations in cooler weather. Some will enjoy the opportunity to worship in congregations other than PPC—some will enjoy opportunities for lazy Sunday mornings with friends and family.

Make no mistake—as your Pastor, I hope that you do take part regularly in worship this summer, whether here at PPC or at a congregation in some beautiful part of the world!



Yet I am also convinced—and was reminded this May—that the worship of God—or the “enjoyment” of God as our Catechism suggests, does not only happen within the walls of a Presbyterian Sanctuary. In fact, the summer may afford a more expansive opportunity to worship God in ways that make your heart sing.

There are many ways to observe the Sabbath other than worship in your home congregation. Another colleague, the Rev. MaryAnn McKibben-Dana, Pastor of Idylwood Presbyterian Church, has written a book called *Sabbath in the Suburbs: A Family's Experiment with Holy Time*. This would make for a great summer read, especially on a Sunday morning when you are on vacation and away from PPC. MaryAnn shares her wisdom and experience with her family's search for meaningful Sabbath-keeping. I encourage you to read her book this summertime.

June is here, and summer is before us. I look forward to being back in the pulpit, preaching and leading worship here in the sanctuary at PPC. May you find meaningful worship wherever your travels take you this summer.

Pastor Sean

**Summer Worship Schedule Begins
June 15**

No Sunday Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Refreshments



The National Capital Presbytery met on May 20, 2014 at National Presbyterian Church. During the meeting, NCP:

- Approved anticipated grants of \$107,500 from the MD/VA/DC Resurrection Fund for church development, equipping, and mission.
- Approved new Special Rule #1 authorizing presbytery committees to conduct meetings by telephone and Special Rule #2 authorizing electronic voting. See the NCP website to access the text of the special rules: <http://www.thepresbytery.org/documents/generalpolicies/>.
- Designated an Administrative Commission for Wheaton Community Church.
- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the stated clerk to perform certain actions on behalf of the Transitions Team and the presbytery and to report those actions.
- Heard a report on the presbytery meeting - related portion of the recent Presbytery Survey.
- Heard about the One Million Children Initiative from Hunter Farrell, Director, Presbyterian World Mission. The new Presbyterian initiative seeks to provide quality education to 1 million children worldwide by the year 2020. More information on this and other important world mission initiatives can be seen on the PCUSA website at: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/callmission/>.
- Enjoyed inspiring and exciting music from the Rev. Almir Dias and Raissa Dias.

Sara M. Coe, Stated Clerk, National Capital Presbytery, scoe@thepresbytery.org

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

June 1-Kendra Grams, *Spiritual Discernment in the Amana Church Society*

June 8-Rev. Sean Miller, Topic TBA

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

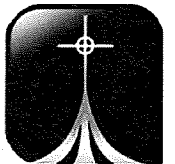
Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

June 17-*Double Cross: The True Story of D-Day Spies*, by Ben Macintyre

Presbyterian Association of Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith

PPC's chapter of the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (PASTCF) will meet in the library, on Saturday, June 14 at 9:00 a.m. PASTCF is a national organization for the discussion of the impact of science and technology on religion, especially Christianity. Contact John Norvell with questions norvellj@msn.com.



Men's Early Morning Bible Study – New Opportunity

Beginning on Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 a.m. – 7:15 a.m., this new Bible Study opportunity will meet in the Parlor. Whether you've been in studies before or you're coming to a study for the first time, please join us for 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer, all are welcome. Coffee and bagels provided. The group will also meet at this same time and location on June 18 and 25. Contact Pastor Sean (sean.miller@potomacpresbyterian.org) or Tad Asbury, (tad20854@verizon.net or 240-515-8154) for more information.

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



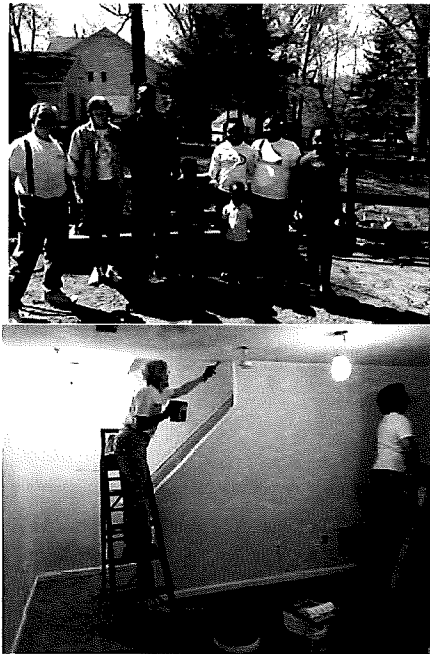
the *Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee*, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; *Alison Galbreath; Dave Gorman*, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; *Betsy Sanders*, sister of Marcia Boogaard; *Terry Fortune*, son-in-law of Martha Brame; *Patty Dunnivant; Ed Ebert; Compton Jones; June Kitts Carey*, mother of Bob Carey

SPRING MISSION PROJECT - PAINTING AND PLANTING

On April 26 we had a great turnout of PPC volunteers to help with two projects for Interfaith Works (www.iworksmc.org), an organization we've supported for many years to help those in need in Montgomery County. Pastor Sean cheered on Jim Dart, Marnel Williams, Jon and Colin Davies, Carole Hudgings, Nelia Scioli, Sang Kim, Elsie Reid, and Scott Shankland as they painted three rooms in a townhouse. Meanwhile, Robert Mitchell and Tom Hougen assembled the raised bed for a vegetable garden at the Carr Ave. home now occupied by a mother and her four children. Heather and Corrine Davies, Susan Mitchell and the children planted herbs and bean seeds in containers and a variety of vegetables in the raised bed. Hopefully all the rain hasn't washed everything we planted away and the family will enjoy the "fruits" of our labor.

Both projects were much appreciated by Interfaith Works staff, who wrote afterwards, "*Thank you so much for your generous donation of so many working hands and strong backs. Your kind hearts, generosity, time and effort to work at two of our Interfaith Housing Coalition homes was amazing. The building of the vegetable garden was so exciting and educational for the IHC family. The family could not stop talking about the wonderful new friends they had made. The painting done at the other IHC home was extremely helpful and takes us one step closer to having a family move in and start the road to improving their life*". If you'd like to get involved, we'll have another local project in the fall.

Susan Mitchell



FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Last month I shared a parable of ministry about teaching our first and second grade boys the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. This month I'd like to share another parable of ministry. This is a story about how grace can be present in the most basic acts.

One of the things that I do each Wednesday is text all of PPC's Sr. High students asking for their prayers for the week. (Sr. High students—if you don't get this text, send me your cell number so I can add you to my list.) I ask for both prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for their needs or for people they know to be in need.

Each week, I always get at least a few Sr. High students who reply. And, it's not always the same ones. There are always prayers of gratitude for everything from three day weekends to snow days to beautiful weather. Sometimes, students give thanks for their parents, especially around their birthdays!

There are also a number of prayers of concern. Often there are exams, concerts, or big sporting events approaching and students ask for prayers that they can do their best in these endeavors. Sometimes there are simple prayers for rest or less stress. And then, about once a month, there is a prayer for someone who has lost a loved one or who is struggling with some other major life challenge. The students have held one another in prayer through the loss of classmates, parents, and grandparents. They have held people in the Potomac community in prayer during these difficult times as well. Their thoughtfulness is grace filled in so many ways.

Once I receive all the replies for the week, I compile them and send them back out to the group in one large text message on Thursday. When I started texting the Sr. High students weekly to engage in prayer, I never dreamed that

it would be so meaningful to them. But they have made it their own in so many ways.

One of the most wonderful moments to come out of this pattern happened earlier this year. When one of the Sr. High students ended up in the hospital overnight (thankfully the student's recovery was quick), the student's family asked for prayers. The Sr. High students spread this news to one another on their own, and suddenly I received a text message from another student asking for the hospitalized student's cell number. The student asking wanted to be able to reach out directly to the ill student to let that person know that she was praying. I was deeply moved by the request and intent. Reaching out like that is taking prayer to the next level.

It goes to show how God is doing amazing things through our Sr. High students and how the smallest of acts can, piece by piece, help to make the Kingdom of God a reality. Grace and Christian love can be made know through text messages, and our Sr. High students are doing just that.

In Christ,
Pastor Kendra





As summer approaches and the PPC choirs take a break from rehearsals, I've been reflecting on what a great year of music-making we've had from all the choirs:

- **The Bell Choir** making music on the newly refurbished Bells, adding much to our services all year
- **The Children's Choir** singing on the fourth Sunday of the month during our Family Services, the Christmas Pageant, as well as the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve
- **Youth Music** participating in worship several times during the year, including the 50th Anniversary Service



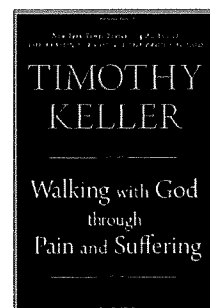
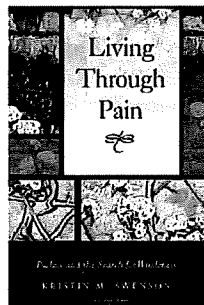
- And of course, **the Sanctuary Choir** - providing music and worship leadership nearly every Sunday, and at Christmas and Holy Week and Easter

All these musicians have given of both their time and their talents to an amazing degree. They have worked hard, and it has paid off in so many ways for our entire congregation. I hope you all will join me in saying "Well Done!"

Tom Andrew

LIBRARY NEWS

Pain is a universal experience. In her book titled, *Living Through Pain*, Kristin Swenson shows how the process of living through pain can be understood as a quest to reintegrate the broken self into a whole person. Drawing on the words and rich meaning of selected psalms from the Hebrew Bible, the author details the search for not only wholeness of self but self in relation to others.



Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering by Timothy Keller deals with the question of why God would allow pain and suffering which has vexed believers and nonbelievers forever. Keller makes a forceful case that "walking through fire", this essential part of the human experience, can refine us rather than destroy us because God himself walks with us in the fire. Each chapter of this book is based on one main strategy for connecting with God in that furnace of pain and suffering. Included are inspirational first-person stories from those who have encountered suffering and walked with God through it.

Both of these books can be found in the church library. You are invited to visit, browse and make interesting discoveries for your reading pleasure. Please sign the book card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box on the shelf by the computer.

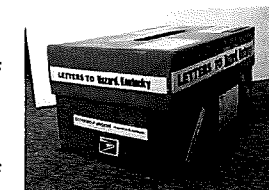
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- **Pray for our continued preparations.** Please pray for our logistical planning and that God would prepare us to serve with servant hearts.
- **Write encouraging notes.** We work long hours on the trip itself and a kind word from home is always appreciated. A "mailbox" is in Fellowship Hall along with supplies to write to the mission team. We hope you'll take a minute to write a note of encouragement which we will read while we are away.
- **Follow our blog.** The thirty members of PPC assisting with efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey will be blogging about their work and their adventures at <http://ppc2014missiontrip.blogspot.com/>
- **Worship with us on Mission Trip Sunday, June 29.** All are invited to worship at 10:00 a.m. and lunch and 11:00 a.m. as the New Jersey Mission Team shares pictures, stories, and reflections from their week of service.

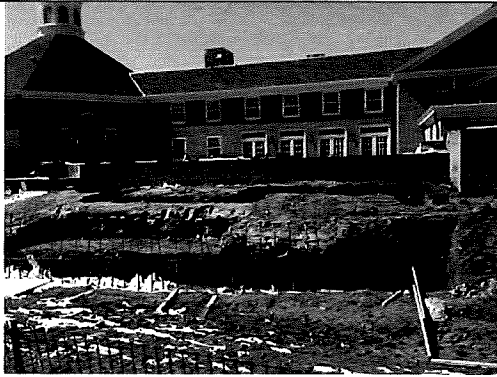
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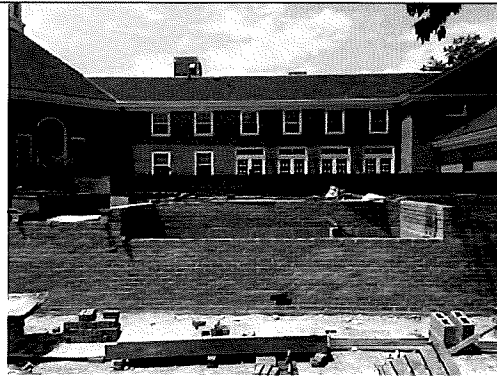
Local Mission Week

During the week of July 21-25, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. each day, youth entering grade 6-12 (in fall 2014) are invited to participate in a week of service and fun. Cost is \$75/person. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Register early as space is limited.

MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION



MARCH 26, 2014



MAY 27, 2014

PPC YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Bay Retreat to St. Michaels – Thursday, July 17-Friday, July 18

The Drumheller family once again invites the youth on an overnight retreat to their home in St. Michaels. Thursday, July 17-Friday, July 18, all youth (entering 6th-12th grades in fall 2014 and 2014 graduates) are invited to come bask in the sun and play in the surf.

On Thursday, we'll gather at 10:00 a.m. at the church before heading to the Drumheller's home in St. Michaels on the Chesapeake Bay. We'll get there in time for lunch and have the afternoon to play on the Bay before enjoying dinner and evening fellowship. On Friday, we'll enjoy morning devotionals before spending most of the day swimming, boating, and relaxing. We'll stop at a classic Eastern Shore diner for dinner on the way home and return to Potomac at ~8:00 p.m.

Cost is \$25 (to cover food and gas). Scholarships are available. **Must RSVP with payment by Sunday, July 6.**

Mini-Golf – Tuesday, July 22

On Tuesday, July 22, all youth are invited to join those participating in Local Mission Week at Bohrer Park for an afternoon of mini-golfing. We'll golf from ~1:00-3:00 p.m.

Must RSVP by Wednesday, July 16.

National's Game – Thursday, August 7

On Thursday, August 7, all youth (and friends and family) are invited to attend the 12:35pm Nationals game versus the New York Mets. Cost per person is \$25 (included ticket, hot dog, and beverage). We'll gather at the church at 11:30am to carpool to the game.

Must RSVP with payment by Wednesday, June 25 to allow time for ticket purchase.

For all activities: participants must have a current Medical Release Form on file and complete an Activity Permission Form.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

Register:

Children between the ages of 3 (potty trained)–4th grade (in the fall of 2014) are invited to the Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School, July 7-11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., where children will imagine and build with God. Register online at www.potomacpresbyterian.org. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration will be closed early if capacity is reached.



Donate or loan supplies:

We would like to have the following items donated:

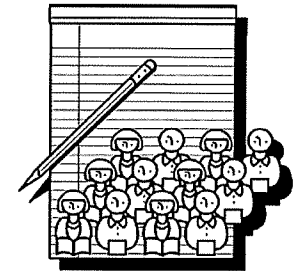
- used (burnt out) light bulbs of any kind/shape
- empty paint cans (it's fine if there a little dry paint in the bottom)
- used paint brushes that are going to be thrown out
- lab beakers and measuring cylinders that are to be discarded (plastic preferred but will take glass)

We would like to borrow a couple lava lamps (please clearly label lamps with your name so that we can return them after VBS). All items can be placed in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteer Orientation

VBS Volunteers are required to attend one of the volunteer orientation sessions. They will be offered in the Library at the following date and times:

- Monday, June 23, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 6, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.



VBS Volunteer Orientation

There are still opportunities to volunteer for Vacation Bible School (July 7-11). Please contact Ann Hill (annchill@gmail.com, 301-318-9368) so she can provide you with details. All resources and necessary instructions/training will be provided.

June 2014

June 2014							July 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
29	30												

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 1 - 7	Jun 1 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Co 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	2 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	3 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends	4 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	5 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:30pm 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 7:00pm 9:00pm Youth Ministry 8:00pm 9:15pm Sanctuary Choir	6	7
	8 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Pe 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 5:00pm 6:00pm Mission Trip Ad 6:00pm 7:30pm Mission Trip Par	9 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:45pm 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3788 (Fellowship Hall) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Mee	10	11 6:30am 7:30am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)	12 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	13	14 Mission Trip 9:00am 11:00am PASTCF (Library)
Jun 8 - 14	15 Mission Trip 10:00am 11:00am Worship - Summer Hour Begins, Father' 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and R 11:00am 12:00pm Equal Exchan 11:00am 11:05am Minute for Mi	16 Mission Trip 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	17 Mission Trip 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor)	18 Mission Trip 6:30am 7:30am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)	19 Mission Trip 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	20 Mission Trip	21 Mission Trip 9:00am 2:00pm New Members Class
	22 9:00am 9:30am New Member Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am 11:00am Worship - New Members 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and R 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and	23 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 5:00pm VBS Volunteer Orientation (Library)	24	25 6:30am 7:30am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 7:00pm 8:00pm VBS Volunteer Orientation (Library)	26 12:00pm Staff retreat 9:00am 10:00am Memorial Service 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	27 1:00pm	28
Jun 15 - 21	29 10:00am 11:00am Worship - Mission Trip Sunday 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 11:00am 12:00pm Mission Trip Celebration Lunch	30 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	Jul 1	2	3	4	5

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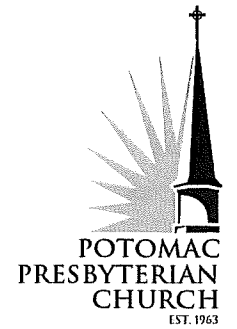
Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
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301-299-6007, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

*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*

The Steeple to People

Summer 2014



Summer is always an exciting time in ministry. I love the change of pace and get to spend quality time with both our children and youth. The mission trip is always a wonderful time to laugh, serve, and grow in Christ with youth and adults alike. In particular, this summer it was a particular joy to watch as several members of the very first confirmation class which I taught led noon devotions for our work teams. Their maturity and thoughtful reflections were inspiring to me. Likewise, during Vacation Bible School, I have the joy of witnessing children who were baptized only a few years ago sing, dance, and shout for God.

These experiences in ministry always make the summer months a unique and exciting time. Yet, this summer has also been unique and exciting for my husband Ted and me for another reason. As we shared with everyone present following worship on July 6, Ted and I are expecting our first child. The baby is due January 5, 2015.

It has been a great pleasure to share this joyful and exciting news with our loving and caring church family. So many of you have already shared such kind words of blessing and many wonderful cards. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity of spirit, warmth, and support.

In the year ahead, Ted and I look forward to sharing the joy of welcoming our little one and to many great ministries at PPC. This fall, I look forward to working with all of you to continue the wonderful ministries for children, youth, and families already in place and to plan for the months and years ahead. Likewise, after taking a few months off to care for our little one, next spring I look forward to hearing all about God's work in your midst in the winter months and in preparation for another exciting summer of ministry.

In Christ, Pastor Kendra

In This Issue

New Jersey Mission Trip,
June 14-22

Vacation Bible School, July
7-11

Autism Speaks Autism
Speaks 5k Run/1 Mile Walk,
July 4

News from PPC:

- From the Clerk of Session
- Acoustics Committee Update
- Memorial Garden Dedication

PPC Pilgrims

Prayer List



**2014 PPC MISSION TRIP
BAYVILLE, NEW JERSEY**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Thirty youth and adults traveled from Potomac Presbyterian Church to Bayville, New Jersey, June 14 through 21, to assist in ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts as part of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The tasks included cleanup and general repair of homes, home sites and an American Legion Hall, in addition to assisting in environmental restoration at a county park.

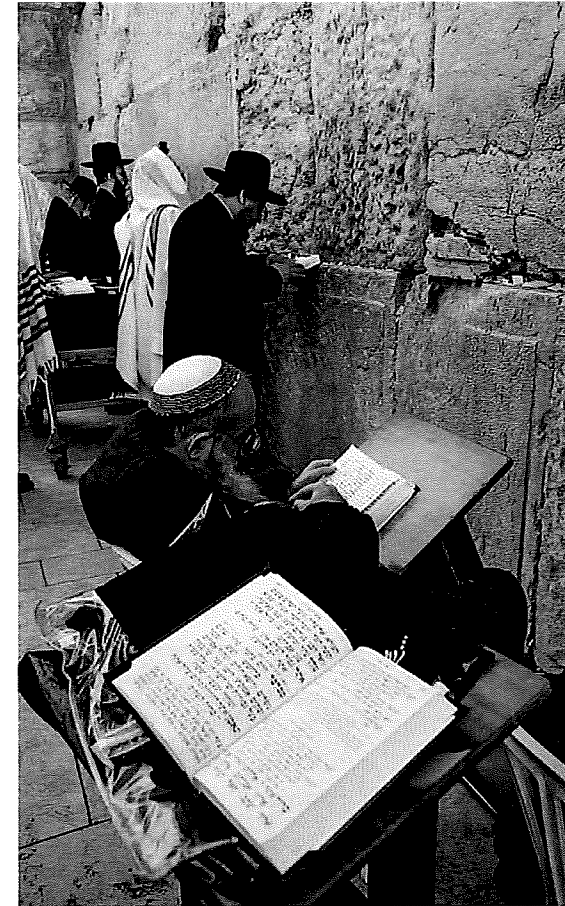
Youth participants: *Teddy Andrew, Fiona Asbury, Stafanie Baarman, Mark Dager, Charlotte Galbreath, John Galbreath, Nick Mason, Carolyn McGill, Madeleine McGill, Grace Pereles, Noah Pereles, Harrison Smith, Lia Sohl, Tommy Spies, Meredith Srour, McCartney Van Brunt, Nathan Van Brunt, Haley White, Jack White, and Meredith White.*

Adult participants: *Doug Baarman, Janet Dunlop, Squire Galbreath, Gayle Goff, Kendra Grams, Amanda Kuhn, Charlie Nahabedian, Nelia Scioli, Ed Tennent, and Eric Van Brunt.*

Additional photos, work day recaps, and reflections are available on the Mission Trip Blog at <http://ppc2014missiontrip.blogspot.com/>



CALLING ALL PPC PILGRIMS



This photo, taken on the PPC pilgrimage to the Holy Lands by John and Kay Norvell, was recently chosen by the North Bethesda Camera Club as one of the top ten photos of the year. The photo was taken at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and was in the [PPC Holy Lands Blog](#).

After the very enthusiastically received and spiritually moving trip to Israel and Palestine earlier this year, Pastor Sean Miller will lead another pilgrimage in September 2015. This trip will include several significant biblical sites as we follow in the Footsteps of Paul and the first century Church. We begin in exciting and exotic Istanbul Turkey, which straddles both Asia and Europe. We then move down the Aegean coast to Izmir and Ephesus before taking a cruise through several Greek islands including Patmos, site of St John's Monastery (John traveled with Paul), Crete and Santorini, before continuing on to Corinth. We complete our trip in Athens with its magnificent Acropolis, the cradle of civilization and so much history.

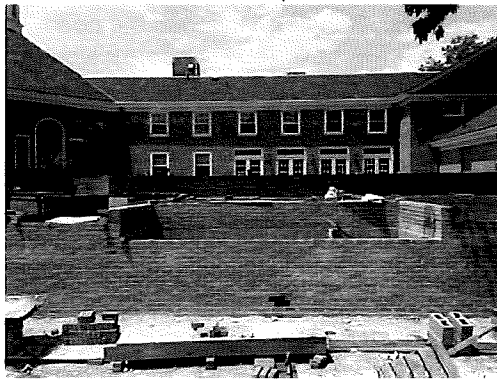
Our eleven day tour begins September 20, 2015. Details and registration forms can be found at the Illume web site (<http://www.travelillum.com/trc/kch/>). The itinerary is available at http://www.travelillum.com/pdfs/Illume_Client_KCH_EA.pdf. Participation will be limited to 35-40 people; registration forms can be returned to Jeanne Grillo in the church office. Questions about our pilgrimage can be directed to Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com).



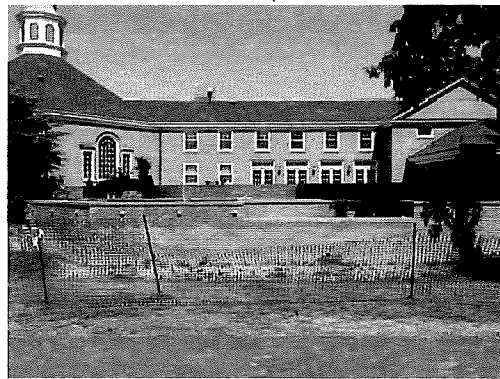
MARCH 11, 2014



APRIL 7, 2014



MAY 27, 2014



JUNE 17, 2014



MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION DEDICATION SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 2, 2014 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Construction of the Memorial Garden Expansion is nearing completion and will soon be ready for the final Montgomery County inspection. Thanks to everyone for their patience during the work. As soon as possible, several trees will be planted and during September and October more selected plant material will be installed. The dedication of the Expansion will be held following worship on "All Saints Sunday," November 2, 2014. Save the date. Everyone is invited to stop by and look at the finished work.

Bob Mecklenburg, Dianne Gregg and Cecie Phair are coordinating the landscape design and, although there will be no donor name plaques for any plantings, anyone wishing to donate funds is invited to contact Jeanne Grillo at 301 299 6007, e-mail admin@potomacprebyterian.org, or simply make a donation. We have already received three donations for the plantings, but additional funding is needed to complete the landscape design. Now is a good time to make a donation. All contributions should be made to the "PPC Memorial Garden" with "expansion landscape" in the memo line and are fully tax deductible. Any and all donations are gratefully accepted.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

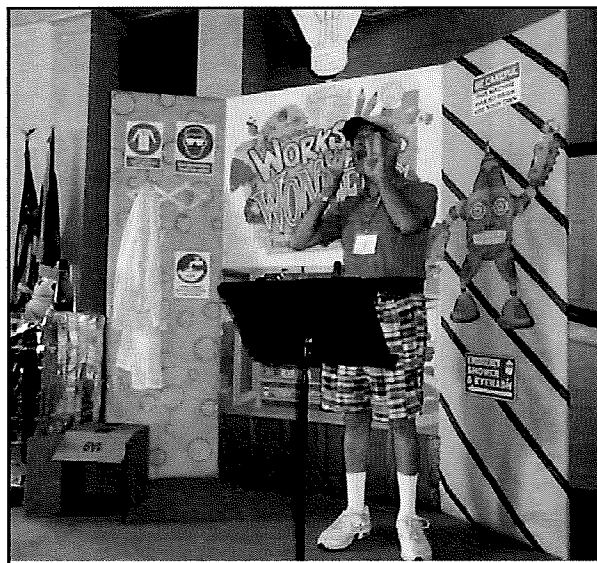
Around fifty children (ages 3-9) participated in this year's Vacation Bible School at PPC, July 7 through 11. We spent the week together at the "Workshop Of Wonders," discovering how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God.

Many volunteers from PPC and the community helped to make the week enjoyable and enriching for all the children. We extend a special word of thanks to these volunteers:

Jeanie & Stan Bissey, Miriam Conley, Marye & Bill Cotton, Colin Davies, Heather & Jon Davies, Janet Dunlop, Jennifer Gawronski, Melissa Grigorian, Stephanie Hampton, Ann Hill, Susan Hougén, Karen Karch, Linda Knowles, Wendy Kuhn, Chandler Kuhn, Olivia Mabeus, Cyndy Mamalian, Matthew Mamalian, Nicholas Mason, Chris Dowd, Charlie Nahabedian, Denise & Ed Pierson, Elizabeth Sherfy, Mary Margaret Smith, Isabel Srour, Harry Tovmassian, Meredith White, and Karen Wise

We also extend our thanks to the members of the Vacation Bible School planning team:

Anne Carey, Heather Davies, Patricia Eng, Jennifer Gawronski, Melissa Grigorian, Ann Hill, and Cyndy Mamalian



ACOUSTICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

While the focus of the worship service in the Reformed tradition is on the preaching of the Word of God, that preaching can be made more enthralling and more meaningful by the reinforcement of inspiring music. As Pastor Sean put it in his letter in the June Steeple-to-People, "...I am convinced ... that the worship of God -- or the 'enjoyment' of God as our Catechism suggests ... [includes the] opportunity to worship God in ways that make your heart sing." What better way is there to reinforce the Lord's message that to write it on your heart through inspiring music!

Accordingly, the overarching goal of the Acoustics Committee is to improve the worship experience for everyone in attendance during worship services. This includes the choir members who do not hear or see much of the congregation or activities in the chancel area, and those sitting in the back and the balcony who cannot hear the spoken word. It is not unusual to see choir members standing and for congregants to look up to see who is singing or playing the bells. Couple all this with the need for a new organ, and the committee's preference for a pipe organ, we have some inter-related areas to coordinate. We are working with an architect on the minimally necessary modifications to the sanctuary.

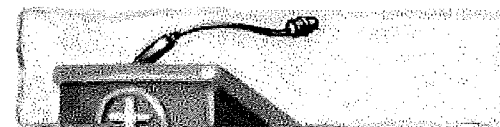
The committee is making progress on several fronts. We have preliminarily selected the microphones, sound equipment and speakers. This has included several meetings and calls with contractors, and visits to other churches. The most recent visit was to see and hear the high technology speakers which can be programmed to "aim" the sound where we need it. As part of this effort, we are working with the Property Committee of reducing the noise from the HVAC. We will also be hiring an acoustics consultant to treat the walls to minimize "dead spots", without detracting from the desired room reverberation for music.

We are working with two pipe organ companies to determine which is best for our church. That effort continues, and fortunately, their physical space requirements are very similar. That has allowed the architect to provide several arrangements. First is to move the choir and the organ console up front in the chancel area. Secondly, to replace the balcony railing wall and make the balcony available for congregational seating. Their initial work will be completed when we agree on what detail arrangements to recommend to the congregation and ultimately, the Session --- complete with drawings and renderings.

While we had hoped to complete this initial phase this spring, it appears it will be early summer. We are being as complete as possible so that any and all questions you may have, can be answered to your satisfaction. To this end, we have prepared a "Frequently Asked Questions" brief--- yes, and complete with answers. We will have financial and timeframe estimates to share also.

We ask for your continued thoughts and prayers as we complete this initial planning.

Charles Nahabedian, on behalf of the Acoustics Committee



From the Clerk of Session

The focus of the Session meetings this year continues to be strategic planning and development for use as a guide for all activities at Potomac Presbyterian Church. The June

Session meeting consisted of several committee presentations to outline the major focus for the coming year.

Elder Carole Hudgings presented the Mission Committee plans for a major initiative with InterFaith Works. The Committee lists its areas of focus as hunger, homelessness and healing. The parameters for any activity include being inter-generational, hands-on, and sustainable while creating a personal connection. The proposed project involves adopting a family and providing financial, volunteer and social support. Success metrics will be developed to monitor the progress.

Elder Greta Van Brunt presented the Christian Education Committee report. The area of focus is updating the children and youth learning areas. This will involve computer, flooring, furniture, shelving and lighting upgrades. A playground or kid-friendly grassy area was also proposed. A Nursery Committee has formed to review needs specific to this area.

Elder Nancy Tietjen presented the Worship Committee report. The areas of focus include enhancing the worship experience, increased youth involvement and a possible second service. A new florist, Kentlands Florist, will be providing the flowers for Sunday worship service.

Elder Tom Kuhn presented the Communications Committee report. The areas of focus include the addition of a staff member, the replacement of the church sign that fronts River Road, website updates, and a communication strategy and overview. Recruitment is currently underway for a part-time Communications Specialist. The church sign is a joint project with the Property Committee. The website is being reviewed and updated by a professional designer.

Other business included a report from Bob Stow on the progress of the Parking Lot Task Force. The Crepe Myrtle tree that is in the driveway will be relocated this fall to make way for the anticipated changes when the construction begins.

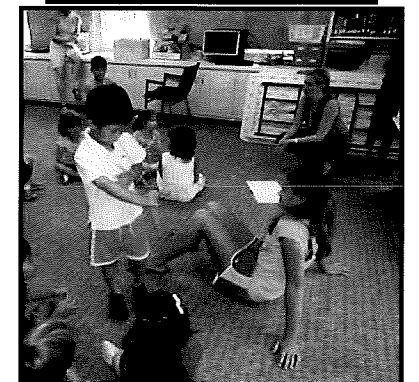
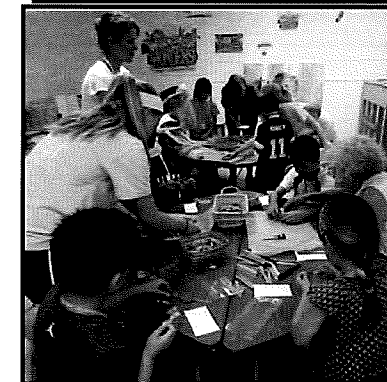
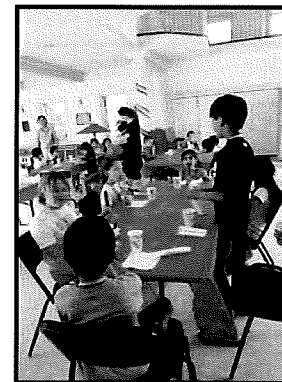
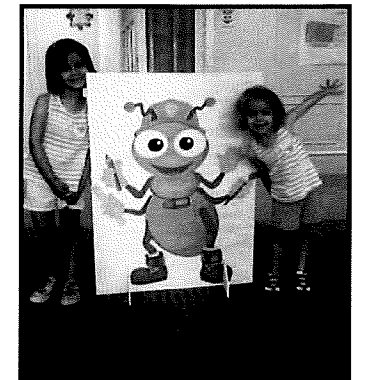
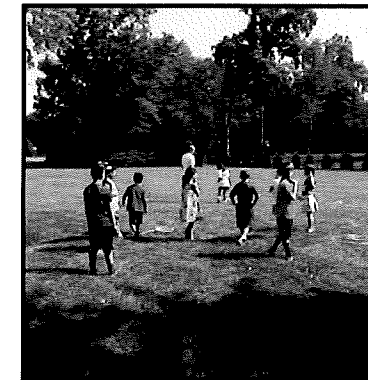
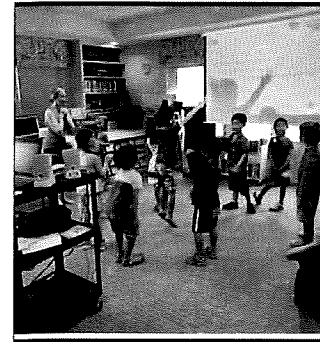
Additional information is available from your Elder representatives.

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



PRAYER
CONCERNS

... Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Carolyn Stump; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnavant; Ed Ebert; June Kitts Carey, mother of Bob Carey; Arthur and Charis Jenkins, parents of Gwynne Jenkins-McMillan; Ruth Andrew, mother of Tom Andrew.



A group shot of some of TEAM PPC at the 14th Annual Autism Speaks 5k Run/1 mile walk held on Friday, July 4th. A special thanks goes out to the Sohl/Goff family for heading up the team again this year.



August 2014

August 2014							September 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
7/27 - 8/1							
8/3 - 8	3 10:00am 11:00am Worship 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serving Dinner at Sophia Hou	4 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	5 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends	6	7 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	8	9
8/10 - 15	10 10:00am 11:00am Worship 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	11 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sea 7:00pm 9:00pm Committee Mee	12	13	14 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	15 STP Mailing	16
8/17 - 22	17 10:00am 11:00am Worship 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	18 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	19	20	21 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	22	23
8/24 - 29	24 10:00am 11:00am Worship 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and Tom Andrew at Ingleside	25 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	26	27	28 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	29	30
8/31 - 9/5	31 10:00am 11:00am Worship 11:00am 12:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6

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education that engages the mind,
and service that sends us into the world*

The Steeple to People

September 2014

Making It Plain at PPC

"Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it." Habakkuk 2:2

My friend Andrew took this picture while we were hiking on Flattop Mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park in July. It took a long time to get to the top of this mountain and we had left first thing that morning; but as all hikers know, the most important thing about hiking to the top of a mountain is making sure that



you get down before the storms come. And getting down is usually the hardest part. The higher you go, the less apparent the trails, and without a clear sense of direction, it is easy to get lost, even when you can see your destination far off in the distance.

Luckily for us, several people on our hike had been there before and knew where to find the cairns. A cairn is a man-made pile of stones, placed by experts to guide hikers from one place to another. The old expression, "Two rocks don't make a duck" reminds hikers that two stones could be easily created by nature, but several stones piled carefully on top of each other is a cairn. Cairns have been created by hikers who

have been there many times before and know the best way to go forward.

When the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk cries out to God, God calls upon Habakkuk to "make the vision plain among the people, so that a runner may read it." When I read this Scripture, I think of the cairns that guided us down Flattop Mountain. (I also think of the brightly colored, often very humorous, signs that are waiting for marathon runners around every corner—my favorite sign at the Marine Corps Marathon: "Remember When You Thought This Was A Good Idea?")

I also think of life in Potomac, where it often feels like we can barely catch our breath from all the demands on our time and energy, not to mention our spiritual lives. And I think about the nature of church life, in which we often feel "out of breath" simply because of the amount of programs and opportunities in ministry that are being offered. Having "more" does not necessarily mean that the way forward is any more clear.

September 7, Rally Day Sunday, is an opportunity to hear the vision for the 2014-2015 year at PPC. All are invited to a presentation and conversation during the 9:45 Christian Education Hour about our vision for the year ahead. The Session has been hard at work over the last several months, working on a strategic plan and a set of core values, founded upon our mission statement: We are an active Christian *community devoted to worship that stirs the soul, education that engages the mind, and in service that sends us into the world.* Through the generous support of the Firm



Foundation, Shining Future campaign, we are poised to deepen our commitment in these areas and to create long term investments to ensure that our vision will be fulfilled into the future. The vision is about much more than parking lots, sanctuary enhancements, and investments. These are important means to an end. The vision is about growing as disciples of the risen Christ and using our good gifts and resources to further God's vision for the world.

I look forward to sharing a bit of the vision on September 7 and look forward to hearing your questions and comments then and throughout the year.

Blessings-Sean Miller



One facet of the PPC mission statement affirms that we are a "Christian community devoted to worship that stirs the soul." As a pastor, I often ponder how soul-stirring worship is different for each person.

I continue to be moved and inspired by the many ways in which PPC is seeking to be open to diverse ways of worshipping. In the past year, we've had the opportunity to worship through diverse music (including traditional hymns, African American spirituals, Taize music, and more). We've been inspired

through banners celebrating God's work among us. We wrote and drew notes of gratitude for God's blessings. We were moved to tears by the cardboard testimonies of our brothers and sisters. We've meditated on images from the Holy Land. We've lit candles to give witness to God's light and hope coming into the world. And we've rested in silence.

And we've done it all as one community, children, youth, and adults together. That reality alone stirs my soul in worship. In many churches today, children in particular are not present in worship. And it truly breaks my heart, because there is nothing more powerful to me than seeing children and parents or grandparents singing side by side. There is nothing more inspiring to me than a child coloring or reading in the pew, looking up every so often as the sermon peaks his interest. There is nothing more stirring to me than a child sitting up attentively, excitedly awaiting her turn to pass the offering plate or take communion.

It's true that children learn by doing. So if we want them to be lifelong worshippers of God, they need to be in worship to learn the rhythms of worship. But I rejoice when they are in worship, because their worship and their presence remind me that we are one community.

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."* Knowing and experiencing the blessing of community each week is a distinct part of what stirs my soul in worship.

As we begin another program year at PPC, I am excited that we have the opportunity to explore even more ways to engage in worship that stirs the soul and to do it as one community. In particular, I look forward to the fourth Sundays of the month (which we call "Families on the Fourth Sundays") where we will worship together, all ages side by side, not just for 20 minutes, but for the entirety of the worship hour.

SAVE THE DATES

October 26, 2014
Berger Lecture Weekend

The Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, President of
Princeton Theological Seminary

9:30 a.m. Adult Education

11:00 a.m. Worship, Craig Barnes, Guest
Preacher

November 2, 2014
Memorial Garden Expansion
Dedication

Following worship in the Memorial
Garden

PPC PILGRIMS

After the very enthusiastically received and spiritually moving trip to Israel and Palestine earlier this year, Pastor Sean Miller will lead another pilgrimage in September 2015. This trip will include several significant biblical sites as we follow in the Footsteps of Paul and the first century Church. We begin in exciting and exotic Istanbul Turkey, which straddles both Asia and Europe. We then move down the Aegean coast to Izmir and Ephesus before taking a cruise through several Greek islands including Patmos, site of St John's Monastery (John traveled with Paul), Crete and Santorini, before continuing on to Corinth. We complete our trip in Athens with its magnificent Acropolis, the cradle of civilization and so much history.

Our eleven day tour begins September 20, 2015. Details and registration forms can be found at the Illume web site (<http://www.travelillum.com/trc/kch/>). The itinerary is available at http://www.travelillum.com/pdfs/Illume_Client_KCH_EA.pdf. Participation will be limited to 35-40 people; registration forms can be returned to Jeanne Grillo in the church office. Questions about our pilgrimage can be directed to Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com).



Deacon corner

*"Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all my life."
Psalm 23:6 (Living Bible)*

A TRUE STORY: In February, 1981, when Ray and I were returning home from a sublime honeymoon in Cancun, we were in for a rude surprise. At the airport, in order to be allowed to exit Mexico, we were obliged to pay, on the spot, \$20.00 in cash, which we did not have. Despite our careful planning, this subtle, important fact about an exit duty had escaped us. We begged, we pleaded, we played the newlywed card, and we pulled out our various credit cards. But the officials did not relent. None of it was acceptable. We were stuck. And we were helpless.

Suddenly, a young woman tapped Ray on the shoulder, handed him a twenty dollar bill, and then took off to catch her plane. We just barely caught a glimpse of her face, and saw only the color of her clothes and her long blonde hair. As it turned out, she would be boarding our same flight to New Orleans, but we lost sight of her.

Stunned beyond words, we accepted her generous gift. In those days, \$20 was worth more like \$55 in 2014 money. We boarded, flew home, and hastily greeted our waiting parents at baggage claim. With no time to explain, we borrowed cash from them and then ran off, determined to find the anonymous, mysterious donor. She had saved us, and we couldn't rest if we did not pay her back!

It ended well. We found her, gushed our thank you's, and returned the money she had given us. She was as surprised at our efforts to re-pay her as we had been in her initial offering to us. And then she disappeared, still nameless, never to be seen again, but also, never to be forgotten.

Was her name Grace?

Unmerited, freely given gifts -- the doctrine of the grace of God -- is the very center and core of our Christian faith. Yet, all my life, I have had a hard time accepting compliments, gifts, or other unexpected kindnesses, whether from God or friends or strangers. Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive" but for most of us at Potomac Presbyterian Church, it is often more difficult to receive than to give. I encourage all of us to consider wholeheartedly both a giving and a receiving mindset. Please continue to give generously your bounteous love, encouragement, and support to your friends in Christ, be they known to you, or anonymous. And please accept graciously the love and support of a small but hardworking army of caring friends at PPC when you yourself are in need or going through a rough patch in life. We are just a phone call or an e-mail away.

Sonia Russo, Chair, Congregational Care Committee, soniaarusso@hotmail.com

Committee Members: Nels Ackerson, Jerry Bonaparte, Jonathan Davies, Dan Drumheller, Pam Drumheller, Sherry Johnson, Gloria Leber, Olivia Mabeus, Kay Norvell, Sally O'Neal, Lynda Tennent, Pastor Sean Miller and Pastor Kendra Grams

NOTE: New members are welcomed! Next meeting is September 8, 6:15pm in the Parlor. If you are unable to attend meetings, you might consider providing peripheral support by making meals, calls, visits, etc. Alternatively, if Congregational Care is not your calling, please talk to Pastor Sean or Pastor Kendra about serving on another PPC committee, if you are able.

For some, worshiping with children is a new experience. If that is the case for you, or you are still unsure about how to be welcoming of children in worship, here are a few hints:

- recognize your role as models for children in worship
- express your appreciation for children, and their presence in church, through your facial expressions and body language
- greet the children around you, just as you would greet adults; ask them about their week or how they are
- bend down to their eye-level as you speak to children
- help children feel included by getting to know them by name
- make sure that children have copies of the worship bulletins
- invite children to sit with you, and help them find the hymns and scripture readings
- pass the offering plate to children
- listen to what children have to say; ask them what they enjoy about worship

Above all, express your gladness at having children in worship for together, we are God's family.

In Christ, Pastor Kendra



After a break for the summer, all the choirs at PPC will resume rehearsals this fall.

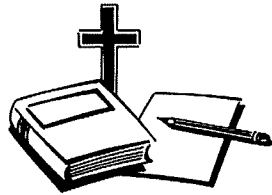
Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:15pm. We meet downstairs in room 5 to sing, learn to read music, learn about church and worship, play games, and more. We sing during worship on the fourth Sunday of the month as a part of Families on the Fourth Sundays. Even if your child (in grades K- 5) has never been a part of the Choir, give us a try – come see all the fun things we're learning and doing! Our first rehearsal will be September 10... we hope to see you then!

Youth provide music several times during the year. We rehearse briefly, often just before we provide music during worship. We also want to expand our repertoire to include instrumentalists. If you play an instrument, try not to be surprised when you are contacted to help us make music for God's praise!

The Bell Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:45pm. Some ringers from our group will be ringing the National Anthem (with other ringers from all across the metropolitan area) prior to the *Nationals* baseball game on September 6 – how cool is that? We can always use more ringers, so why not try ringing handbells with us? Our first rehearsal is September 4.... Maybe we'll see you then?

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 8:00pm. Maybe you've thought about singing with us – now would be a good time to start. We are always looking to add new singers to the choir. Singers (middle school age and older) are welcome to come for a rehearsal and see how easy it is to be a part of the Sanctuary Choir. Our first rehearsal will be September 4.

If you need more information about any of these groups (or you want to try something else not mentioned here), contact Tom Andrew by phone (301-299-6007) or email (tom.andrew@potomacpresbyterian.org).



BEGINS AGAIN FOR ALL AGES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Christian Education for all Ages Classes meet from 9:45-10:45am beginning Sunday, September 7

Children's classes:

Caring teachers will explore Bible stories with children in broadly-graded classes in the lower level of the church. Classes include Bible reading, arts and crafts, games, and music.

- Children **age three through kindergartners** will meet in room 3.
- **First and second graders** will meet in room 5.
- **Third through fifth graders** will meet in room 3.

Two classes are offered for youth:

The **Youth Sunday School** class will meet in the Middle School Lounge in the upper level of the church. They will explore the stories of the Bible in order, focusing on what the stories mean for our lives today and how we would retell them in our own words.

The **Confirmation Class** will meet in the Confirmation Room in the upper level of the church. Youth in grade eight or above who have not previously participated in a confirmation class are welcome to participate. All those who wish to participate in this year's confirmation class should attend the **Confirmation Informational Meeting on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00pm** in the Library. At least one parent should also attend this informational meeting.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

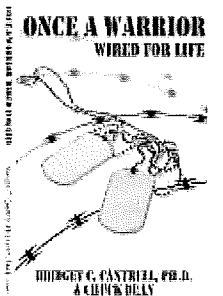
We are grateful to Chaplain Chris Martin for his donation to our library of six books dealing with issues faced by military servicemen and women on returning home following deployment. You can find these informative new books on the book cart in the library. Please fill out the card in the back of the book and place it in the brown box.



Soul Repair – Recovering from Moral Injury After War by Brock and Lettini. The authors remind us that there is a boot camp to prepare for war but there is no boot camp to reintegrate veterans to civilian life. The warriors were taught reflexive fire shooting but not how to recover a shredded moral identity. No one truly "recovers" from war. No one is ever made whole again. The best that can be hoped is to achieve a degree of benign acceptance, to strive each day to forgive and absolve oneself of guilt and to live with the wounds that will never heal.

The capsulated stories of veterans' life-changing war experiences and resulting "moral injury" are deeply moving and instructive to a civilian population. Whatever we think of a war, the crucial responsibility is to accompany the journey home of those who return and remind us that, as a society, we don't just leave wars behind.

Once a Warrior – Wired for Life by Cantrell and Dean. This book might be described as a "workbook" for use by warriors returning from combat duty and for their loved ones. Servicemen and women involved in dangerous circumstances condition themselves subconsciously by adopting various coping methods - much like firewalls installed on a computer - but it is this emotional "shut-down" mode that has caused so many negative issues upon returning to a civilian population for it puts a strain on relationships.



This book speaks of a young person joining the armed forces and becoming part of a close-knit military unit. It is like a new family to him, then his buddies die and he suffers deep loss. He returns home and enters civilian life with a determination not to allow anyone to hurt him again - and so the emotional "shut-down" begins, forfeiting the intimacy and closeness with others who desire and expect it from him.

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; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders, sister of Marcia Boogaard; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnivant; Ed Ebert; June Kitts Carey, mother of Bob Carey

BLESSING AND STOCKING BACKPACKS



Students everywhere are headed back to school soon. On Sunday, August 31 during worship, we'll have a special time to pray for all students. PPC students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship on August 31 to be blessed and to receive a special gift.

We also want to help Interfaith Clothing Center (a ministry of Interfaith Works) provide school supplies for children in Montgomery County who would otherwise go without the basic supplies necessary for learning. In particular, they are seeking the following items:

- Backpacks (grades K-12)
- Packages of lined filler paper
- Tab Dividers
- 2-pocket Folders
- Pencil pouches

Please Bring Donations by August 31.

FAMILY POTLUCKS

This year, the Fellowship Committee is again sponsoring periodic family potluck dinners. Families will gather for a potluck dinner at a member's home (to be determined) 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.

Reserve the following "Family Potluck" Sundays on your calendar: September 14 (at the Kuhn Home, 7101 Saunders Court, Bethesda), November 16, February 22, and April 19.



Youth Kick-off Game Night

All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to our Youth Kick-off Game Night on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 5:00-7:30pm at the Baarman House (6 Sotweed Court, Potomac). Warning: some games may be messy, so don't wear your best clothes. We'll finish up with some relaxed fellowship over dinner and preview the year ahead. Friends welcome.

Dinner for Parents of Youth

Parents of youth in grades 6-12 are invited for dinner, fellowship, and discussion on Friday, September 19 from 7-9pm at the Galbreath Home (6926 Blaisdell Road, Bethesda). Following dinner, we'll share important information about the year ahead, including how we need parent support to continue strengthening the youth ministry. Please RSVP to Pastor Kendra by Monday, September 15.



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study meets in the Parlor on Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:15am. Whether you've been in studies before or you're coming to a study for the first time, please join us for 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer, all are welcome. Coffee and bagels provided. Classes begin on September 17.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, meets in the Library on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am. The class is led by Pastor Sean. Classes will begin on September 17.

Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (PASTCF)

The purpose of the PASTCF is to challenge and assist the Presbyterian Church (USA), at all levels, to study, understand, discuss, and act on the implications of science and technology as they affect the theology, worship, practice, and moral actions of the church; and to challenge and assist Presbyterian scientists, engineers, and other technical professionals to study, understand, discuss, and act on the implications of the Reformed theological tradition for their scientific and technical vocations.

PPC's PASTCF fall meetings will be held on:

- Saturday, September 20, 9:00am
- Saturday, November 1, 9:00am
- Saturday, December 13, 9:00am

Contact John Norvell for more information (norvelli@msn.com).

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. On September 16, the group will discuss *The Admirals: The 5 Stars Who Won The War at Sea* by Walter Borneman.

RALLY DAY



All are invited to Rally Day 2014 on Sunday, September 7. As in years past, all Christian Education classes will resume at 9:45am (there are classes for children, youth, and adults—see the previous article for more information). We will worship together at 11:00am. And following worship, we'll have a carnival with games available until 2:00pm.

The carnival will include annual favorites such as the dunk tank, bounce house, bean bag toss, pizza lunch for purchase, and cake walk (all are invited to bake cakes, cookies, brownies, and other desserts to donate to the cake walk). New this year, we will have balloon blasters, a striker (swing the mallet and see how high the weight goes), a popcorn machine, and relay races. Casual dress encouraged so you can enjoy all the fun!

September 2014

September 2014							October 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31 - Sep 6	Aug 31	Sep 1 Labor Day - Office Closed	2 9:00am 12:00pm Kitchen "Blast" (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends	3 12:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting	4 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir	5	6
	7 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Ral 12:00pm 1:00pm Rally Day Carni 12:15pm 12:45pm Equal Exchan 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	8 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sea 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	9	10 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	11 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)	12	13
Sep 7 - 13	14 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu 5:00pm 7:00pm Family Potluck (15 STP DEADLINE 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	16 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club	17 6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm 10:00pm Montgomery B	18 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)	19 7:00pm 8:30pm Dinner for parents of youth (tbd)	20 9:00am 10:30am PASTCF (Fellowship Hall)
	21 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Kir 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee 5:00pm 7:30pm Youth Kick-off (t	22 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	23 Presbytery Meeting	24 6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	25 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)	26	27 9:00am 2:00pm New Members Class
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Sep 21 - 27	28 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and	29 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
	28 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and	29 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
Sep 28 - Oct 4	28 9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 1:00pm Deacon Coffee 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and	29 1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
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Potomac Presbyterian Church
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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

October 2014



Coming Home Again

On a Sunday afternoon in 2007, I received an email from a young couple who had visited our church earlier that morning. They attended one of our worship services and stayed briefly for coffee after worship. In the email, they introduced themselves, said that they had recently moved to the area, raved about worship and the sermon, and asked if we could meet for coffee to talk about what it means to be a Presbyterian and how to go about joining the church.

Yes, they really did. It was a Pastor's dream come true!

When I met them for coffee the next day, they told me that they had met many years ago when they were on staff at Willow Creek. He worked in their youth ministry, and she served as a children's ministry leader. Willow Creek is one of the largest churches in the country and is located in Barrington, Illinois, not too far from the church I was serving as an Associate Pastor. I used to go to Willow Creek about once a quarter with my laptop, would have lunch in one of their restaurants, work in one of their coffee shops, and would always marvel at their basketball courts, gymnasiums, and their beautiful lake where they would baptize adults.

Yes, Willow Creek really does have all those things. On Easter Sunday, they usually have somewhere around 35,000 people attending one of eight worship services.

When this young couple came to our 2000 member congregation, looking for a church home, they remarked how nice it was to find a nice small church in their neighborhood. I laughed when they said our church was small. It felt very big to most of us. They were glad to find a community that felt smaller to them and where they connected with a historic tradition. They liked a more intimate style of worship and loved the fact that they could walk to church on Sunday mornings. Those things were very important to them.

They joined the church and Sarah and I became good friends with them. We miss them very much. He and I used to lead youth retreats together for the Presbytery, and she was a great resource for our children's ministry program. They felt at home in that particular church for that season of their lives.

But almost a year ago now, our friends moved downtown to Chicago, where they now rent an apartment on South Michigan Avenue. They feel at home there, and have found a new church home. They are back at Willow Creek, but now they attend Willow Creek Chicago. Willow Creek Chicago began several years ago as the Willow Creek leadership felt called to minister to the city with a new campus downtown. Willow Creek Chicago does important ministry with families of all shapes and sizes and cares deeply about serving the poor.

When Sarah and I were back in Chicago last week for a family wedding, we couldn't wait to see them and to introduce them to Hannah. We sat out on their fourth floor patio looking east towards Lake Michigan. We talked a lot about all kinds of different things, but mostly about their new church home. She is now the Pastor for Families at Willow Creek Chicago. They are both nearly moved to tears about how much it means to have found a church home again.

Statistics are telling us that more and more people like this fabulous young couple who I met eight years ago will find many churches to call home throughout their lives. And, more and more will attend churches across the denominational spectrum and the non-denominational spectrum as well. What will matter more and more is how connected the church is to the needs of the neighborhood, how the church relates to the community, and how the church is sending its people into the community to serve.

Churches are blessed when wonderful new people walk in the doors and are ready to get involved. We have seen that happening quite a bit over the last three years. And the trend generally holds true in our community as in theirs. Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Non-Denominational, Baptist. Denominational labels matter less and less. Community. Authentic. Service. Home. Those will matter more and more.

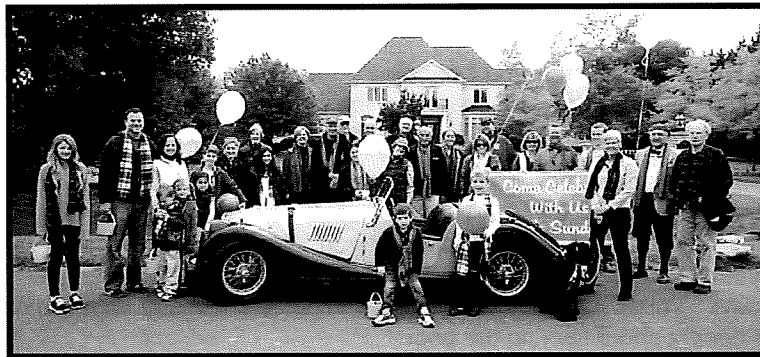
Once, when Jesus was describing the Kingdom of God, he began with a question. Jesus said, "And who is my neighbor?"

Who is our neighbor? How can we reach them? How can we serve with them? What are their needs? Do they know who we are?

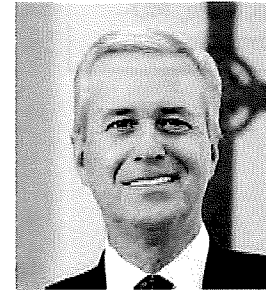
Blessings, Pastor Sean Miller

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 25. We'll gather at the church at 9:30am for refreshments 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.



OCTOBER 26, 2014, BERGER LECTURE WEEKEND



The Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary
9:30 a.m. Adult Education
11:00 a.m. Worship, Craig Barnes, Guest Preacher

M. Craig Barnes is the seventh president of Princeton Theological Seminary. He began his presidency in January 2013, and also serves as professor of pastoral ministry. Barnes earned his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Seminary in 1981 and his Ph.D. in church history from the University of Chicago in 1992.

Before becoming president of Princeton, Barnes was a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary while also serving as the pastor and head of staff of Shadyside Presbyterian Church. He previously served pastorates in Madison, Wisconsin, and at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. He is a frequent lecturer and preacher at conferences, academic gatherings, and in congregations across the country. He is the author of eight books and serves as a columnist for The Christian Century. His writing and academic work reflect his deep commitment to the theological formation of pastors to lead the church in changing times.

The Memorial Garden Committee invites you to attend the Dedication of the Memorial Garden Expansion

November 2, 2014 -- All Saints' Sunday

In the Memorial Garden following 11:00am worship

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders and Naomi Gerwin, sisters of Marcia Boogaard; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnavant; Ed Ebert; June Kitts Carey, mother of Bob Carey; Genie Rudmann, cousin of Dan Dowd; Steve and Natalie Rudnic.

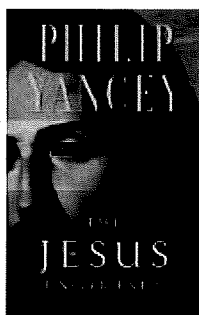
DINE WITH NINE - 2015

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 PPC 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, add your name to the sub list. Sign up below or contact Beth Rudnic (301) 869-4622 or egrudnic@gmail.com for more information. Once groups are formed, the hostess will contact you with a date, time, and place of the first dinner.

You can sign up on our website, under 'Church News'. <http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org/dine-with-9-2015/>. Also, forms will be included in the October Bulletin and Announcements. Please sign up by Sunday, November 2.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey



In his attempt to tell the story of the historical Jesus and convey for his readers a sense that "you were there," Philip Yancey in his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, says he feels like an art restorer stretched out on the scaffolding of the Sistine Chapel, swabbing away at the grime of history with a moistened Q-tip. If he scrubs hard enough, will he find the original beneath all those layers?

Writing with a unique and very personal down-to-earth style, Yancey replaces the sweet flannelgraph Jesus of our childhood with a Galilean who saw his world through the eyes of flesh and yet divided all of history into "before" and "after."

Secular history gives us few clues about this individual. The four gospels detailing a small slice of his life were written years after Jesus' death and, as the author says, it took five centuries of active debate to agree on some sort of balance between "just like everyone else" and "something different."

For those seeking an introduction to the Jesus who was among us, a reading of *The Jesus I Never Knew* is a good place to start. The author highlights the most salient and faith-forming elements of Jesus' life - his birth, his Jewish background, his temptation in the desert, the miracles he performed, the message he preached and personified and the blessing of grace he bestowed on those whose lives he touched - yet, He lived and died by the rules of earth!

Look for this one on the book cart in the Library. It deserves your time and thought.



You've probably heard it said before that "it takes a village to raise a child." There is something very right and true about that. It's not to say that the role of parents isn't crucial, because it is. (Why else would there be endless books for expectant parents to read repeatedly as you try to imagine just what it will be like to hold your little one for the first time?) But I believe that Jesus said, "let the little children come to me" not only to emphasize God's welcome of children, but also to emphasize that we each have an important role to play in welcoming and caring for children.

Helping to raise, care for, and welcome children can be part of our daily Christian living in large and small ways. For instance, I was impressed to learn recently that a pastor friend of mine and her family (including her teenage sons) took on the awesome responsibility of caring for four young brothers who live across the street while their parents take a long overdue anniversary vacation. Their daily reflections as they work hard to make these boys part of their family for 10 days are both endearing and hilarious. Post-dinner time is suddenly a mix of high school science, middle school math, second grade reading, and bath time for preschoolers. They are taking on the nurturing role of the "village" in a huge way.

"It takes a village to raise a child."

But there are many ways we can be a "village" of care to the children in our lives and communities. And I am forever impressed by how this family of faith strives to be a village of care and nurture in so many ways, many of them seemingly small, but with great impact. For example, I know many of you send cards to children and youth following Sundays in which they assist in or lead worship. I don't know if you ever even hear that these cards are received, but I do, and they make a big impression on young people. I also know that many of you take the time to talk with children and youth when you see them at church. That matters too!

This month at PPC is a particularly exciting time for us to continue living into our call to be a nurturing village for our young people. The Deacons will be sending care packages to our college students (and there is nothing quite as exciting in college as receiving a package of goodies, including homemade cookies). We will be celebrating the baptism of Hannah Jane Miller (on Oct. 19), pledging to help raise her in Christian faith and remembering all those for whom we have made the same pledge. We'll have the opportunity to walk in the Potomac Day Parade (on Oct. 25), young and old side by side, to demonstrate to the children of PPC and the community that God calls us to welcome all people. And we'll have the opportunity to celebrate with our third graders (on Oct. 26) as they receive Bibles to aid in their growth in faith.

I hope you will be part of these and other exciting opportunities to live out our call to be a welcoming and nurturing "village" for PPC's young people. And I hope you will be continually seeking out ways that you can be part of the village of care for all the young people in your life. You know it is clearly part of my passion, so I always enjoy conversation about the challenges and triumphs you experience as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and more. Please share your stories with me anytime. I also look forward to sharing more of my own stories as Ted and I welcome our son in early 2015. We are so excited that PPC will be part of the "village" that helps to raise him.

In Christ, Pastor Kendra

Your PPC Deacons have been hard at work for our church family. Here's an update on some of the recent/ upcoming "Deacon Doings."

September Deacon Coffees:

We hope you were able to attend one of the three Deacon Group Coffees held after worship in September, and that you enjoyed getting to know your deacon and fellow parishioners better.

Fellowship and Congregational Care:

Please know that we are always here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us should any need arise. In addition, if you wish to be involved with any Fellowship or Congregational Care activities, one of us will be delighted to guide the way. Contact Louise Plumb Lplumb@aol.com for Fellowship questions and Sonia Russo soniaarusso@hotmail.com for Congregational Care matters.

Care Packages for Our College Students:

Our most recent project has been the preparation and mailing of cards, devotionals, and care packages full of homemade and other goodies to our 33 college students, who are attending universities all around the United States, and in Ireland, and Italy, too. This year, the college care packages will be mailed on October 6th. These have been a big hit in years past. Last year, a record number of our college students sent thank you notes expressing gratitude for being thought about, prayed for, and baked for (well, maybe not exactly in that order...).

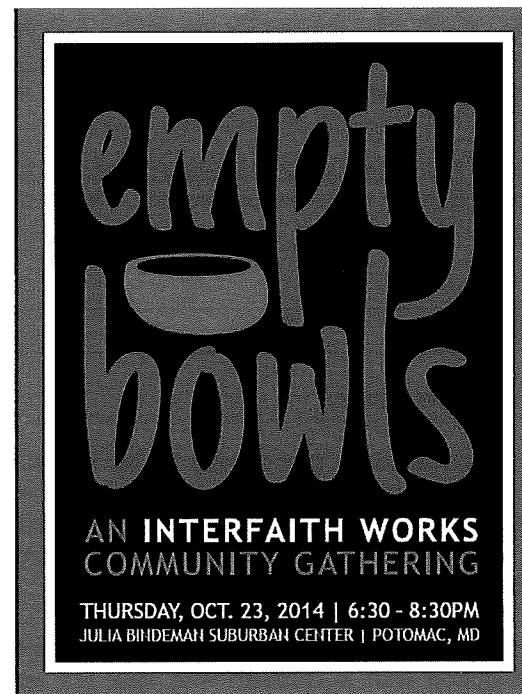
Remembering our college students with goody bags is an ongoing tradition carried out by the deacons. In June, the 21 PPC youth and 9 adults who participated in the New Jersey Mission Trip were again lovingly thought of by the preparation of bags full of treats and cards.

But it is hard to know who enjoys these projects more—the recipients, or those of us privileged to share the joy of making them happen!

Sincerely,

Your PPC Deacons

Family Mission Awareness and Service Opportunity
Empty Bowls, October 23



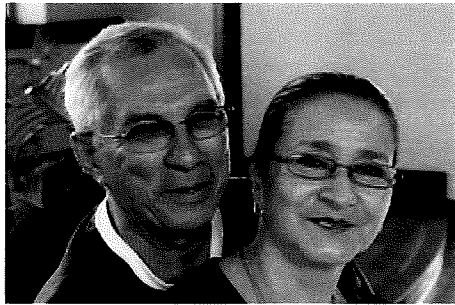
As part of our new church year, PPC is intensifying its collaboration with Interfaith Works of Montgomery County in developing ways to address chronic homelessness, hunger and other manifestations of poverty affecting our more vulnerable neighbors—those who are disabled or ill, those who suffer from addiction, or those who simply don't earn enough money to sustain themselves or their families. At a time when a third of Montgomery County's public school children (over 50,000 of a school population of roughly 150,000) qualify for free or subsidized school lunches and at a time when many working families are struggling to put food on the table for their families, we at PPC have a unique opportunity, right in our immediate neighborhood, to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in our community.

For the third year, Interfaith Works is sponsoring an **EMPTY BOWLS** event. These community suppers began as part of an international grassroots movement to help low-income and homeless neighbors. PPC is a sponsor of this IFW event, to be held on **October 23rd** at the **Julie Bindeman Center**

on Falls Road from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (corner of Falls Road, Tuckerman Lane and Falls Reach).

The Mission Committee invites you to attend this EMPTY BOWLS supper along with your children. There, together, we can share a modest dinner of soup, chili, and bread donated by area chefs and restaurants and appreciate the donated art rendered in the ceramic bowls we will each be given to take home as a reminder of the plight of the most vulnerable in our County. By participating we will join hundreds of volunteers and top community leaders and partners in evidencing our shared determination to end hunger in our County.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased online at <http://www.iworksmc.org/event/join-interfaith-works-for-empty-bowls-2014/>, or by contacting Elsie Reid at elreid07@gmail.com to order a ticket. Ticket proceeds will go to support the local programs of Interfaith Works.

Andrés and Gloria Garcia Retire after 28 Years of Mission Service

At the end of June 2014, Andrés and Gloria Garcia retired after 28 years of mission service in Central America, Equatorial Guinea, and on the Texas-Mexico border. Most recently, Andrés and Gloria served as the U.S. coordinators for the Puentes de Cristo Presbyterian Border Ministry, a joint ministry of the PC(USA) and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico that serves those who live along the 2,000-mile Mexico-U.S. border by responding to spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs.

Devoting their entire mission ministry to challenging communities, the Garcias served in Central America for 16 years. In Costa Rica, they taught at the Evangelical Center of Pastoral Studies in Central America, providing resources for the Center's project for peace, collaborating on women's ministry projects, and serving as educational and theological resources for the region. They also served with the Calvinist Reformed Church of El Salvador, where Gloria worked in mission education and Andrés was a consultant in construction projects.

Two other posts are noteworthy: in Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, the Garcias served as evangelists and church administrators in partnership with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Equatorial Guinea; and in Louisville, they served as missionaries-in-residence in the Worldwide Ministries Division for the Ecumenical and Mission Partnership team.

The Garcia's backgrounds helped prepare them for their diverse ministry. One of 10 children, Andrés Garcia was born in a rural farming community in Honduras. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in theology and Christian Education at the Latin American Biblical Seminary in Costa Rica, as well as a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Costa Rica. Gloria was born in Quito, Ecuador, the fifth of nine children. She earned a B.A. degree in Christian Education from the Latin American Biblical Seminary and a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the National University of Costa Rica in San José.

PPC rejoices in the long and fruitful ministry of Gloria and Andrés and is pleased to have sponsored them for about 25 years through the Presbyterian World Mission. We remember fondly their visits to PPC, which provided vivid updates of their mission outreach, as they brought God's love and promise to their brothers and sisters. As Andrés noted in a 2013 letter:

Here, surrounded by the noisy and vibrant life of our noble Mexican neighbors, we lift our hearts full of optimism from leaning on God's strength, which always will be with us until the end of our service. Inspired by that promise...we continue to focus on the work of doing activities and programs for life-transforming experiences... to unleash the human potential in the lives of children and women...

Andrés and Gloria – PPC is grateful to have been a partner in your mission ministry. We thank you for decades of faithful Christian ministry, and wish you all the best as you enter the next phase of your lives.

Christian Education

Both the Youth Sunday School Class and Confirmation Class continue to meet weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45am in the upper level classrooms. The Youth Sunday School Class is exploring the overall story of the Bible and how it impacts our daily living. The Confirmation Class is currently exploring who God is and why it matters.

High School Lunches

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month (this month on Oct. 12 & 26), high school students (grades 9-12) are invited to lunch in the Sr. High Lounge from 12:15-1:30pm. We'll eat together and then spend some time discussing Scripture and how it guides our daily living. Friends welcome.

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) will gather at the church on Friday, October 17 from 6:00-9:00pm for dinner, fellowship, prayer, and reflection. Friends welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Education, Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**Forum Class - (Library)**

October 5, 12, & 19 Tom Miles and Sean Miller, Three week series on "Discipleship" from Biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives

October 26 Berger Lecture, Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

Oct 21, 2014- *The Long Goodbye*, by Raymond Chandler

Nov 18, 2014- *Old Man River: The Mississippi River in North American History*, by Paul Schneider

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study-meets in the Parlor on Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:15am. All are welcome to join us for 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer. Coffee and bagels provided.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study-meets in the Library on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am. All are invited for a time of Bible study and prayer led by Pastor Sean.

Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith

PASTCF is a national organization for the discussion of the impact of science and technology on religion, especially Christianity. Contact John Norvell with questions: norvellj@msn.com. The fall meetings at PPC will be held at 9:00am on the following Saturdays: November 1 and December 13.

October 2014

October 2014							November 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 28 - Oct 4	Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
				6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 5:30pm 7:30pm Confirmands Serving at Becky's House 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir		Reformed Institute Board Meeti
Oct 5 - 11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Wo 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 5:30pm 7:30pm Confirmands Serving Dinner at Becky's Ho 7:00pm 8:30pm Acoustics Committee Meeting (Potoma	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am 11:00am Nominating Committee (Library) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)		11:00am 12:30pm Carolyn Stump Memorial Service and Reception
Oct 12 - 18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Pastor Sea 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Meetings	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am 11:00am Nominating Committee (Library)	STP DEADLINE 6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Stu 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday M 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm 8:00pm Bridges to Wors	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop (Fellowship Hall) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir	Women's Craft Sale 6:00pm 9:00pm Middle School Youth Group	Women's Craft Sale
Oct 19 - 25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Baptism 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am 11:00am Nominating Committee (Library) 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor)	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level, Room 4)	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)		Potomac Days 9:00am 10:30am Potomac Day Parade
Oct 26 - Nov 1	26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
	Berger Lecture - Craig Barnes P 9:30am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Thi 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High Lu 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Kendra a	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall)	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)		

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
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Potomac Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Sean Miller, Pastor and Head of Staff
The 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*

The Steeple to People

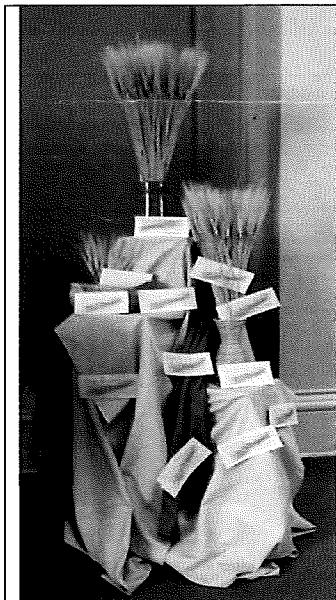
November 2014



THE FIVE DOLLAR CHALLENGE

“You’re doing what?” “You want us to do what with \$5 of the church’s money?” “Can we afford that?” “What in the world can you do with five bucks?”

These are just some of the great questions I have heard over the last two weeks as the “Five Dollar Challenge” has gotten underway. I’ve heard everything from surprise to excitement to concern to doubt. And, I am beginning to hear responses to the challenge, how \$5 is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors and those in our faith community.



Sanctuary display of returned donations cards

For example, at our October Session meeting, one of our Elders shared during her devotion that the Five Dollar Challenge has been a source of much conversation around the dinner table at home. Her family hasn’t decided how to use the money yet, but she has noticed how much she is thinking about this small gift that she has been given throughout her week—in the car, running errands, at home, at church. What was first a somewhat surprising gift of \$5 from her church, and a challenge to use it to serve her local community, is now having an impact on her everyday life and her family’s hopes to help someone in need.

Another example is in a card that was returned last Sunday in the offering plate, in which one family said that they would be using the \$5 to purchase materials to make cards for sick children at NIH. Or another card that described using the \$5 to buy ingredients for a bake sale, which ended up raising over \$1000 for a program to care for children in need.

This is just what the Five Dollar Challenge is all about! Using a small gift to spark a big idea of service to those in need in our community. In doing that, we model something that Jesus taught his disciples—about giving and about God:

We return to God what God has given us by caring for our neighbor. When Jesus summarized all the law and the prophets, he said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." When Jesus talks about love this way, it is an action verb, not a Hallmark state of mind.

We give to others not because we *should* or are somehow *required* to or need to meet a certain level of giving. We give out of *joy*, like David who danced in the Temple before the Lord, and in *humility*, like the woman who gave her two coins—quietly, consistently, and faithfully.

We respond locally, in small ways, because Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, or a grain of wheat, or a seed on good soil. Paul says that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains. Five dollars isn't much anymore at the grocery store or at the gas pump, but it is a seed that is inspiring creative and committed service in our community, the fruits of which are only just beginning to be harvested.

The Five Dollar Challenge is inspiring creative ways to go into our community and not only *give* toward mission, but to *be* mission. To *be* the seed planted in good soil. To *be* the mustard seed.

I look forward to hearing and reading more of your stories as the cards come back on Sunday mornings over the next several weeks. If you have a story that you would like to share, email me or stop by. Yours might be just the story that sparks the imagination of the person at the other end of the pew.

Blessings, Pastor Sean Miller

POTOMAC DAY PARADE



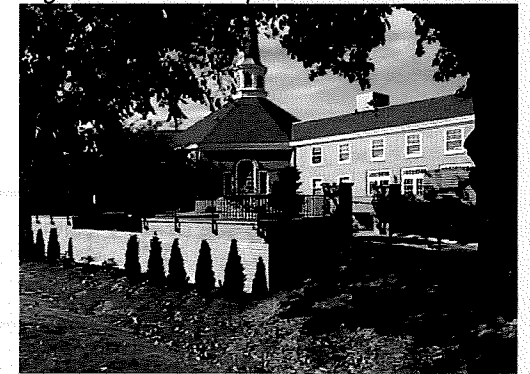
PPC contingent walking in the 32nd Potomac Day Parade on October 25

Dedication of the Memorial Garden Expansion

November 2, 2014 -- All Saints' Sunday
In the Memorial Garden following 11:00am worship



March 11, 2014



October 28, 2014

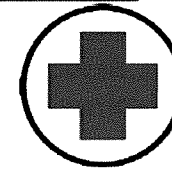
Memorial Garden Committee:

Nelda Coligan, Jim Dart, Dianne Gregg, Bobbe Hartzog, Bob Mecklenburg, Sigrid McCutcheon, Sean Miller, Cecie Phair, Nelia Scioli, Mary Smith, Ed Tennent, Nancy Tietjen, Harry Tovmassian and Karen Wise

Did you know...

We have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the Fellowship Hall coat closet?
If you are CPR certified and AED trained please add your name to PPC's list.

Contact: Jan Cookerly, Property Committee Member
jcookerly@earthlink.net or 703-615-5551



WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



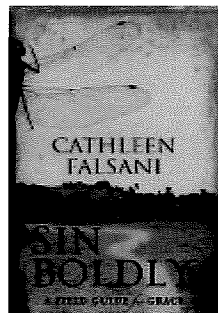
We continue to keep in our prayers... the *Members of the Armed Forces*; *Mary Reichley*; *Preston Abee*, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; *Alison Galbreath*; *Dave Gorman*, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; *Betsy Sanders* and *Naomi Gerwin*, sisters of Marcia Boogaard; *Terry Fortune*, son-in-law of Martha Brame; *Patty Dunnavant*; *Ed Ebert*; *Genie Rudmann*, cousin of Dan Dowd; *Steve and Natalie Rudnic*; *Mary McGill*, mother of Peter McGill



We have recently updated our display of "Care Notes", small booklets that address topics such as grief, illness, and more. Please help yourself to these "Care Notes", located in the Narthex, if you find a topic of interest to you or a friend. Current titles are:

<i>Overcoming the "Blues" at Christmastime</i>	<i>Healing a Conflict with a Loved One</i>
<i>Living Alone after the Death of a Spouse</i>	<i>Helping a Child Deal with Divorce</i>
<i>Getting through the Holidays when You've Lost a Loved One,</i>	<i>Growing Spiritually After Divorce</i>
<i>Why We Need Others while We are Grieving</i>	<i>Ten Helps for an Alzheimer's Family</i>
<i>Including Your Family in Your Healthcare Decisions</i>	<i>When It's Healthy to Cry</i>
<i>What to Say to Someone who has Cancer</i>	<i>When Your Child is Being Bullied</i>
<i>How Faith Helps Us Overcome Anxiety</i>	<i>Parenting a Troubled Teen</i>
<i>Dealing with the Stresses of a New Baby</i>	<i>For Teens: Peer Pressure: Making Good Choices in Tough Situations</i>
<i>Five Things to Consider as You Prepare to Retire</i>	<i>For Teens: Being Happy When Life's not Perfect</i>
<i>Finding Inner Peace at the End of Life</i>	<i>For Kids: When Your Grandparent Dies – A Child's Guide to Good Grief</i>

LIBRARY NEWS



Sin Boldly: A Field Guide for Grace, by Cathleen Falsani

"Grace is audacious, unwarranted and unlimited" according to this author, Cathleen Falsani, for many years a columnist on spirituality and popular culture for the Chicago Sun-Times. And everyone experiences grace even if they don't realize it.

In this unique gem, *Sin Boldly: A Field Guide for Grace*, Falsani relates stories about her own experiences with grace that have shaped her faith, finding God in places some people say God isn't supposed to be. The reader, in turn, is provoked into recalling similar instances in their own life where grace came uninvited and colored the encounter.

But what is "grace"? Falsani compares grace to "lagniappe," an old Creole word that means "something extra." It's an unexpected gift. A little bit more. In New Orleans, you order a pound of shrimp and they put in an extra handful and that's the "lagniappe." Something you can't pay for. Something for free. Even something you don't deserve. Sometimes grace is something you can feel even if you can't see it.

The author writes of her startling discovery that, in God's grace, there was not a thing she could do to make God love her any less or any more, that she was just loved by God unconditionally. It was, at this point, she started to live - BOLDLY!



One facet of PPC's mission statement states that we are "devoted to...education that engages the mind..." In the tradition of so many of the great Reformers of the church, we celebrate that God gave us thinking minds to contemplate the world, God's role in the world, and our own place in the world. Inevitably, such contemplation leads to many questions. We do well to

name our questions and wrestle with them in community. By sharing and studying with one another, we all can learn and grow in faith, while honoring God's gift of the mind.

Recently, the confirmation class made a list of some of their questions about God. They are asking excellent questions. Let us celebrate the gift of their inquiring minds and God given curiosity by naming our own questions. I challenge you to read through their questions, and then email me your questions so that I can share them with the confirmation class. Together, may we wonder, question, study, discuss, discern, and grow in faith.



Does God always forgive?	Did God plan for us to discover technology?
Why did God create bad people or bad things?	What does God's voice sound like?
Did God create bad people or bad things?	Does God have a face?
Did God create natural disasters?	Does God hear all our prayers?
Why doesn't God speak to people through burning bushes or other "signs" anymore?	Why did God only enlighten some and not all?
How does God feel about depictions of heaven and hell in movies, haunted forests, etc.?	Does God prefer us to be a certain denomination?
How does God feel about angel and demon costumes at Halloween?	Would God send an angel now?
How does God know everything?	Why does God want us to learn calculus?
Why did God make us all sinners?	Where is heaven?
Does God do everything for a reason?	Where is hell?
Does God have a "master plan"?	How much does God listen & respond to our prayers?
Was Jesus God in human form or God's son?	What would it take for Jesus to come back?
How involved in our lives is God?	Is there a middle between heaven and hell?
Will God ever misuse God's power?	Does God let people without strong faith or with other faiths into heaven?
How did God come into existence?	Why is fire associated with hell?
Did God always exist?	Why doesn't God come to earth physically now?
Will God always exist?	What does God think of world news?
Did God exist before creation?	What are God's plans for the future?
Did God really create everything?	Can you go from hell to heaven and vice versa?
Does God have other divine children besides Jesus?	Is there a Satan?
Is God ever disappointed?	Is there a hell?
Will God ever destroy earth?	Where to atheists go?

In Christ, Pastor Kendra

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Forum Class - (Library)

November 2, 9	Rev. John Lee
November 16	Jim Reichley
November 23	TBA
November 30	No Forum Class
December 7	Williamsburg Breakfast
December 14	No Forum Class
December 21	Intergenerational Education in Fellowship Hall
December 28	No Forum Class
January 4	Classes Begin Again

Faith Matters - (Parlor)

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. Conversations are lively, thoughtful and in a relaxed atmosphere. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit. Why come? Because faith matters.

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study-meets in the Parlor on Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:15am. All are welcome to join us for 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer. Coffee and bagels provided.

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Men's Book Club

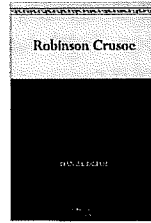
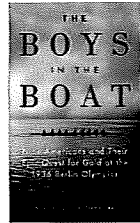
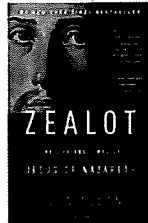
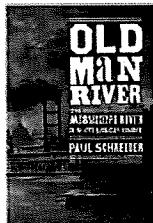
The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

Nov 18, 2014-*Old Man River: The Mississippi River in North American History*, by Paul Schneider

Dec 16, 2014-*Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, by Reza Aslan

Jan 20, 2015-*The Boys in the Boat*, by James Daniel Brown

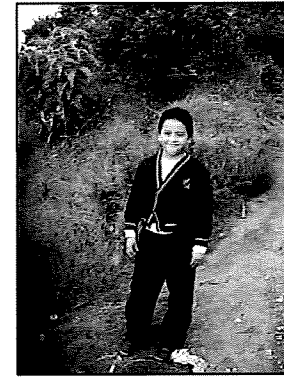
Feb 17, 2015-*Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe



A Mission Committee education project is now started with the assistance of Por Cristo. The program will provide for the education of five impoverished children in Quito.

These five students (pictured in this article) were selected by the directors of a well-established school as those most in need and most likely to benefit. The school has 170 elementary grade students and 22 staff. A variety of charities and donors provide resources.

The student candidates were described in the bulletin of Sunday October 19 and are detailed on the PPC website. The fee is \$500 per year per student. This will pay for tuition, books, supplies and importantly a uniform.

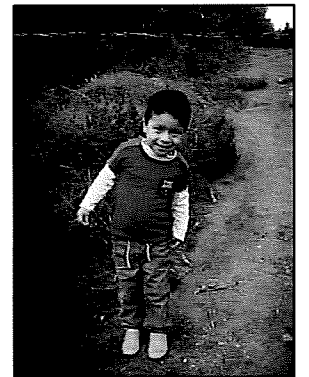
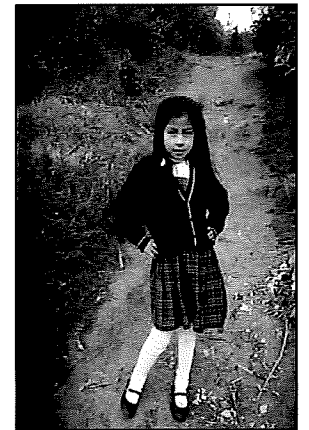
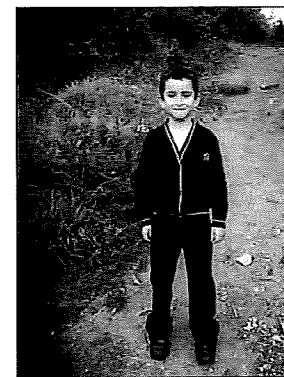


The Mission Committee vision is to sustain this support for these five students for five years or until they finish the 6th grade. Reliable funding will greatly enhance the student's chance of success in higher grades. The first year funding has been submitted to Por Cristo.

The selected pupils will be encouraged to send emails and photos to our congregation and to create pen-pals with our youth. Thus, we shall engage these young people over several years and be able to watch them grow and develop.

This project costs little to do now, but costs so much more if not done.

With gratitude and peace, Tom Hougen



MISSION NEWS

Winter Coats Needed for Interfaith Works Clothing Center

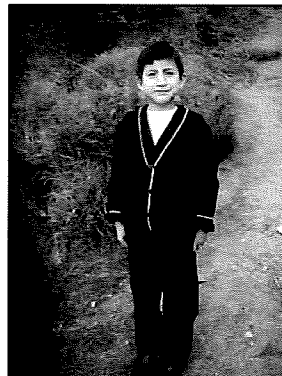
Interfaith Works has an urgent need for winter coats of all sizes, but particularly larger sizes (men's and women's). Please consider donating a gently used winter coat or two. Bring them to the church during the week or on Sunday mornings and place them in the designated boxes in the church office by November 2. On Wednesday, November 5, from 3:00-5:00pm all are invited to the Interfaith Works Clothing Center (751 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, Maryland, 301-424-3796) to help sort coats. Contact Pastor Kendra with questions Kendra@potomacpresbyterian.org.



PPC Supports Education in Ecuador

The Potomac Presbyterian Church (PPC) Mission Committee has initiated a new mission program in Ecuador. The mission committee recognizes the importance of children's education as one effort to reduce poverty and give a poor child a chance for a better life.

Por Cristo (Boston) sponsors many child-based health and family welfare programs in Ecuador. Por Cristo and PPC continue to support the pediatric cardiac team for their work in the capital, Quito.



YOUTH MINISTRY REMINDERS

Christian Education

Both the Youth Sunday School Class and Confirmation Class continue to meet weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45am in the upper level classrooms. The Youth Sunday School Class is exploring the overall story of the Bible and how it impacts our daily living. The Confirmation Class is currently exploring prayer and who the Holy Spirit is.

High School Lunches

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month (this month on Nov. 9 & 23), high school students (grades 9-12) are invited to lunch in the Sr. High Lounge from 12:15-1:30pm. We'll eat together and then spend some time discussing Scripture and how it guides our daily living. Friends welcome.

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) will gather at the church on Friday, Nov. 21 from 6:00-9:00pm for dinner, fellowship, prayer, and reflection. Friends welcome.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY REMINDERS

Christmas Pageant Registration

This year, our Children's Christmas Pageant will be central to worship on Sunday, December 21. We look forward to having the children lead us in worship and share the story of Christ's birth. Children age 3 through grade 5 are invited to participate in the pageant. Please sign up by returning a form that was mailed to you, or you may fill out the form on the website, by November 9, indicating if and how your child(ren) will be participating and how you can help to make this memorable event.



Family Outing to Butler's Orchard

On Sunday, November 23, immediately following worship, families are invited to gather at Potomac Pizza in Potomac Village for lunch and then to travel to Butler's Orchard (22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown) for their Holiday Open House, including free hayrides, marshmallow roasting, live music, and hot cocoa, and face painting for a small fee.

November 2014

November 2014							December 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
10/26 - 31							9:00am 10:30am PASTCF 12:00pm 2:00pm Baby Shower
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11/2 - 7	9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 12:30pm Memorial Gar 12:15pm 1:15pm Board of Deac	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 7:00pm 8:30pm Acoustics Committee Meeting (Potomac Presbyterian Churc	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir	6:00pm 11:00pm Kiwanis Club and the DAR "Book Talk" 7:00pm 12:00am Reformed Institute Young Adult Retreat (Clagett Center)	12:00am 5:00pm Reformed Institute Young Adult Retreat (Clagett Center)
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11/9 - 14	9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:00pm 12:30pm Congregation 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High L	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:15pm 7:15pm Congregational Care Committee (Parlor) 7:30pm 9:30pm Committee Mee	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am 12:00pm PEO, Louise Plumb (Library) 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministr	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday M 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir		STP DEADLINE 9:00am 10:00am Kiwanas Club (Parking Lot)
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
11/16 - 21	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Co 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 4:00pm 6:00pm New Officer Trai	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30pm 4:45pm GS Troop 3788 (Jennifer LaRoche) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meetin	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor) 6:00pm 9:00pm Presbytery Meet	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday M 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm 10:00pm Montgomery B	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir	6:00pm 9:00pm Middle School Youth Group	Reformed Institute Board Meet 3:00pm 3:30pm Tietjen Wedding with Reception
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
11/23 - 28	9:45am 10:45am Christian Educa 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 12:15pm 4:00pm Family Outing 12:15pm 1:30pm Senior High L	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall)		Thanksgiving Day - Office Close 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	Office Closed	9:00am 11:00am Advent Decorating
	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
11/30 - 12/5	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments						

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The Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church

A spiritual destination within a growing congregation.

December 2014

H O P E
P E A C E
Love Joy

Advent Service Opportunities

December 10, 5:30-8:00pm
Community Christmas Dinner

December 14
*Toiletry Gift Boxes &
Gift Giving Tree presents due*

Sunday, November 30

11:00am Worship

*"How You Know
When Christmas is Coming"*

Matthew 13:24-37

*Wednesday,
December 17*

7:30pm
**Longest Night of the
Year Service**

Sunday, December 14

11:00am Worship

*"How You Know
When The Messiah Is Coming"*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

4:00pm Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 7

9:30am Williamsburg Breakfast

11:00am Worship

*"How You Know
When Good News Is Coming"*

Mark 1:1-8

For all who experience
grief or loss during this
season.

Nursery care provided

Sunday, December 21

**9:45am Intergenerational
Christian Education**

11:00am Worship

Christmas Pageant

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

"How You Know When Jesus Is Born"

Luke 2:1-20

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*

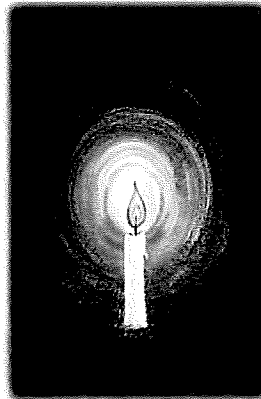
LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR SERVICE

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 17, 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



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



As a special blessing to the PPC family, worship on Sunday, December 21, will be led entirely by the children of the congregation as they present the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. The children will help us ponder again the miracle of God coming to live among us and prepare ourselves to welcome Christ into our hearts again this Christmas.

As we do each Sunday in Advent, we will light candles as a sign of our expectant waiting and preparation. We light candles to celebrate and remember the hope, love, joy, and peace that a tiny baby brought to the world on an extraordinary night in Bethlehem almost 2000 years ago.

In addition, the children will lead us in hearing and experiencing the story of the Christ Child's birth. The children will read and act out the story of Christmas, and together, we'll sing many favorite Christmas carols.

Make sure to arrive early for worship that Sunday so that you don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to ponder the ministry of God's gift of Immanuel, God with us.

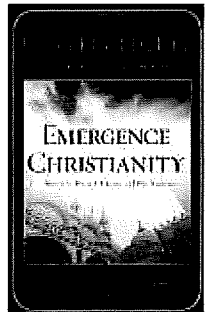
ARE YOU AED/CPR CERTIFIED?

The Property Committee is compiling a list of PPC members who are AED/CPR certified. Please contact Jan Cookerly (jcookerly@earthlink.net) if you would like to be added to this list.

LIBRARY NEWS

Do you remember hearing Pastor Sean remark about Phyllis Tickle's book, *Emergence Christianity*? It's in the Library now ready for you to check out. Someone who recently read it gave me his review and I quote:

Phyllis Tickle offers two key understandings for today's Christians. First, by way of explanation we are helped to see that today's religious trials are a part of a recurring 500 year cycle in which Christians living within a culture adapted to that culture. Secondly, through a broad survey of changes seen currently in Christian denominations, the author attempts to indicate the changes that will result from this cycle's adaption to today's culture.



Tickle's subject matter is of much interest, and I hope you will enjoy reading *Emergence Christianity*. Don't forget to put your name on the book card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box by the computer. Nancy Tietjen

YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle School Advent Party

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to dinner, games, and a white elephant gift exchange on Friday, December 12, from 6:00-8:00pm at the Cyrway/Mazza home. Friends welcome. RSVP to Pastor Kendra by Wed., December 10.

Senior High Advent Party

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to dinner, games, and a white elephant gift exchange on Saturday, December 13, from 6:00-8:00pm at the Mason home. Friends welcome. RSVP to Pastor Kendra by Wed., December 10.

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...



We continue to keep in our prayers... .. the Members of the Armed Forces; Mary Reichley; Preston Abee, brother-in-law of Julie McMahon; Alison Galbreath; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen and brother of Beth Rudnic; Betsy Sanders and Naomi Gerwin, sisters of Marcia Boogaard; Terry Fortune, son-in-law of Martha Brame; Patty Dunnavant; Ed Ebert; Genie Rudmann, cousin of Dan Dowd; Steve and Natalie Rudnic; Tom Cookerly; and Del Smith.

PPC AT SOPHIA HOUSE



On behalf of the mission committee and Kitty Cowie, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families that contributed to Sophia House during this year.

We are now approaching 2015 and once again we are continuing this project, but as always your assistance is needed on a monthly basis to help those in our community who are less fortunate than us. Potomac Presbyterian Church is responsible for feeding about 30 women dinner on the first Sunday of each month at Sophia House in Rockville. We also provide breakfast items for the following morning.

A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall for 2015 and your cooperation will be appreciated as we continue this very worthwhile project in our community.

Marnel Williams, on behalf of the Mission Committee

THANK YOU

We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to the entire PPC family for the many ways you have shown your love and support as we prepare to welcome our son in a few weeks. While there are too many to thank by name, we deeply appreciate the work of the Fellowship Committee and all who helped to make the baby shower on November 1 such a joyful event. Thank you to all of you who blessed us with baby gear and supplies on that occasion and in the weeks which have followed. We also extend a special thank you to all the children and youth of the congregation for sharing their favorite children's books and for sharing their hopes for our son in the "Dear Baby" book we received at the shower. Finally, thank you to all of you who have honored our son by donating to Interfaith Works and the DC Diaper Bank to help other parents provide for their children. It is a true blessing to bring our son into a family of faith that is so thoughtful and generous.

Thank you, Kendra Grams & Ted Carroll



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

For centuries, the church has invited people to observe Advent – a season of quiet and preparation for the coming of our Savior. Our modern world rushes toward Christmas Day – seemingly faster each year.

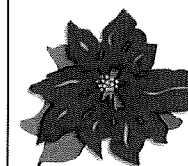
On December 14 at 4:00pm, take some time from your busy schedule and come for a candlelight service of Scripture, Advent songs and carols, and prayers, led by the PPC Children's Choir, Handbells, and Sanctuary Choir. Come and cultivate a deeper sense of the sacred in yourself as we prepare for the birth of God's Son once again.



ADVENT DECORATING

Please join the Worship Committee in decorating the church for Advent on Saturday, November 29 at 9:00am. Questions, contact Nancy Tietjen at dettmar@comcast.net.

POINSETTIAS



Please consider making a donation to the Christmas Decorating Fund in memory or honor of a loved one. Place donations in the pew envelopes. Please note "Christmas Poinsettias" 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. **Donations deadline is Sunday, December 7.**

WILLIAMSBURG BREAKFAST

Hosted by the PPC Deacons
Sunday, December 7, 2014, 9:30am, 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.

ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



On Wednesday, December 10, our church family will provide a holiday dinner for our neighbors in need who come to PPC each month to meet with Pastor Sean. From 5:30pm-8:00pm we will enjoy a meal together, share the opportunity to talk with one another and sing carols. We are expecting to serve up to thirty guests for dinner. Ways that you can participate in the meal:

- Sign up on the PPC website to provide food, serve, or clean-up.
- Provide a \$20 Giant grocery store gift card to the church office or put it in the collection plate prior to December 5. We would like to give each of our guests a gift card that evening
- Donate travel-sized toiletries such as shampoos, conditioner, lotion, powder, mouthwash, toothpaste or toothbrushes that we will include in gift bags for our guests. Please place these items in the labeled basket in Fellowship Hall by December 5.
- Donate new or gently used gloves, hats, and scarves to be given to our guests that evening. Please leave them in the box provided in the office by December 5.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Plumb at 301-762-2769, lplumb@aol.com or Jeanne Grillo in the church office at admin@potomacpresbyterian.org.

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 14. 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.

IN GRATITUDE FOR MISSION SUPPORT



In keeping with our emphasis on the areas of hunger, homelessness, and healing, the PPC Mission Committee supports a number of local, national, and international organizations. Letters from these organizations express their great appreciation for our support and relate how our contributions have extended their work. Below are four such acknowledgements of PPC's *service that sends us into the world*:

"One of the joys of our work at Interfaith Works is the support that friends like you show for our efforts. We deeply appreciate your generous gift.

Together we're changing lives, providing basic needs to the most vulnerable among us in Montgomery County by supporting individuals, empowering families, and transforming communities....We are so excited to be working with you! Thank you so much for all of your help." **Shane Rock, CEO, Interfaith Works**

"On behalf of everyone at Stepping Stones Shelter, I wish to thank you for your generous support of our programs....Your contribution makes it possible for us to be there for families who are struggling. It is through the investments of our many community partners that we are able to provide a temporary, safe home... and move our families forward from homelessness to stability." **Denise Fredericks, Executive Director, Stepping Stones Shelter**

"On behalf of Presbyterian World Mission, please allow me to express our appreciation for your gracious and faithful support of our mission co-workers Leslie and Cynthia Morgan. With your support and their service, we are changing the world for the sake of the Gospel." (Serving in Bangladesh since 1989, Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan's health and healing ministry includes nurturing the spiritual capacity of the Church of Bangladesh, and advising and training workers for community health programs, hospitals, and nursing schools.) **World Mission, Presbyterian Mission Agency**

"Por Cristo is extremely thankful for its longstanding relationship with Potomac Presbyterian Church...and the many years of dedicated service that Dr. Hougren and his colleagues have provided to children in need of cardiac care in Ecuador over the past quarter century. We truly appreciate the Church's most recent donation (for this effort). We are also very excited about your gift to support the education of five children living in a barrio north of Quito, Ecuador.... Your generosity will have a very positive impact on these children. **Joseph Reardon, Executive Director, Por Cristo**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Intergenerational Christian Education Event

On December 21, everyone is invited to participate in our intergenerational Christian Education event in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:45am. We will decorate cookies, make ornaments, read Advent and Christmas stories, lift up prayers, and share memories with one another as we continue to prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ Child anew.



Youth and Children - Sundays at 9:45am

Preschool (ages 3&up) & Kindergarten; Grades 1&2; and Grades 3-5—lower level Christian Education wing. Classes include time with Bible stories, various creative projects, music, and games.

Youth (grades 6-12)—upper level classrooms above Fellowship Hall. Classes include Bible study and reflections on Christian living.

Confirmation (for youth in grade 8 or above)—upper level classrooms above Fellowship Hall. Program includes weekly class, mission projects, mentoring, and retreats.

Adults - Faith Matters, Sundays at 9:45am in the Parlor

Come for prayer and discussion about the Scripture passages that will be read in worship on Sunday mornings. All questions will be emailed the Thursday before in the PPC Thursday Spirit.

Adults - Forum Discussions, Sundays at 9:45am in the Library

November 30	No Forum Class
December 7	Williamsburg Breakfast, no Forum Class
December 14	No Forum Class
December 21	Intergenerational Education in Fellowship Hall
December 28	No Forum Class

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study—meets in the Parlor on Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:15am. All are welcome to join us for 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer. Coffee and bagels provided.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study—meets in the Library on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am. All are invited for a time of Bible study and prayer led by Pastor Sean.

Men's Book Club

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the church parlor. PPC members and non-members are welcome! Contact Bob Plumb (potomacplu@gmail.com) or Ed Tennent (tennentmail@yahoo.com) with questions. Books that will be discussed in the coming months are:

Dec 16, 2014—*Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, by Reza Aslan

Jan 20, 2015—*The Boys in the Boat*, by James Daniel Brown

Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith

PASTCF is a national organization for the discussion of the impact of science and technology on religion, especially Christianity. Contact John Norvell with questions norvellj@msn.com. The next meeting at PPC will be held on December 13 at 9:00am.

Toiletry Gift Boxes for Interfaith Works Shelter

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN. ISAIAH 9:6

For the past two Christmases, our congregation has provided more than 100 Christmas boxes for our neighbors at the Community Vision Shelter in Silver Spring. The Shelter, supported by Interfaith Works, is one of Montgomery County's winter weather shelters providing a safe and warm bed to sleep in for 70 people each night from November 1 through April 1. The Shelter also runs a day program providing services critical to the safety and well-being of homeless men and women in the county.

During this wonderful season of hope and peace, when we gather with our families and friends to 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. Interfaith Works hopes to provide each of the Community Vision Shelter's residents with a very simple gift, a shoebox, wrapped in gift paper, and filled with very basic items, but to do so they need our help. This is a holiday project in which the entire family can participate; a personal card or drawing from a child would be a wonderful addition. This year due to some corporate donations, the Shelter's needs have changed. If you would like to support this mission project, please fill a shoe box with the following suggested items:

deodorant (*men's and women's, any size*)

disposable razors

shaving cream (*travel-sized only*)

washcloths

toothpaste (*travel size-no toothbrushes needed*)

warm gloves (*men's and women's, adult sizes*)

lotion (*hotel or travel sized – unopened*)

umbrellas or ponchos

T-shirts (*new or gently used, adult sizes Large to 3XL*)

other small treats (*granola bars, bottled water, water bottles, small flashlights with batteries*)

The shelter is also seeking donations of gift cards – Target, Walmart, Safeway, Giant (please package separately). *The cards will be used to give to clients when something is needed for a particular job, to reward extraordinary work at the shelter, to supplement needed items when donations are exhausted, for prizes at monthly birthday bingo games, and other celebrations.*



The tops and bottoms of the boxes must be wrapped separately, so that the boxes can be opened while wrapped. Please leave the boxes in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 14. If you have any questions about this project or need empty boxes, please contact Janet Dunlop, janetdunlop@comcast.net or (301)838-0583. Your generosity in supporting this mission to some of our most needy neighbors will be most gratefully appreciated.

December 2014

December 2014							January 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 - Dec 6	Nov 30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
		1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library) 6:00pm 7:30pm Mission Partnership Leadership Team (Parlor)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm 10:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:00pm 9:00pm Stephen Ministr 7:00pm 8:00pm PREVIEW CONV	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday M 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 8:00pm 9:30pm Young Adult Vo	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Middle School Classroom) 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Loft)		9:00am 2:30pm Confirmation Retreat to National Cathedral 9:00am 11:00am Williamsburg Breakfast Decorating
Dec 7 - 13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9:30am 10:00am Williamsburg Breakfast 9:45am 10:45am Christian Education for Children Only 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 6:00pm 8:00pm PPC Family Serv	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 2:00pm 5:00pm Community Christmas Dinner Decorating	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday Morning Bible Study 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:30pm 8:00pm Community Chri	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library) 4:00pm 5:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir	6:00pm 8:00pm Middle School Advent Party (Cyrway/Mazza home)	9:00am 10:30am PASTCF 6:00pm 8:00pm Senior High Advent Party (Mason home)
Dec 14 - 20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	9:45am 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:15pm Christmas Pag 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Ref 4:00pm 5:00pm Advent Lessons	10:30am 11:30am Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30pm 4:45pm GS Troop 3788 (Jennifer LaRoche) 7:30pm 9:30pm Session Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am 12:00pm Men's Book Club (Parlor)	6:30am 7:15am Men's Bible Stu 9:30am 11:00am Wednesday M 3:30pm 5:00pm GS Troop 642 4:30pm 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm 10:00pm Montgomery B 7:30pm 8:30pm Longest Night o	12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Li 1:00pm 2:30pm Staff Meeting - 4:00pm 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 4:00pm 5:00pm Christmas Page 6:45pm 7:45pm Bell Choir (Midd 8:00pm 9:00pm Sanctuary Choir		9:00am 10:30am Pageant Dress Rehearsal
Dec 21 - 27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	9:45am 10:45am Intergenerational Christian Ed 11:00am 12:00pm Worship - Pageant 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments	1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)	9:30am 12:00pm Art Class (Fellowship Hall)	5:00pm 6:00pm Family Candlelight Worship 7:00pm 8:00pm Candlelight Worship with Communion 11:00pm 12:00am Candlelight Worship with Communion by	Christmas Day - Office Closed 12:00pm 1:00pm AA Meeting (Library)	Office Closed	
Dec 28 - Jan 3	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 15	2	3
	11:00am 12:00pm Worship 12:00pm 1:00pm Coffee and Refreshments 4:30pm 5:30pm Pastor Sean and Tom at Ingleside		1:00pm 2:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)				