



Pastor

Planting for a Fall Harvest

A wise professor once said to our class, *"We plant the seed, but God gives the increase."* If you are a gardener, as I am, you know the subtle truth of these words. I have researched and read how to create a bountiful harvest of vegetables, and I have planned and dreamed of beautiful flowers filling colorful planters and hanging baskets, but I have seen my plans fail to come to fruition. I have also seen my vegetables produce and flowers spill out of their planters beyond my fondest hopes.

Another wise person, my grandfather, said to me, *"Nothing on two legs can forecast the weather."* How true are those words? We can plant and fertilize and water our seeds, but the sun can be too feeble or too fierce. We can try to make up for lack of rain, but then we can also have too much rain and watch fungus and mold do damage. I have come to believe that farming is the most faith based occupation because no matter what we discover about the science of farming and planting, *"We plant the seed, but God gives the increase."*

It is important to remember that we are working in partnership with God no matter how much we think, *"We did it!"* And, it is why Jesus tells us, *"I am the vine, you are the branches...If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you"* (John 15), and also, *"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."*

(Luke 11) The partnership we have with God is to do God's will and let God bless our efforts, and so we plant, and God blesses us with a harvest. Sometimes we plant a seed or attempt to do God's will and it turns out we are actually asking God to bless our will, thereby, certifying that the increase and harvest will be poor. Sometimes we are following God's will but not God's timing. Planting tomatoes outside in January in a Maryland vegetable garden will not produce any results and neither will planting tomato seeds too soon in the spring while spring bulbs bloom, but the soil is too cold.

God has a plan, and it's a good one, but it is God who is the senior member in our partnership and not us. God leads and we follow. God speaks and we listen and discern. However, we are one of the partners in a covenant with God, and our job is to plant seeds. We can even learn how to nurture seeds and plants, but there is a blessing beyond our capacity to know and give that causes the increase that grows into a harvest.

My questions for CCPC are: What are we planting? When are we planting? Have we reviewed our garden plan lately, and how is our harvest coming? As CCPC continues to explore these questions, it will orient you toward the future into which God is calling you.

I understand very well that the planting season for 2022 gardens is coming to an end, and yet, I have already planted for a fall harvest. Butternut squash, short season potatoes, shelling peas, broccoli and Brussel sprouts are in and growing and lettuces and snow peas will follow. Scott and I will be enjoying the harvest well into mid-December with the help of plastic row covers. So, don't put away your gardening tools for there is still planting to do to receive God's blessing of increase and harvest as we await your next installed pastor.

Peace,

Pastor Caroline

Pastor Nominating Committee

PNC Congregational Report #5

The PNC has been busy! Like all of you, we members of the PNC are excited about the prospect of calling a new pastor and look forward to the Sunday morning when we can make a personal introduction. Until then, we intend to keep you informed of our progress. This is our fifth such report to the congregation.

As you recall, our schedule of activities is broken down into seven distinct phases. We are now near the end of phase five (shown in bold below). The seven phases are:

1. Getting organized (assign roles, becoming a Team)
2. Telling our story (detailing what CCPC and who we are looking for)
3. Fishing for candidate (posting our job announcement and awaiting applications)
4. Interviewing candidates (prioritizing and assessing candidates)
- 5. Selecting candidates of choice (down-selecting, making offer, negotiate terms of call)**
6. Introduction of pastor to church (to Session, to congregation, sign the Call)
7. Helping new pastor get started

In phase five, we have identified a final candidate and hosted a site visit of our campus in late August. At this point, at the end of August, we are working to get a sense of the candidate's interest in us, in order to take the next step of exploring terms of call. We hope to be able to report good news during September.

Serving you, we remain your dedicated search committee: Gladys Tataw-Ayuketah; Brian Cable; Sara Huey; Skip Oates; Kevin Maxwell; Jane Mellow; Mark Pfarrer; Emelie Rubin. Our dedicated Presbytery liaison is Rev. Dr. Jay Losher, of Colesville Presbyterian Church, Silver Spring, MD.

Welcome Home Fundraiser for Afghan Refugee Family in Alpha House

The Interfaith Coalition of Bowie is hosting a fundraiser on **Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022**, from 3-4 p.m. at the Sycamore Club, 12600 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD. They are partnering with the Bowie Supportive Housing Corporation (BSHC) to raise funds to assist the Afghan refugee family living in Alpha House. It is hoped that the family will attend so it may be a chance to meet them in person. To register to attend, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/icbs-welcome-home-fundraiser-tickets-405907800157>. The tickets are free, but donations are highly encouraged. To donate, go to <https://www.icbowie.org/donate>. The ICB's goal is to raise \$2,500 toward the effort of supporting the family's basic needs.

The latest update is that the family's transition continues to go smoothly and they have had a whirlwind month of August! The family includes a father, mother and five children (3 boys and 2 girls), aged 16 months to 10 years. They moved in to Alpha House on July 7. The three oldest children are enrolled in school. The elder two boys are both going into fourth grade while the youngest boy will be attending first grade, beginning on August 29. Julia Leaman and Steve Donoian worked together on behalf of Mission Council to "build a backpack" for one of the 4th grade boys so that he will be all set for his first day! Mary Brock has been meeting with the mother of the family twice a week and has made progress in teaching her English. The father of the family, who is fluent in English, has also been working with the boys, who will receive ESL training in school.

The father of the family successfully obtained his driver's license! The BSHC Support Team was also able to provide a loaner vehicle for one month to enable him more independence in performing errands, taking his family members to various appointments, etc. In addition, because he is a civil engineer whose work would likely require traveling to different job sites, having a driver's license and a vehicle is essential to his employability. Helping him to obtain a vehicle on a more permanent basis (that will seat all seven members of the family) is a very high priority for the Support Team to support the family's daily lives and the father's continuing employment prospects.

Currently, the BSHC's greatest need continues to be financial support to provide for specific needs as they arise. If you would like to help, you can donate online through the CCPC website or by sending a check to CCPC with "Afghan family support" in the memo line. Thanks to all who have already donated!

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Donoian (donoian@verizon.net) or Julia Leaman (JuliaL11@verizon.net).



Our next Concert is coming!!!

****Sunday, October 2nd at 4:00 p.m.****

The fall portion of our concert series will begin next month when flutist Dane Frandsen and pianist Susan Ricci-Rogel will present a program of works by J.S. Bach, Faure, Kazuo Fukusima and Georges Hüe.

A reception will follow the concert.

Mark the date!





Sunday Collection Counters

After what seems like a very long hiatus, CCPC is again in need of Sunday collection counters. The duties of a collection counter have been streamlined due to the lessons learned through the pandemic. Looking forward, counters will be counting the cash and checks from only the Sunday collection. Two persons are needed for each Sunday to verify the contributions. We anticipate a time commitment of about 10 minutes after each Sunday service. We are looking for several volunteers to allow for rotation and vacation coverage. We would like to have new counters in place as soon as possible. If you are interested, please contact Bill or Cyd Radden-Lesage at 301-352-9582 or raddenlesage@verizon.net.

Also, if you have been a counter previously and are no longer interested in these duties, we would be most grateful if you could return your keys to Bill, Cyd, or Robin in the church office.

Liturgist Support!

The Worship Council continues to look for liturgist support for Sunday services. All are welcome to participate. We would love to have new folks serve as liturgical readers. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4DACA928AA8-ccpc1>.

If you have difficulty, please contact Tricia Ashby at tashby@asha.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Contact:

Kimberly Gedrich (children)

Karin Rice (adults)

Children’s Sunday School (K – 5):

Sundays at 11:30am – 12:15 pm

Starting September 4! In person only; Room 6 outside Dodd’s Hall

Sunday Morning Connect for Seniors & Middles

Sundays 11:30 am In person in Senior High Room and On Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82288338146>

Meeting ID: 822 8833 8146

Adult Education

Adult Education classes are back! We will kick off the 2022-2023 season on September 11. We hope you can join us! All classes start at 11:30am in the Children’s Ministry classroom on the Dodd’s Hall side of the building.

September 11

Dealing with Awkward Silence
with guest speaker Shani McIlwain

September 18

Getting to know our new Interim Pastor
with Interim Pastor Caroline Wilson

Would you like to lead an Adult Education class?

“Friends, Romans and Countrymen,

Lend Me Your Voices!”

Our puppet ministry is expanding! Three new friends of Isa and Jerome have arrived and we are looking forward to sharing their adventures in the coming months.

And....you can help us introduce them!

Isa and Jerome’s new friends will require different voices. We need three volunteers to lend their voices to our new puppets. There is no age restriction—children and youth are encouraged to participate!

Our volunteers will not need to learn to use a puppet or attend rehearsals. We will send you a script to practice reading your lines expressively. When you are prepared, we will ask you to come into church for a brief audio recording session to capture your voice and lines. Memorization of lines is NOT required.

Our puppeteers, Rick and Georgie, will do the rest!

If interested, please speak with Rick.





Our Fall Music Ministry is beginning!!!

Our Celebration Choir is returning for the first time in 30 months!
We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.,
beginning September 7th.

Clinquant, our adult handbell choir, is moving rehearsals to
Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., beginning September 8th.

Our Children's Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday,
September 11th immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.
Children five years and older are welcome!

If interested, please contact Rick.



Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net



CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community, and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.

Please remember CCPC in your will.



Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit www.ImagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail info@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church. Call 301-464-5782 or Email info@belaircoop.org

www.belaircoop.org

