

Making Bricks Without Straw

That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people, as well as their supervisors, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as before; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But you shall require of them the same quantity of bricks as they have made previously; do not diminish it, for they are lazy;..." (Exodus 5:6-8)

Have you ever tried to do something without enough resources? I'm sure you have and more than once. Perhaps you have stretched paychecks to meet expenses when there were more days than dollars. Or, maybe, you have stretched your strength to meet the needs of a particular long day or busy period in your life. You know what it is like to metaphorically make bricks without straw. You know what it is like to meet expectations without the resources to do so.

Every church has expectations. We expect a worship service to be available on Sunday. We expect the grass to be cut and the snow to be shoveled. We expect the pastor to visit the sick and dying, preach and teach, baptize and officiate at weddings. The session and deacons have expectations attached to their duties and responsibilities.

However, every expectation needs people power so that it can be realized. Much more may be needed besides people power, but the work of the people is always needed to reach the expectations in the church. Without straw bricks cannot be made. Without commitment and the talents of people the expectations for CCPC cannot be met.

For many years the number of people willing and able to do the work of the church to meet the expectations has always been a percentage of the church. After the strain of COVID, the ratio of workers to expectations is significantly smaller in every church with which I'm familiar. People are tired. Some people are no longer there.

The Hebrew people were not lazy, and neither are you. CCPC is a spirit-filled and hardworking church, and yet, times have changed, and available people, finances and resources have changed as they have for many churches. We are not alone in facing the issue of expectations and resources. Please do not add guilt and shame to an already complicated situation.

The questions we need to answer for the sake of CCPC and our new pastor is have our expectations of what a pastor does, an elder does, a deacon does, a member does changed, or are they the same? Will we ask our new pastor, our staff, our session, deacons and committees to meet the same expectations we had in 2019 or 1999 with less people power, finances and resources? If so, what will happen? If not, how will we work with our new pastor to reset expectations to match the people power, finances and resources that are available? If we want to keep our expectations the same who will step forward to add to the people power, finances, and resources?

Part of the way to support your new pastor, staff, session, board of deacons, and every committee is to work with your new pastor to set the expectations for the near future. It does not mean that CCPC will not go back to doing past things or new things. However, it does mean that you can do much to be a faithful disciple in a faithful church and not wear yourself, your leaders and your new pastor into burn out.

Just some thoughts to ponder...

Pastor Caroline



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A Message From the Reopening Committee

The reopening committee has been tasked with the job of deciding whether it is safe for us to return to doing things we did before the covid 19 pandemic. We have taken each step in this journey prayerfully looking at the data available and listening to the desires of the congregation. It has not always been an easy or popular task.

We have removed most of the restrictions covid has required. The big question remaining is should we continue to require the congregation to wear masks while singing. The science has demonstrated that masks do help prevent the spread of disease. Science has also demonstrated that singing carries the germ carrying micro droplets further and with more force than just talking. Wearing masks while singing reduces the chance of spreading disease. We are just coming into winter, which is the cold, flu, and covid season.

We have been listening to the voices of the congregation. There are those that are tired of wearing a mask and want to drop the mask requirement. There are those who are still afraid of covid and other diseases who want everyone to continue the mask requirement.

We turned to scripture to see if the Bible could help us to make a wise decision. Paul says in Philippians 2: 3, "In humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Then in Romans 12:10 Paul says, "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

We all know the golden rule where Jesus says, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."

Considering these scriptures and considering the science, the reopening committee recommends that we continue wearing our masks while we sing. We will reconsider the question again in the spring.

Counters Needed

We are still looking for two more volunteers to be Sunday counters. This requires 20 to 30 minutes after the Sunday service to count and document the week's collection. You would serve for one Sunday out of four. This could be two individuals or a couple that would like to serve together. Please contact Bill Radden-Lesage (301-996-5871) or Cyd Radden-Lesage (240-469-0688), or leave a note in one of our mail boxes in the CCPC Office, if you are interested.

Offering Envelopes

It is time to think about 2023 Offering Envelopes. We need to start the conversion of older unused offering envelopes soon so they will be ready by January 1, 2023. Leave your name in the mailbox for Bill Radden-Lesage, drop a note in the collection plate, or call/email and let Robin know if you desire to have Offering Envelopes for 2023.

Turn Your Clocks Back!



Friendly reminder that daylight savings time ends on
Sunday, November 6 at 2am;
don't forget to turn your clocks back one-hour.

Adult Education

Adult Education classes are on Sundays after worship.

Join us in person at the church or online via this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83808300041>

Meeting ID: 838 0830 0041 Or dial 1-301-715-8592



NOVEMBER: Three Pillars of PCUSA's Matthew 25

11/6/22: LGBTQIA+ Christians Part 2

11/13/22: Part I: Congregational Vitality

11/20/22: Part II: Deconstructing Structural Racism

11/27/22: No Adult Ed – THANKGIVING

DECEMBER: Pillars Continued

12/4/22: NO ADULT ED - Alternative Christmas Market

12/11/22: Part III: Addressing Systemic Poverty

12/18/22: NO ADULT ED - Children/Youth Pageant & Xmas Party

12/25/22: NO ADULT ED - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JANUARY 2023: TBD

1/1/23: NO ADULT ED - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Do you have questions about our Adult Education classes or would like to lead one? Contact Karin Rice

CCPC Work Day!

Saturday, November 19
8 AM to Noon

Help with odd jobs around the church like raking leaves and trimming shrubs and bushes.

If you are available, we sure could use your help!

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

~ Colossians 3:23 ~

Hanging of the Greens

Come and decorate our church for the Christmas season! Many hands are needed to place all decorations.

November 21 November from 5pm - 8 pm

5 - 5:30pm food and fellowship

5:30 - 8 pm decorating the Sanctuary, the Atrium, Dodd's Hall, and the outside front of the Church!

Decorations will have been sorted and are ready for display! Sign up sheet will be in the Atrium at the Usher's desk.

Alternative Christmas Gift Market 2022



The Christmas Market this year will be on December 4 in Dodds Hall. It will begin after the church service and will go until 1:30, but you can make donations throughout December. There will be Christmas cards and donation slips in the Atrium during December. Checks and order sheets can be left in the office in the Mission mailbox. All donations must be in by Christmas.

We will once again have a soup kitchen. If you would like to make some soup for that Sunday, please let us know: Sharon McNamara (301-262-7060) or Kris Ross (630-391-0060).

It will be very nice to see everyone in person, but if you are concerned about that, you can also shop virtually. We will have the price sheet and videos from past years on the website. Check out the videos and then fill out the price sheet as your heart tells you. You can pay by check or online via the CCPC Donate link. If you don't yet have an online account, you can create one before making your payment.

We hope to see you Dec. 4 and share in the fun of giving and enjoying some homemade soup.

Mission Drives

The details of all Mission Drives and the Warm Nights [Wish List](#) can be found on the [CCPC website](#).

November Mission

In November, you can shop for Christmas Angels to adopt through the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree Program. This year you can shop for just clothes, just toys, or choose to shop for both. If you prefer, you can order gift cards for the Salvation Army to use for Christmas Angels who do not get adopted. **You can choose to do contactless, direct shipping again, or bring your gifts to the church only on November 20th to be delivered to the Salvation Army.**

The Warm Nights gift cards are: Walmart, Target, Amazon, Giant, Safeway and Shoppers.
Cards can be ordered in the atrium.

The Salvation Army Christmas Angels that are not adopted receive gift cards. CCPC has signed up for these in addition to the clothes' and toys' Angels. The Christmas Angels gift cards are: Target, Walmart, and Amazon. You can choose this form of donation by ordering gift cards in the atrium.

December Mission

In December, come shop at the Alternative Christmas Market (see details in above article) and support local and international missions.

Watch for more details about these upcoming Mission Committee opportunities for the fall!



Friendsgiving

We're Thankful for Friends!

Children & Youth come together for a Friendsgiving feast.
Kids only! Bring a dish to share for all to enjoy.

Saturday, November 19, 2022

4pm to 6pm in Dodds Hall

RSVP By November 11, 2022

Afghan Refugee Family **Update**

Together with a consortium of other churches involved in the Bowie Support Housing Corporation (BSHC), CCPC is sponsoring the Moahids, a refugee family from Afghanistan, in Alpha House. The family's transition continues to go smoothly.

Sami Moahid began a new job in his field (civil engineering) in late September. Because his college degree and professional achievements originated in Afghanistan and have not yet been evaluated for U.S. equivalency, the only job for which he could qualify was an entry-level position. His new employer provides health insurance, a 401(k) plan, and a company truck. However, company policy prohibits the use of the vehicle for personal purposes. Fatima Moahid continues to be tutored in English by Mary Brock. Mary reports that Fatima is making great progress. She is now able to have short conversations about her home and family and she is expanding her vocabulary daily. Fatima seems to be acclimating to the American way of life because she told Mary (in English) that she likes to go shopping.

The Support Team has located a van for the family (with seating for all seven of them), but funding for the van is about \$3,000 short. If you would like to help with a financial donation for the van or other general needs, you can donate online through the CCPC website or by sending a check to CCPC with "Afghan family support" in the memo line.

The BSHC also would like to identify a volunteer grant writer, experienced in writing grant proposals for not-for-profit organizations. The individual would also need to research what grants are available for BSHC's mission. For more information or to suggest your availability for this critical function, please contact Gary at (gallenbay@gmail.com)

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

Concert Series



November 6, 2022: Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers

Virtuoso drumming and dancing combine in a thrilling celebration of African American culture and history.

December 4: Bruce Jonas, pianist

Mr. Jonas will present jazz arrangements of works from various musical genres, unique interpretations of seasonal favorites and original compositions.

A free will offering will be received at our live performance.

You also may contribute on line at: ccpcbowie@verizon.net

And, here's a look at our 2023 Concert Series . . .

March 5: March on Washington

Actress Gwendolyn Briley-Strand with historical photographs and song to bring to life this significant period in civil rights history. A question and answer session will follow.

April 2: Diz & Izzy Aster, Vaudeville's Late Bloomers

Clowns Sabrina Mandell and Mark Jaster have a comedic presentation guaranteed to charm and delight audiences of all ages.

October 1: Rick Osborne, organist

Mr. Osborne will present compositions from the Romantic period including works by Brahms, Elgar, Franck, Mahler and Mendelssohn.

November 5: CCPC Handbell Choirs

The adult and children's handbell choirs of CCPC will combine forces to present a large variety of sacred and secular works including pieces for multiple handbell choirs.

December 3: A Celtic Christmas

The members of Celtic Bay and Rick Osborne will present seasonal music from the British Isles on the Great Highland pipes, small Scottish pipes, harp, guitar, harpsichord and Irish whistle.

For more information: 301-262-6008, ccpmusic@verizon.net

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.



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



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.

