

Around CCPC

News From Christian Community Presbyterian Church

This is our second issue of *The Caller* without a calendar, distributed electronically* and in print several times a month. This week the spotlight is on CCPC mission activities. In these trying and troubling times, CCPC continues to be called to minister to those who are poor in spirit, and to those in need of a helping hand or an encouraging word.

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The Caller

In the September 30 issue of *The Caller*, Jo Bolig described what the youth and adults accomplished during their monthly volunteer activity at the Capital Area Food Bank, the largest, public nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Each year they distribute 20 million pounds of food.

This article is an expansion of Jo's excellent description. *Why is it important for CCPC Youth to participate in experiences like volunteering at a food bank?* September volunteers Sophie Evankovich and Ivy Todd share their answers to questions about their experience at the Food Bank.

They really enjoyed the time spent with the people from CCPC who went to the Food Bank. It's an opportunity to work and visit at the same time, and even tiring work is fun when you do it with a friend. It's interesting to bag the food and realize that there is a system behind it. They were surprised by how much work needed to be done--and how much more still needed to be done because there are so many hungry people in the Washington, D.C. area. While the Food Bank gets millions of pounds of food, it's not enough because the need is so great. To convince a friend to join them next month, they would explain that even though there are more fun things to do, volunteering at the Food Bank allows you to spend time with your friends, help people, and earn community service hours. It's an upbeat, fun, moving experience. (Thank you to Lexie and Ivy for sharing your Food Bank experience.)

CCPC has 23 slots at the Capital Area Food Bank—and filled less than a third of them in September. The next trip is October 18, with volunteers meeting at the church at 8:15 a.m. to carpool and returning around 12:30. Let's fill all of our slots!

In His Service Together, **James Brassard**, Pastor

*While the first issue of *The Caller* without a calendar indicated that we planned to mail this version to everyone, we will continue with the electronic and mailed formats.

Worship Notes

Sunday, October 12, 2008 (9:30 & 11 AM)

We welcome the Trombone Choir for both services this Sunday. They will be joined by a combined choir. The Biblical text is the "Parable of the King's Wedding Feast" in Matthew 22:1-14. Communal eating and drinking is an important part of Jesus' concept of the Kingdom of God. The sort of people who sit at the table with Jesus caused all sort of trouble with the religious and political authorities of his day. The sermon will include a film clip.



Invitation to a Baby Shower

Peter Ebot and Bridget Peters are expecting a baby! There will be a shower on Sunday, October 12 in Dodds Hall following the second service. They are registered at Babies are Us.

Highlights: CCPC Local Missions

Christian Community Presbyterian Church is a mission-oriented church. We believe spiritual growth is manifested through the practical application of the teachings of Christ. The Mission Council is the link between the resources of CCPC and the needs of the local, regional, national, and world communities. The focus of this article will be local missions, with our other missions to be described in a subsequent issue of *The Caller*. The Mission Council meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after the 11:00 a.m. service. Contact Tracy Backus for further details.

Warm Nights

As a part of program coordinated by Community Crisis Services, CCPC houses men, women, and children who are seeking food and shelter for a week during winter months. Many volunteers from our congregation serve breakfast and dinner, prepare lunches, do laundry, and stay overnight to assist our guests. CCPC has participated in this program for two decades. Listening to the stories of our guests helps us to be mindful of the richness of our blessings.

Christmas Families

Each year, CCPC shares the abundance that God has provided us with our neighbors during the Christmas season. Families are identified by school by school counselors. They receive a set of clothing, a gift and school supplies for each child, as well as groceries for a Christmas meal and for the week beyond. Each year, there are between thirty and forty families included each year, with at least 130 children.

Many volunteers in the congregation organize the information about each family on individual tags, buy gifts and school supplies for the children, shop for food, wrap presents and clothing, organize food baskets, provide bears and ornaments, and help with distribution and delivery. As Christmas draws near, we are thankful for the support of the congregation and community in providing for these families.

Hudson House

CCPC provides emergency housing in an efficiency apartment that is part of the church building. The frequent use of this apartment is testament to its importance. The length of stay varies depending on the needs of the family or individual using the apartment.

Community Place Café

http://cmpqc.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

CCPC provides a hot pizza lunch, a bag lunch, socks and personal care items for around sixty people six times a year at the Community Place Café, located at the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, serves more than 12,000 hot, nutritious lunches each year at no cost to homeless and low-income individuals.

Bowie Interfaith Community Pantry and Bowie Interfaith Emergency Aid Fund

<http://www.bowiefoodpantry.org/>

CCPC houses and contributes to the Pantry, which distributes food to local needy families. In addition to collecting food donated by the community, the Pantry staff coordinates the collection and distribution of food from local grocery stores and restaurants. We provide office space and financial support to this program, which provides help with housing-related expenses such as rent and utilities.

CROP Hunger Walk

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html>

CCPC walkers identify sponsors whose pledges support their walks for individuals who are hungry and who are homeless. A quarter of the money collected is used for local projects. CROP Walks are ecumenical, interfaith community events done in partnership with Church World Service to eradicate poverty throughout the world. Approximately four million was returned last year to the local food banks, pantries, and community gardens in the more than 2000 communities that had an organized walk.

CCPC also provides donations to organizations such as Community Crisis Services, Inc., the Prince George's Family Crisis Center for the Women's Shelter, the Nursery School at CCPC, and the Bowie Therapeutic Nursery.

Events at CCPC ...

Corn Maze

The Youth will leave for the Corn Maze on Thursday, October 9 at 11:00 a.m. and should be back between 5 and 6 p.m. Costs include \$5 for the Maze and \$5 for food while at the Maze. If you want to shoot apples or pumpkins from cannons, bring an extra \$5 for the apples and \$10 for the pumpkins.

Please note: No Youth Group on Sunday evening.

CROP Walk

Bowie's walk, organized by CCPC, will start at the church at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 19. Please contact Deborah Sell, coordinator, to volunteer to walk or to help with the logistics. St. Mathews has a goal of 50 walkers—can we meet or exceed that goal? There are two courses this year: 1.5 miles and 4 miles.

Christmas Market Card Stamping

Card stampers are invited to stamp cards for the Christmas Gift Market on October 26 after the 11:00 a.m. service in the conference room. No prior experience necessary and a chili lunch is provided. Any questions? Call Sharon McNamara or Peggy Oates.

Trunk-or- Treating

Games, crafts, pumpkin painting are featured at this year's Trunk-or-Treating on Sunday, October 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Dodds Hall. CCPC members and friends are encouraged to decorate their car trunks, pass out "treats" to the kids from their trunks, dress in costume, and enjoy this annual event. Invite friends and neighbors with kids to join in the fun.

Planning for the New CCPC Directory

There's still room on the photography team for the new CCPC directory. Please contact Margaret Hallau (ccpcpa@verizon.net or 301-262-6008) if you can help with this project. Our directory is in dire need of updating!

Pastor: James Brassard
Margaret Hallau, Pastoral Assistant
James A. Rada, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Marilee Neff, Coordinator of Ministry to Children
Susan Ricci Rogel, Music Director
Scott Alexander, Accompanist
Kevin Clemence, Worship Team Leader

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 service of Jesus Christ.

*** Next Caller Distribution: 10/21/08 ***
Articles are due by Thursday, 10/16.