

## Pastor's Corner

Issue 34  
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# The Caller



Your Deacons at CCPC are given a list of members and friends to call on and provide support to. One frequently asked question is: Who serves as the deacon for those serving as deacons?

Answer: the Moderator of the Deacon and the Pastor. A related question is: Who pastors the pastor? The answer to that question is a little more complicated.

Two centuries ago, Methodist founder John Wesley formed weekly prayer and study groups that included a time for each person to answer the question: "How goes it with your soul?" Some pastors choose to go it alone while other form regular clergy support groups. Others find a *spiritual advisor* to help guide the development of practices that keep them spiritually, mentally and physically healthy. One of the ways I recharge my spiritual battery and reclaim my call to ministry is by reading extensively. I wanted to share something in Thomas Curries latest book *The Joy of Ministry*.

Curries writes with great depth. He doesn't offer pastors any cheery *Chicken Soup for the Pastor's Soul*. He directly addresses the maladies that afflict ministry today and addresses those who seek to remember why ministry still matters. Like others, he instructs pastors to read and reflect on serious literature and engage in biblical reading and reflection. Currie challenges the reader to "rediscover the joy of the gospel" that transcends the "mere pursuit of happiness of our amusement addicted culture. "What grabbed me is the way Currie describes joy, not as an emotion of feeling good about life and relationships ..." **joy** possesses a **deep confidence** in the way of the gospel."

Bingo. That's it. So much of what drives religious activity in America is a pursuit for inspiration and feeling that God is alive. The pursuit often leads to a shallow "me first" spirituality and sermons that are little more than psychological mood boosters.

Currie's book reminds me of what is essential to Christian ministry: "To be disturbed and charmed and content in the Presence of Jesus Christ, is to confess that ministry is sustained by his love and is not a religious project we can manage or control. "In other words, the Holy Spirit runs things; we just try to stay out of the way."

Since the Holy Spirit is at work in the world, our task is paying attention. I believe Christians have a duty to discover God's presence in the mundane and to articulate the working of God in the routine. Currie calls preaching "the art of listening out loud to the Word of God."

I invite you to pay attention with me. Together we will try thoughtful and faithful response to Christ in our daily life. Join Sheree Ruhl and me in the first "fast and prayer" gathering on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in Dodds Hall. We will provide a light breakfast. I encourage you to join me in fasting from breakfast on Friday until we meet on Saturday morning.

In His service together,  
*James Brassard*

## Worship Notes

### Sunday, November 9, 2008 (9:30 & 11 AM)

The Stewardship theme this year is from John 10:10 where Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance." This week we will hear Peter Farney speak about God's work in his life and ministry. The homily is from Philipians 4:5-9 and is about Joy: "It's exuding from you." We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Joshua and Jaime Hash, children of Jennifer and Jason Hash, during the first service.

### CCPC YOUTH CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER— SCRIP ADVANTAGE GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Direct link to the Order Form online:

[http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/youth\\_Fundraiser\\_OrderForm\\_2008.pdf](http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/youth_Fundraiser_OrderForm_2008.pdf)

Note: The Scout Food Drive on Saturday, Nov. 9th benefits the Bowie Food Pantry rather than the Capital Area Food Bank, whose name is on the collection bags.

### Adult Education Offering

The season of Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. It is a season of hope, that God, however distant He sometimes seems, brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth, justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation.

This five-week class will look at the historical and Biblical backgrounds of Advent as we make preparations for the season. Please join Gary Cox in the Conference Room during the second service, beginning on November 9 and concluding on December 21. (Classes will not be held on November 23 or 30.)

**\* Next Caller Distribution: 11/18/08 \***  
Articles are due by Thursday, 11/13.

**It's that time of the year...**

## **Christmas Families 2008**

Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the Christmas Families Project for 2008. Last year CCPC provided over 40 families with food. These families included 140+ children whom we provided with clothing, and toys enough to make their holidays joyous. This year we hope once again to share our love in Christ by reaching out to the members of our community who need it most. Here's what you can do to be a part of the fun—



Beginning Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, look for the Christmas tree in the atrium, and:

1. **Sign up** to provide an article of clothing or a toy for the child of your choice,
2. **Volunteer** for one of the many activities identified on the Volunteer Poster including (but not limited to!):
  - **Donating the grocery basket** for a smaller family,
  - **Shopping for selected grocery items** for the larger families,
  - **Sorting/assembling grocery baskets** (Saturday, December 13th a.m.)
  - **Sorting/assembling gifts** (Sunday, December 14th – after 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service)
  - **Wrapping gifts** (Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> — 3:00 p.m.),
  - **Adding fresh foods and giving out food and gifts** (Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> )
  - **Assisting in other ways as needed** (call Sue Cobb or Roxanne Johnson with offers!),
3. **Watch *The Caller*** and your church bulletin for future updates.

Our annual Christmas Families Project offers each member of the congregation an opportunity to participate in CCPC's mission activities in a very personal way. We hope you find that in helping others, your holidays will be as special as those of the Christmas families themselves.

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Take a few minutes to relax, restore and rejuvenate while shopping for the greater good at the Christmas Gift Market on Sunday, November 9th, 2008 with a free, seated Reiki session. Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. Practitioners will be offering complimentary mini-sessions on the stage area in Dodds Hall during the market.

## Events at CCPC ...

**CCPC Christmas Gift Market—Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** in Dodds Hall between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**Munchin' Luncheon—Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** 11:30 AM in Dodds Hall

**Hungry for pizza or other yummy treats?** Go to Uno Chicago Grill on Tuesday, November 4 and Tuesday, November 11 and they will donate up to 20% (excluding tax and tip) of your check to CCPC. You'll need a coupon so look for them on the kiosk and information table in the atrium.

**Community Café—Friday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Cars will leave the church at 11:15 a.m. to serve a hot lunch to the clients of the Café. **Bag Lunches**—The lunch crew will meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>** to make sandwiches and put together snacks for the bag lunches. These will be passed out at the Community Cafe on Friday along with the personal care packets made by Jane Sumner.

**First “Fast and Prayer” Gathering—Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 AM in Dodds Hall. Join Sheree Ruhl and Pastor Brassard. A light breakfast will be provided.

**Fall Clean-Up Day—Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM**

Lots of hands will make the work go quickly. Bring your family, friends, leaf blowers, rakes, weed-eaters and get our campus ready for winter. There are inside as well as outside chores. We'll start at 8:30 and continue until lunch at noon.

**Capital Area Food Bank—Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> (9AM-1PM)** Downtown Washington, DC  
(Meet at CCPC at 8:15AM to carpool)

**CCPC Kids Dad's Day—Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, afternoon**

**Prayer/Study Group—Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM.**

Doris Kobe's home every first and third Sunday of the month.

### 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.*

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