

## Pastor's Corner

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# The Caller

News From Christian Community Presbyterian Church

The story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:38-44) is usually fodder for the annual giving sermons. In this story, and in the book of Acts, which details the activities of the very close knit community of the first century church, everyone was encouraged to share everything. My guess is that in our culture this is unattainable.

So where is the grace-filled message for today that connects our need to respond to God's blessings and the call to serve the needs of the most vulnerable?

I think Mark Powell shares some answers in his book *Giving to God*.

1) **Giving always flows from faith in a gracious God.**

Generous giving is only possible in a community of faith and trust. We give sacrificially because we have faith that a loving God controls our future. In our individualistic culture, people can only give if there is something "in it for them." Giving does not earn God's love; it is only a response to God's love.

2) **Giving requires that we manage our resources wisely and humbly.**

Showing wealth in order to gain respect or notice ought to passé. Yet it isn't. Homes, cars and designer clothing seem to have replaced job titles as the preferred means to express success. Showing compassion to people in need should trump conspicuous consumption every time. I think our Alternative Christmas Market and Christmas Families are great ways to demonstrate to your friends, family and work colleagues your commitment to serving God.

3) **Giving in community does not leave us vulnerable, but allows us to participate in the very heart of God's mission with joy.**

The question often asked by teachers is, what do you think happened to the widow after she gave away her last two coins? How were her needs met? When we understand God's mission, we are delighted to participate in giving generously. We no longer feel anxious or vulnerable. We trust God to provide our needs and are confident in the care and support of the congregation.

Stewardship is really about a way of live that participates in God's mission.

*Faithfully yours, James Brassard*

## Worship Notes

### Worship for November 15<sup>th</sup> —9:30 and 11 AM *33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

In Mark 13:1-8 Jesus is again in the Temple watching people. While noticing the wonder and amazement his disciples have in seeing the splendor and majesty of the Temple, Jesus predicts that the whole edifice will come crashing down. The text prompts us to ponder two questions: How do followers of Jesus pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives after foundations of our security are destroyed? Secondly, where do we place our trust? Joi Kesner will share her faith journey.



**Youth Program Fundraiser!**  
**Scrip Gift Cards are back just in time for Christmas!**  
**Log on to [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) to order through Sunday, November 29th.**

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.*

# Christmas Families 2009



Let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It's not even Thanksgiving yet, you say -- and you'd be correct. It is, however, time to kick off the 2009 Christmas Families Project. CCPC has been providing Christmas Cheer in the form of gifts and groceries to children and families in need since 1981. Each year the arms of generosity of the CCPC family and friends open up to accommodate the need. I have no doubt our arms will open even wider this year. We currently have **82 families with 240 children** to serve through this program. There are numerous ways to participate, including sponsoring children (provide clothing and/or a toy or fun gift), helping out at the sign up table on Sunday mornings, donating turkeys and/or roasting chickens, donating cash, food shopping, food sorting, gift sorting, gift wrapping and helping out on gift pick up/delivery day.

Here's the calendar of events:

- Nov 15 (Sun) Program Kick Off (Sign Up to Sponsor a Child before and after each worship service)
- Dec 18 (Fri) Food Shopping Deadline (Food Due at CCPC by 8 pm)
- Dec 19 (Sat) Food Sorting Day (9 am – 11 am)
- Dec 20 (Sun) Gifts Due at CCPC (by 12:00 Noon)
- Dec 20 (Sun) Gift Sorting (12:00 Noon)
- Dec 20 (Sun) Gift Wrapping (3:00 pm)
- Dec 21 (Mon) Gift & Grocery Pick Up Day (9 am – 1 pm AND 6 pm – 9 pm)

Look for the sign up table in the atrium on Sunday, November 15. If you're interested in helping, but still not sure how you fit in, please see me on Sunday or give me a call or email.

Thanks for your support of the Christmas Families 2009 Project!

**Roxanne Johnson**  
Christmas Families Coordinator 2009

## Events at CCPC ...

**“Take a Veteran to Dinner”** — CCPC's Youth Group is hosting its second annual “Take a Veteran to Dinner” on Tuesday November 10th from 5-9pm at the Texas Roadhouse in Bowie. Simply pick up a flyer in the lobby and present it to your server when you pay your bill. A portion of that evening's proceeds will go to the CCPC Youth Group and its fundraising for their trip to Montreat next summer. For questions or information contact: James Rada at [ccpcyouth@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcyouth@verizon.net)

**Community Café—Friday, November 13th** A regularly scheduled visit to the cafe will be on Friday, November 13th. We'll leave the church at 11:15 am. Should return between 1:30 and 2:00 pm. Lunches will be made on Thursday, November 12th at 3 pm in the church kitchen. Please join us to help make sandwiches and pack up bag lunches for the less fortunate.

- If anyone has leftover candy, etc from Halloween, all donations will be appreciated. We can also use men's socks for the winter months. Thank you, **Jackie Smith**

**Boy Scouts Scouting for Food Drive— Saturday, November 14th**, to benefit the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Fund. Donations will be accepted from 8AM until 3 PM in Dodds Hall.

**CCPC Kids Go Skating!** - Mark your calendars now! The evening of November 20<sup>th</sup> we will be heading to Skate Zone in Crofton to enjoy each other's company and skate! The cost of admission is \$7.50 + tax. (Adults are free if you are not skating.) The church will cover the costs of skate rental. We will meet at 7:00 pm. We hope you can join us!

**Fall Beautification Day—Saturday, November 21st** (8 AM-12 PM) Grounds clean up and prep for the winter. Painting of the hand rails at the entrance of the sanctuary, Clean flower beds and trim overgrown shrubbery. Please come out and help us.

**Capital Area Food Bank—Saturday November 21st** We resume our monthly visits to the Capital Area Food Bank. We meet up at CCPC at 8 am and leave by 8:30 am. We return by 12:30 pm.

## Contact Us

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**\* Next Caller Distribution: 11/17/09 \***  
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