



The Caller

News From Christian Community Presbyterian Church
Issue 73 - February 16, 2010

Pastor's Corner

The Valentine's Day issue of the Sunday *New York Times* featured a column by Daniel Jones on modern love, titled "Explaining the Irrational: Here Goes" As an editor of this column, Jones has received tens of thousands of comments from strangers who have shared their stories in letters, phone calls and dinner conversations about their anxiety concerning love and relationships. He admits that, in general, it's not a pretty picture. Jones says the burning issues for modern Americans boil down to a series of head-scratching questions about love. I will share one question and Jones's answer.

Question: How can monogamy still be considered a viable long term arrangement?

Answer:

Some people think we live too long to commit to one person for life. Monogamy may have made sense a few centuries ago, they argue, when we tended to die in our 40s. But being with the same person well into our 70's and 80's? That simply can't be natural. This is a question by the way, asked almost exclusively by people younger than 40. People in the 60's, 70's and 80's do not ask the question. They are, by and large, very happy to have shared a lifetime with the same person.

As a pastor I spend most of my time encouraging people who know God in Christ to diligently grow in their faith. Reformer John Calvin wrote that there are two sides of God's grace: justification and sanctification. Calvin believed that sanctification is not about reaching perfection. We can never become perfect. Sanctification is the process of coming to live the shape of the Christian life: a life shaped by regular worship, prayer, a deep absorption of the biblical story, and healthy relationships.

Worship Schedule Sunday, February 21st

Worship for Feb 21st, the First Sunday in Lent. An often-cited fact of life is that the choices we make determine who we are and where we go in life. What is less frequently noted is that the choices to say *no* are as important as those we affirm. In the temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13), we see the power of self-imposed limits. Special music at both services will be provided by the Umoja String Quartet.

Join us for Lenten readings today from 7:15-7:30 AM

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?
Join us in the sanctuary each weekday morning during Lent at 7:15
for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer.
We are usually finished by 7:30.

New Adult Education Offerings Begin February 28

All classes are to be held in the Conference Room.

March 14–April 25 (no class on Easter April 4) at 9:30 a.m.

The 9:30 AM class, led by Mary Brock, is entitled *But What About All the Contradictions In the Bible?* Critics complain that since there are so many contradictions in the Bible, it's impossible for a reasonable person to believe in God. Still, many Christians maintain that the Bible is without error. Yet why are there two Creation stories? What about the different genealogies of Jesus? Which conquest account do we believe: Joshua or Judges? Are the various tools of interpretation mere attempts at justification for "their side" or do they offer sound logic? Come prepared to think!

February 28–March 28 at 11 a.m.

The 11:00 AM class will be led by Andrea Brassard and the Tigers Lilies reading group. The class will be a discussion of the book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. Participants are encouraged to get the book ahead of time to be able to participate more actively in the discussion.

Books are available for \$10. Stop by James' office or contact Andrea Brassard.

CCPC WOMEN'S RETREAT 2010

"The Art of Prayer"

Leaders: Tracy Backus & Laurel Cox

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| When? | March 5-7, 2010; Afternoon-Afternoon |
| Where? | Rhodes Grove Conference Center Chambersburg, PA. (same place as last year) |
| Registration? | Closes February 20th. Forms are available on the CCPC lobby kiosk, circle leaders and on-line via email. Please register early if you have roommate preferences; accommodations include two-three- person rooms. We will make every effort to grant roommate requests. |
| How much? | Retreat, double room lodging and 6 meals: \$175. Retreat, triple (some four) lodging and 6 meals: \$150. Financial scholarships are available. |

Contact Carrie Casto or Julia Leaman for questions or concerns.

Health and Healing

An Invitation

(rescheduled)

Winter seems like a good time to plant seeds for renewed faith. That's what Health and Healing is hoping to do on Feb. 23th.

We invite you to join us at 9:45 a.m. on Feb. 23 to watch the movie *Faith into Onions*. It's a true story about a farmer in South Africa who felt called to dedicate his life to Jesus Christ and the remarkable things that happened after that decision.

Following the movie, we plan to have soup together so we will have time to discuss the movie.

Hope you'll join us.

An Evening At CCPC

Judy Genson needs digital pictures of your dog, or preferably you and your dog, to show during her 'Evening at CCPC' performance.

Please email them to Judy.

Thank you.

Events at CCPC ...

AARP Tax Aide in Dodds Hall (Feb 16-April 13)

CCPC is hosting the AARP Tax-Aide program in Dodds Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays during tax time. There is no charge for this service. Age 60 and over with income of \$50,000 or less will receive priority. Others are screened. **For appointments call the Bowie Senior Center at 301-809-2300 between 1-2 p.m., weekdays.** This service is open to our community so please share this information with those who might benefit from it.

LENTEN DINNER—Friday, February 19 at 6:30 PM in Dodds Hall (Cheese Steaks). Hosted by the CCPC Youth

CCPC KIDS MOVIE NIGHT!—Friday, February 19th (7:30 PM)

CCPC Kids are hosting a movie night. We will be watching the Pixar movie **UP**. The movie is rated PG. If you would like more information regarding the content of this movie you can go to <http://www.parentreviews.com/movie-reviews/up/> The 19th is the first of our Lenten Dinner series, so parents you don't even need to cook! Bring the whole family – have dinner, watch a movie and head home with the kids, tuckered out and ready for bed. Dinner will start at 6:30.

Senior Strength and Fitness Class—Saturday, February 20th and 27th from 10 AM-12 noon in Dodds Hall.

Umoja String Quartet—Sunday, February 21st during the 9:30 and 11 AM worship Services. Includes CCPC member Lerna May Frandsen

Knits and Sticks—Monday, February 22nd 1-3 PM, in the parlor.

Carnegie Hall Performance Rehearsal—Sunday, February 28th. CCPC Music Director, Susan Ricci Rogel and Soprano Saran Erdenebat will be performing at Carnegie Hall in March. In preparation for this performance, a “run-through” of the program will take place Sunday evening, at 7 PM in the sanctuary. This is a FREE event. All are welcome to attend.

*** Next Caller Distribution: 3/2/2010 ***

Articles are due by Thursday, 2/25.



Christian Community Presbyterian Church

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.*

3120 Belair Drive • Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: ccpc.bowiemd.org
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net

Dated Material