

Presbyterian Church of Chestertown

905 GATEWAY DRIVE, CHESTERTOWN MD 21620 410-778-6057

Presbyterian Church of Chestertown (PCC)

Sara Holben, PASTOR

Caitlan Quinn Gartland,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

John Ames, PARISH ASSOCIATE

Jules Scheidel, PASTORAL ASST.

Earl Brooks, PASTOR EMERITUS

Kate Bennett, MUSIC MINISTRY

Terri Gloyd, CHRISTIAN EDUC.

Carol Taylor, ADMINISTRATION

Wayne Bedwell, SEXTON

Worship Service and Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

*The Presbyterian Church of
Chestertown is a connectional
church, part of the New Castle
Presbytery, the Synod of
the Mid-Atlantic and the
General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

November 2017: Volume 283



Note from Caitlan

When the time changes, I usually prefer “falling back” to “springing forward.” What’s not to love and appreciate about getting an extra hour of sleep, especially on a Sunday morning? (By the way, it’s November 5th this year.)

Back in March, we “sprang forward,” and it always feels that way to me. We begin looking forward to vacations, camps, visiting with family and friends, and a generally relaxed schedule.

And then we fall back. We fall back into familiar routines filled with school, sports calendars, regular meetings, busy work schedules, and volunteer commitments. We have fallen back into a rhythm we know and follow each year when summer ends and autumn begins.

This year, on the day that we “fall back,” I’ll be running in a 6-mile race over the Bay Bridge. I ran it for the first time last year, which also happened to be Daylight Savings Time. On that morning, I found myself awake earlier than I needed to be – apparently I couldn’t appreciate that extra hour of sleep as much as others!

But what a gift that “extra” hour was. I arrived at the starting line early and enjoyed the opportunity to watch the sun come up over the Chesapeake Bay. I was able to take the time to appreciate God’s creation. I spent time in prayer, preparing mentally and physically for the challenge ahead. And I found myself giving thanks to God for the incredible masterpiece that is the human body.

What can you do with your “extra hour” this year when we fall back? Perhaps you might wake up early and enjoy the sunrise. Maybe you will join us for worship and communion.

Continued on page 2

WWW.PRESBYTERIANCHESTERTOWN.ORG

SESSION

Clerk of Session

Ruth Vietri-Green

Class of 2017

Stacie Glover -

Congregational Life

Carolyn Grotzky -

Christian Education

John Sjostrom - *Missions*

Class of 2018

Ralph Surette - *Human Relations*

Betsy Taylor - *Communications*

Doug West - *Property,*

Administration & Finance

Class of 2019

Sue Caswell - *Discipleship*

Dave Menzie - *Worship,*

Music & the Arts

Tom Pierson - *Youth Ministry*

DEACONS

Class of 2017

Brooke Cunane

Charlie Gloyd

Luke Jackson

Class of 2018

Dallas Higginbotham

Jackie Urlock

James Wood

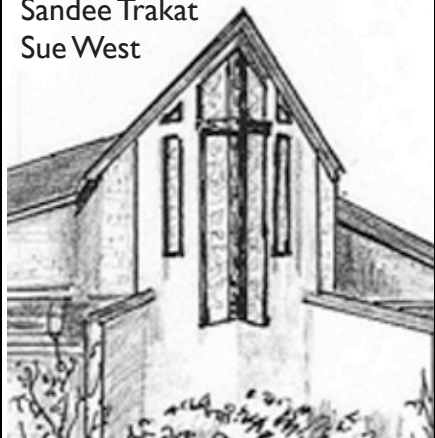
Class of 2019

Peter Arnold - Youth Deacon

Wendy Barnette

Sandee Trakat

Sue West



Caitlan's note cont.

You might take time in the afternoon to call or visit someone you haven't been in touch with lately. We could enjoy a family dinner, something that doesn't happen often enough for many of us. Or perhaps you'll just sleep a little longer – Lord knows some of us could use it!

As we fall back into familiar rhythms of life, let us not forget to capture those opportunities to appreciate and give thanks for God's steady presence through all the seasons of our lives. No matter how calm or chaotic it may be, our faithful and loving God is with us. Let's share our extra hour with God. I promise it's worth much more than another hour of sleep!

In Christ,

Caitlan

All Saints Day

On **Sunday, November 5** at our 9:30 a.m. worship service we will be celebrating "All Saints Day," remembering those members of our church family who have died this past year as well as remembering all of our loved ones who have gone on before us.

Then at 11:00 a.m. the Deacons will be holding a brief service in the Church Garden to remember the "saints" whose ashes are buried in the Garden. Everyone is welcome to join the Deacons, and the family and friends of those buried in the Garden, for this brief celebration. If you would like more information about our Garden and the burial of ashes, please contact the church office or pick up one of the brochures in the narthex.

Women's Retreat

The PCC Women's Retreat is scheduled for February 16-17, 2018 at the Retreat Center at Camp Pecometh. The Retreat theme is "Finding God in the Everyday" and Pastor Sara is the retreat leader. Registration begins November 5. Costs per person are: Single, \$230; double, \$150. Scholarships are available – please speak to Pastor Sara.

A "new member" supplement to the Church Directory is available in the narthex.

Christian Education

In Sunday School this month, we continue to read through 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel and follow the reign of David. We learn about how God helps us to build friendships and peace and His kingdom.

Family Prayers for November

Give thanks! A whole body of research confirms that adults, children and adolescents who report feeling gratitude are happier, healthier, more content, more optimistic, and more likely to be helpful to other people in every way. They're also less materialistic, less envious and less likely to be depressed.

What better time to begin than Thanksgiving? Here are some ways (adapted from <http://www.ahaparenting.com>) to practice gratitude as a family:

1. Have your family count blessings by listing things everyone is grateful for every night at dinner or bedtime. (In one study by Jeffrey Froh, middle-school students were asked to count their blessings for two weeks by listing five things every day that they felt grateful for. The control group listed complaints about hassles in their lives. The kids who focused on blessings for just two weeks felt more gratitude, more life satisfaction, more optimism and were more positive in general – even several months later.

2. Make it a practice to comment, with appreciation, on all the blessings you encounter

as you go through life. Your children will follow suit. "What a beautiful day! I love it when the sun is shining." "I love the rain! Look how happy the plants are for the water."

3. Express your thanks through service. Volunteer together at a shelter that feeds hungry people, make cards for our troops, bake pies with your kids and take some to your local homeless shelter or fire station. Explain to your children that we are all interconnected and we benefit so much from the actions of others that we want to help whenever we can.

4. Help your kids write thank-you letters to mail or deliver in person "to someone who has done something really kind for you, but you never gave them the thanks they deserve." (Gratitude researcher Jeffrey Froh found that kids who did this report more happiness than kids who didn't write the letters -- not just immediately, but three and five months later.)

5. Blessing tablecloth – Ask everyone to write three things they're grateful for (using permanent markers), and their name & the date on a plain white tablecloth. Repeat annually, and your children will look forward to the tablecloth every year, even as teens.

6. Shared gratitude during a meal – clink your glass, make a toast of gratitude that you all get to be together, and then go around the table, each person saying at least three things for which they feel gratitude. Even during the hard years, there is much to be grateful for.

- Terri Gloyd, Director of Religious Education

Nominating Committee Update

PCC invites your recommendations for deacon or elder. If you have someone to nominate (or would like to suggest yourself), the nomination forms are available in the narthex.

Or tell Sue Caswell or Stacie Glover the names of those who might be of service.

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him. Alleluia.

November 2017
PCC News Vol. 283

The PCC newsletter is published monthly (except in January and July) and distributed to member families and friends as a means of communication and outreach. Comments may be directed to the editor through the church office. Articles for publication should be submitted in writing, including the author's name, address and telephone number. All such articles are subject to editing before inclusion and become church property.

EDITOR / DESIGN
& PRODUCTION
JoAnn Fairchild Wood

**December deadline:
November 21, 2017**

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E-mail: pcofc@verizon.net
www.presbyterianchestertown.org



*She reaches out her
hands to the poor,
and extends her
arms to the needy.*

PROVERBS 31:20

Note from Sara

With great joy the Session voted on October 10 to recommend to the congregation that our part-time Associate Pastor become full-time, beginning January 1, 2018. With even greater joy, the Session celebrates that our own Rev. Caitlan Gartland is ready and willing to embrace the additional responsibilities to become full-time! Caitlan's major priorities will continue to be with youth, young adults, and their families, but she will also take on additional duties with worship, pastoral care, and Christian education.

Over the past year, with the help of a Strategic planning sub-committee and with many discussions and much prayer, the Session has been exploring what the next steps in our ministry should be over the next 3-5 years. What is it that God is calling us to be and do as a congregation?

Continuing our strong mission outreach and worship and music ministries was of course a priority. The Session also acknowledged that we want to strengthen ways for members to connect with each other, the ministry of PCC, and with their faith. But a very high priority is to continue to grow our outreach to families with children and youth. Building on the tremendous work that Caitlan has been doing in developing youth ministry, the Session feels that this major step forward in staffing youth and family ministry with a full-time Associate Pastor is the right next step for us.

This decision was not made because I announced my retirement. But because of these conversations we had been having over many months, I felt it was important for the Session to know of my own personal plans before making any decisions on a full-time Associate Pastor.

This recommendation to change the "Terms of Call" (compensation package) for the Associate Pastor will come to the congregational meeting in December when our members will also be electing a new class of elders and deacons. Everyone will be notified of the date for the meeting as soon as it has been set.

In the meantime, I hope you will join me and the Session in rejoicing over this opportunity to reach out and grow in faith. Your support is an important part of helping us to continue to grow strong and reach wide in Christ's name.

In Christ,



Happy Anniversary

Tom & Kelly Speakman	November 6
Ralph & Lainie Surette	November 21
Charlie & Terri Gloyd	November 22
Richard & Cindy Thorp	November 23
Brian & Stacie Glover	November 25

Mission Update

At our October meeting we hosted Cathy Higgins and Carrie Saathoff, members of Westminster Presbyterian in Wilmington. They presented their churches' partnership with the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development in Guatemala. This partnership between their church (and four others in the New Castle Presbytery) is about eight years old and includes trips twice a year to Guatemala. The women highlighted their churches' support of water filters, micro loans, educational scholarships and prayer partnerships with the people of Guatemala. Their presentation was enthusiastic and challenging! - *Linda Culp*

Calling All Men!

Your chance to bake, serve and clean up on Sunday mornings is just around the corner. Continuing a happy and meaningful church tradition, the men of our congregation will be hosting **Fellowship Hour during December**. A sign-up sheet just for men will be in the Narthex so you can pick your week. Gather with friends or meet new ones. With four men each week, the job runs smoothly. And there are plenty of women around to turn to for entertaining advice if you need it. Thanks for creating a happy Fellowship Hour!

Clerk's Corner

Ruth Vietri-Green, Clerk of Session, reports: "On behalf of the Session of PCC, it gives me great pleasure to announce that on October 10, 2017, Session voted unanimously to present Terms of Call for a full-time Associate Pastor. Additionally, the Session voted to ask Pastor Caitlan Gartland if she would accept a call to fill the position and she agreed. You, the congregation, will be asked to approve her compensation package at a Congregational Meeting in December. The Session feels blessed to be entering a time of pastoral transition with the guidance and wisdom from Pastor John and Pastor Caitlan."

Mid-week Prayer

Come and find a quiet center to your week.... Join Pastor Sara for Morning Prayer in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, and for Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. All are welcome in this place.

Holiday Events

- **Community Thanksgiving** with CVMA at PCC Wed., Nov. 16, at 6:00 p.m. (Tea & cookies at 5:30 p.m.)
- **Community Sing-Along** with CVMA on Sun., Dec. 17, at 3:00 p.m. in Fountain Park
- **Live Nativity** (with shepherds, a donkey and other animals) at PCC on Christmas Eve

A View From The Pew

Work: Occupation Or Vocation?

I recently overheard the following complaints: “I just don’t feel fulfilled at work.” “At the end of the work day I’m too tired to do anything except eat and watch TV.” “I’m just putting in my time until retirement.” “This is what I’m trained to do, why do I hate it?” “TGIF!” Yes, it seems that too many of us have a notable discrepancy between our occupation, what we do, and our vocation, what we would really like to do.

This disparity too often becomes a major contributor to complacency, substance abuse and depression. After all, we spend the majority of our waking hours at work and if those hours are devoid of meaning one’s pursuit of happiness is in jeopardy. As philosopher Jacob Needleman reminds us: “How do I engage in making a living and still keep my soul? The world of money, the world we are forced to live in is sucking our souls dry and we cannot keep our self-respect, or our sense of inner worth. We want meaning.”

At the opposite end of the work continuum are those who are not averse to going to work but addicted to their work. For many their lives are held hostage to the demands of pursuing the “American Dream” of getting a good job, buying a nice house and raising a family. But for some this dream becomes getting the most prestigious and highest paying job and purchasing the biggest house in the most desirable zip code. With regards to family? Working hard and providing materially to family is equated with an expression of love and concern. But wait! By measuring our adequacy as a parent by how much we achieve and accomplish we avoid or minimize what really determines parental effectiveness namely, being emotionally available to loved ones. Of course, this is no mean task if one is driven to work primarily for a profit motive. Alas, a bumper sticker for sale in Silicon Valley reads: “Working 9 to 5 is for losers.”

May I suggest that there is much to be gained by exploring our work values. Where are we going with occupation, retirement plans, etc. and does that plan maximize the likelihood of acquiring a sense of purpose and peace of mind while allowing sufficient investment in family and friends? I conclude with these bits of wisdom:

From Studs Turkel: “Work is about daily meaning as well as daily bread. For recognition as well as for cash; for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a M-F sort of dying.” And from Sam Keen: “In the secular theology of economic man Work has replaced God as the source from whom all blessings flow.” - *Ralph Surette*

Comments welcomed at ralphsur@gmail.com.

Church Directory on the Website: Did You Know?

You can access our Church Directory through <http://www.presbyterianchestertown.org/> Click “Login” at the top of the page. If you’ve already registered for an account with our website, then simply log in with your information. If you haven’t registered for an account, click “Register” and follow the steps. Once your account is activated, you’ll be notified.

Once you’re logged-in to the church website, hover your mouse over “Resources” (at the top of the page) and click on “Church Directory.” Click the link that says “Directory” and a file will download and open. “It’s easy,” assures Pastor Caitlan, “but if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.”

From Joe Baker, Church Treasurer

Prior year plate count: \$237,740

This year's count: \$223,006

Please call Carol Taylor if you'd like
an update on your pledge status.

410-778-6057

Update on Backpacks

Many of you who are loyal volunteers in the **Backpack Program** are wondering when we will begin to pack the food bags for area school children.

Usually by the end of October we will have been packing about 6 weeks. However, due to the consolidation of the schools and the heavy workload for all the counselors who help identify the backpack students, it has been delayed. We expect to begin packing by the last week of October.

The plans are for PCC to pack for the Middle School as we always have, but also to assist Rock Hall Elementary with 50 food bags. (The number of students in Rock Hall needing the food has increased greatly with the consolidation.)

The PCC Youth group packed 100 bags on October 20th, enabling us to be ready as soon as we get the green light from the schools. This was a good opportunity for our youth to discuss the issues of hunger in the schools and also to offer their own suggestions on how we can be of service.

Thanks everyone for your continued support of this ministry. And if any new volunteers would like to help with packing and/or serve on the Backpack Committee, please let us know.

- *Lainie Surette, Denise Flynn, Amy
Ferguson and Sue Basener*

Food...Toiletries & Cold- weather Items Needed

Would you please help the Confirmation Class prepare "Blessing Bags" to be hand-delivered to people experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C.? We will be offering two types of bags – one with food, and the other including toiletries & cold-weather items.

Below you will find the items needed for each type of bag. You may donate individual items or prepare a complete bag. Sample bags are in the Narthex. Please bring your donations to PCC by Nov. 14. Thank you. - *Pastor Caitlan*

Blessing Bag of Food (*one of each item*)

- Bottled Water
- Granola Bar
- Ready to Eat Tuna Salad
- Chewing Gum
- Fruit Cup
- Individual Package of Crackers
- Individual Package of Nuts
- Applesauce
- Trail Mix
- Beef Jerkey

Blessing Bag of Toiletries (travel-size) & Cold Weather Items (*one of each item*)

- Crew Socks
- Gloves
- Hat
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Small package of Band-Aids
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Chapstick
- Wipes
- Deodorant
- Hand Lotion

Thanksgiving Food Drive

*Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
and not turning your back on your own. ISAIAH 58:7*

On **November 19**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, PCC will host its annual holiday food collection to benefit the Community Food Pantry. Below is a list of the most-needed items. Please avoid glass containers and check expiration dates:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned chicken or ham | <input type="checkbox"/> bread mixes (pumpkin, banana, or cranberry) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned peas or green beans | <input type="checkbox"/> apples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned yams or sweet potatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> oranges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stuffing mix | <input type="checkbox"/> tangerines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned olives, green or black | <input type="checkbox"/> raisins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> instant mashed potatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> canned mixed fruit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned gravy | <input type="checkbox"/> Jell-O |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cranberry jelly | <input type="checkbox"/> pudding mixes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned mushroom soup | <input type="checkbox"/> boxed piecrust mixes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> evaporated milk | <input type="checkbox"/> boxed cake mixes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned pumpkin | <input type="checkbox"/> frosting mixes |

Please take this opportunity to begin your Thanksgiving week and give to others so that all families in our community may enjoy a holiday meal.

The Food Pantry is celebrating its 26th year of service. Since 1991, the Pantry has provided supplemental food to area residents who cannot afford adequate nutrition on a daily basis: low income households, the elderly, people with disabilities, and unemployed and under-employed individuals.

Each month, an average of 140 families receive about 60 pounds of nonperishable food items, enough to last about a week. The Pantry also supplies the majority of the food for the Backpack Program in our local schools. To carry out its mission that "no one in Kent County goes to bed hungry," the organization relies on community support. As of September 30, 10,000 pounds of food have been donated this year. During this time, the Pantry has purchased an additional 72,000 pounds of food.

Last year, PCC donated almost 500 pounds of food items (the equivalent of about 400 meals) during our holiday food collection. Thank you for supporting this annual appeal. Special thanks to PCC members and friends who volunteer at the Pantry and the Backpack Program. - Sue Basener

From John's Study

I have a Facebook friend – who lives far from here, so I don't think he's your friend – who very frequently posts trivia quizzes on Facebook. Sometimes, I take them – especially when they're concerned with history and geography. When they're concerned with sports, rock music, or popular culture I don't take them, so my overall average is pretty good.

A few days ago there was a quiz about American political trivia. I did pretty well. But the last question was: "Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?" I think the options were "optimistic," "pessimistic," and "I don't know." I didn't know what to click, so I deleted the whole quiz and did not submit it. I wasn't willing to answer that question without the opportunity to write a brief comment. So I'm doing that now, only nobody on Facebook will see it.

My comment would have been: "I'm optimistic, because I'm a Christian." But that needs explanation as well, and Facebook isn't the place to have that conversation. Our church newsletter is.

I don't believe that every cloud has a silver lining, or that God always sees to it that only good things happen to his people, or that our nation – or any nation – will always prosper. I know enough about history to know that fools and scoundrels have often enough occupied high places in governments. Some seized power, some inherited it, some were elected.

God does not promise wise rulers. Israel had enough wicked and stupid kings to disprove that. God does not promise that any nation or empire will endure. Plenty have fallen, sometimes as the result of their wicked and stupid rulers. We are responsible for the choices we make – both as individuals and as a society – and we must endure the consequences of our actions.

What God promises is that in the end, everything will be good. The Bible opens with a magic garden filled with beautiful flowers that require no weeding, plenty of food readily at-hand, friendly animals that never bite. It closes

with the vision of a holy city: gates made of pearl, streets paved with gold, a crystal fountain in the town park – paradise restored. In between is life as we know it, filled with joy and sorrow, wisdom and stupidity, sickness and health, birth and death. God gives us brains and muscles and responsibility – and the command to care for the world entrusted to us, the freedom to govern ourselves, and the joy of love. And he promises his eternal love. So I am optimistic. - *John Ames*



Happy Birthday

Kristin Baker	November 1
Jim O'Harrah	November 1
Ed Fry	November 1
Jim Urda	November 1
Sabina Baker	November 6
Susan Debnam	November 8
Sara Holben	November 10
Joan Andersen	November 16
Marvel Evans	November 16
T.J. Myers	November 16
Bob Campbell	November 17
Casey Roberts	November 19
Dianne Cantor	November 19
Marylyn Ross	November 20
Don Cantor	November 21
Bobby Arnold	November 22
Jake, Lexi, Hannah & Rachel Jones	November 22
Lucy Taylor	November 23
Susan DeSimone	November 23
Marian Wyble	November 24
Ted Chase	November 24
Lee Faucett	November 24
Lloyd Taylor	November 24
Danny Gartland	November 25
Gary Hannigan	November 26
Carolyn Menzie	November 26

Decorating for Advent and Christmas

We need time, talent and treasure — lots of natural materials — to prepare our church home for Advent and Christmas. Are you interested in floral design? Do you have a flair for creating small table arrangements or making bows? Or perhaps you have an evening or afternoon free for a special project?

The holidays are a wonderful time to become involved with **Flower Ministry**. If any of the above rings true for you, please join us in decorating the church this year. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. We can pair you with an experienced designer or assign you a project of your own to organize and complete.

And as you are cleaning your garden beds or hiking through the woods on these beautiful autumn days, please consider what natural gifts you could share. Interesting pine cones and seed pods are welcome anytime. Donations of greens and winterberry are welcome after Thanksgiving.

We will begin decorating on Sunday, November 26 and gradually add to the displays culminating on Christmas Eve. To share your time, talent or materials please sign up in the narthex or contact any Flower Committee team leader: Susan Debnam, Charlie Gloyd, Courtney Sjostrom or Marian Wyble. *Thank you!*

Advent & Christmas Decorating Sponsorship

Is there is someone you would like PCC to memorialize or honor this holiday season? We invite you to make a special gift in the amount of your choosing. Complete the form below and return it with your check to the church office by Fri., December 8 for inclusion in the Christmas bulletins. Please make checks payable to the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown and note "Flower Committee" on the memo line. Thank you.

Information as it should appear in the 2017 Christmas bulletin:

Name(s) _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

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Chestertown, MD 21620

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E-mail: pcofc@verizon.net

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*If I take the wings of the dawn,
if I settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Even there your hand shall guide me,
and your right hand hold me fast.*

Psalm 139:9-10