

# 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.)*

**October 2017:  
Volume 282**



## *Notes from Sara*

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your expressions of love and support since I sent my letter to the congregation on September 12 announcing that I will retire from pastoral ministry in 2018. My last Sunday with PCC will be July 15, 2018 – the 30th anniversary to the day of when I began pastoral ministry in Tallahassee, Florida. Eighteen of my 30 years of ministry will have been right here at PCC. I can't think of a better place to have spent more than half of my ministry. I truly feel that God has brought us together for this time we have shared. And I know that God will continue to be with us all in our next steps.

Bob and I are still planning what is next for us personally. In the meantime, the Session of PCC, over the coming months, will be considering what is next for PCC.

As Presbyterians, the transition from one pastor to the next takes place “decently and in order” – with a lot of meetings, committees, and conversations along the way with the opportunity for input from all of you. In the Presbyterian system of church government, the congregation calls its own pastor, with the concurrence of the Presbytery. The Presbytery of New Castle will be a valuable partner in your search process to help PCC discern who God is calling to be your next pastor.

Let me be clear: none of this will happen right away! Over the coming months, the Session will be prayerfully considering what the congregation's needs are for the interim time. The search committee itself (called the “Pastor Nominating Committee”) will NOT be elected until after I leave. I can assure you that all along the way from now until July 15, the Session will keep you informed as to what is happening. There is plenty

*Continued on page 2*

WWW.PRESBYTERIANCHESTERTOWN.ORG

## SESSION

### **Clerk of Session**

Ruth Vietri-Green

### **Class of 2017**

Stacie Glover -

*Congregational Life*

Carolyne 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

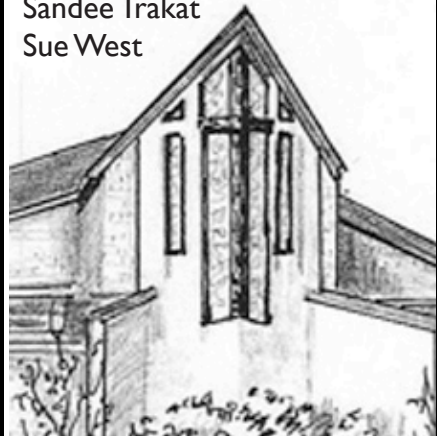
### **Class of 2019**

Peter Arnold - *Youth Deacon*

Wendy Barnette

Sandee Trakat

Sue West



## *Notes from Sara cont.*

of time for us all to pray, discern, and look forward to the next steps in our ministries.

In the meantime, there is much to look forward to as we continue to worship, serve and delight in our fellowship, our mission, and all that God has called us to be and do right here at home and around the world.

With many prayers of thanksgiving for all of you,

In Christ,

*Sara*

## World Communion Sunday

On **October 1** at 9:30 a.m.— **World Communion Sunday** — we will be joined in worship leadership by the clergy colleagues who are part of our extended church family: Rev. Earl Brooks (PCC Pastor Emeritus), Rev. Jules Scheidel (retired PCUSA pastor), Rev. Warren Beaven (retired United Methodist pastor), Carol Beaven (United Methodist Diaconal minister and member of PCC), Rev. Anne Ledbetter (Chaplain at Heron Point), Rev. Laurie Loveless (retired PCUSA pastor), Rev. Susan DeSimone (retired United Church of Christ minister) – and of course Rev. Sara Holben, Rev. Caitlan Gartland, and Rev. John Ames.

## Blessing of the Animals

Our pets are an important part of our lives and part of God's good creation. On Sunday, **October 8**, we'll gather for a "**Blessing of the Animals**" at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Join us outside on the church grounds with your pets (or a photo of your pet) for a special prayer service acknowledging God's love, care, and concern for all of creation. You don't have to have a furry / fuzzy / scaly / feathered friend to enjoy this celebration of all God's critters. But we do suggest that you bring a donation for the Kent Co. Humane Society. Their "wish list" includes: canned dog and cat food; pill pockets; pet treats; paper towels; cat litter; sanitizing wipes; bath towels. Come one, come all!

*The second PCC **Women's Retreat** is scheduled for February 16-17, 2018. Once again we'll retreat to Camp Pecometh along the Chester River. Details to come!*

# Christian Education

**O**ur children will worship with us on October 1st, **World Communion Sunday**. And then in **Sunday School** (throughout October) we will be reading through 1 Samuel. We will learn how much God knows and loves us inside and out! We will learn of His calling to us in the still and quiet. We will learn that God helps us when we face bullies and that God teaches us to be loyal friends to others.

You are always welcome to connect with Christian Education. We value **volunteers** who help with Sunday classes, in our nursery (when Holly isn't here), and in many other ways. See Terri if God is calling you into this ministry.

Bountiful blessings to our families! We hope your family enjoys these fall prayer practices adapted from vibrantfaithathome.org:

## Leaf Prayers

Materials needed: Fall leaves from your yard or local park (or colored construction paper to make leaves), paper towels, scissors, pencils.

Activity Plan:

1. Gather the family and go outdoors to find colorful fall leaves. Each person needs one leaf. If you do not have leaves available, cut out paper leaves.

2. Join together in prayer. Invite each family member to offer one prayer petition for each point or lobe on his or her leaf. For example, if the leaf has three prominent points, he or she might say a sentence prayer for your family, a prayer for a sick friend, and a prayer for good weather for harvest.

3. After your time of prayer, have each family member fold a paper towel in half and place the leaf inside. Put these packets inside your family Bible or other large book. If you made paper leaves, simply place them inside the Bible.

4. Later, when you find the pressed leaves in the Bible, use them again to offer prayers.

## Fall Harvest Activity

Materials needed: Bible, apples, 12 ounces of unwrapped caramels, saucepan, spoon, craft sticks, waxed paper, cookie sheet, and colored sprinkles (optional) or chopped nuts (optional). Activity Plan:

1. Choose a time to pick apples — from an orchard, farmer's market, backyard tree, or display at the grocery store. Pray before your excursion: *Thank you, God, for Fall, a time when crops are ready for harvest. Help us enjoy the fruits of the harvest. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

2. Make caramel apples with some of the apples. Use the following directions:

a. Line a cookie sheet with waxed paper (and, if using, place a small pile of sprinkles or nuts on the waxed paper)

b. Wash and dry the apples. Twist off the stems and push craft sticks halfway into the apples where the stems were.

c. Place 12 unwrapped caramels and 2 Tablespoons of water in a saucepan. Melt over low heat, stirring often to prevent scorching.

d. Dip apples in the melted caramel, using a spoon to help coat the fruit. If desired, roll gently in sprinkles or nuts.

e. Place apples, stick side up, on waxed paper. Refrigerate until the caramel is firm, at least ½ hour.

3. When gathering to eat the apples, read aloud Galatians 5:22-23 from your Bible: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Explain that Paul wrote this letter to encourage the Galatians to care for one another. The Spirit helps us to treat each other well. Discuss: What are some ways we show the Spirit's fruit in what we say and do?

4. Closing prayer: *Gracious God, thank you for giving us fruit to eat and the fruit of the Spirit to help us live well. Help us to share your fruit with others. Amen.*

- Terri Gloyd, Dir. of Rel. Ed.

## October 2017 PCC News Vol. 282

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

### **November deadline: October 21, 2017**

The Presbyterian Church  
of Chestertown (PCC)  
905 Gateway Drive  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
Phone: 410-778-6057  
E-mail: [pcofc@verizon.net](mailto:pcofc@verizon.net)  
[www.presbyterianchestertown.org](http://www.presbyterianchestertown.org)



*By the word of the  
Lord the heavens  
were made, and all  
their host by the  
breath of his mouth.*

PSALM 33:6

## From the Nominating Committee

In this newsletter you will find a suggestion form to nominate someone or yourself for either Deacon or Elder for 2018. Please prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity to serve PCC and the congregation! You may drop off the form to Carol Taylor in the Church office, or put the form in the offering plate on Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Glover or Sue Caswell. Thank you! - *Stacie Glover*

## Tables for Eight - It's A Date!

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 2:46b). Like the Apostles, PCC savors hospitality and fellowship in people's private homes. This autumn we will celebrate the season's bounty with "Fabulous Fall Dinners" on **Friday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.** Hosts provide the main course and beverages while guests bring other parts of the meal (appetizers through dessert). You may sign up as a host or as a guest. Come solo, with a friend, or as a couple. All are welcome. Your contact information is requested on the sign-up sheets in the church narthex or when you call the office at 410-758-6057. Sign up now through Sunday, October 15, at noon. All guests and hosts will be contacted with dinner details by Tuesday, October 17. Look for the next Tables for Eight in March 2018, continuing this fellowship outreach into its 20th set of dinners since 2011! - *Sabina Baker*

## Dear Friends in Christ ...

Greetings from Rwanda. I want to take this opportunity to thank you from depths of my heart for your generous support of the ministry here in Rwanda and of me. Your support enables me to be in partnership with you and the church here in Rwanda. Thank you! As I write, I can see some of your faces and remember the wonderful, warm time I had with you at Chestertown last year when you welcomed me. You are a part of all that God is doing in Rwanda as we work in reconciliation. Thank you. Yours in Christ, *Kay Day*

*Note: Rev. M. Catherine Day is a PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker with Protestant University of Rwanda (PUR), in Butare, Rwanda.*

---

*Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us  
and on the whole world. Amen.*



## Happy Anniversary

Bill & Sandee Trakat	October 3
Troy & Sue Mishaw	October 4
Hugh & Marian Wyble	October 6
Bill & Elly Bayne	October 13
Grady & Melissa McIntire	October 15
Bob Schminkey & Sara Holben	October 29

## The Quiet Garden

As summer draws to a close, I realize how much I enjoyed the opportunity to “oversee” the grounds and the Garden at PCC during July and August. One might say I was forced to spend some quiet time not only to observe the condition of our grounds and outdoor sanctuary but also to spend time in meditation, song and prayer.

There were times when a grandchild was with me. Many times my “Sadie” and I enjoyed a walk around the property. And, sometimes it was just me on my way to or home from being with Mom. Often I would find myself enjoying one of the benches in the Garden in the early morning or at dusk singing a favorite hymn my mother enjoyed singing with her church choir so so many years ago:

“I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear. The Son of God discloses.  
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own.....”

- Jan Owen

Note: If you would like to join the Garden Committee, please contact Jan Owen, Sue Speakman, or Susan Debnam. Come spend some quiet time in the garden.

## Group Studies

The **Bible Study at Heron Point** meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited and welcome, not just those living at Heron Point. We’re in the middle of a five-week “refresher course” in “Bible 101” – taking a look at where the Bible came from, the literature that is in it, the books that didn’t make the Bible, and more. Come and see!

On Thursday evenings at PCC at 7:30 p.m., come explore “**12 Spiritual Practices to Nurture Your Call to Holiness.**” Each week we delve into a spiritual practice to help deepen our relationship with God. The book costs \$10 and is available through Pastor Sara.

## Morning & Evening 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 Worship** with CVMA at PCC on Wed., Nov. 16, at 6:00 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

### By Whose Grace Do We Live?

“My mind’s distracted and diffused, my thoughts are many miles away. They lie with you when you’re asleep and kiss you when you start your day. And so you see, I have come to doubt all that I once held as true. I stand alone without beliefs, the only truth I know is you. And as I watch the drops of rain weave their weary paths and die I know that I am like the rain, there but for the grace of you go I.”



### Happy Birthday

Roberta Ingram	October 2
Carol Taylor	October 5
Wayne Bedwell	October 6
Kim Huff	October 14
Lanny Parks	October 15
David O’Neill	October 16
Jo Ann Connolley	October 17
Shelly Neal-Edwards	October 17
Maggie Jackson	October 17
Taylor Leverage	October 17
Phoebe Kelly	October 18
Letha Hammon	October 18
James Wood	October 19
Patsy Hornaday	October 19
Mary O’Bara	October 19
Paula Blouch	October 20
Scott Jones	October 22
Marian Fry	October 23
Vincent DeSimone	October 24
Kiki Jones	October 26
Reid Fry	October 26
Christine O’Neill	October 29
Alyson Edwards	October 31

For those of us who have been smitten with love’s passion, Paul Simon’s poetry rings out loud and clear, often drowning out a course of action our Bible or our Sunday school or our parents might have recommended. Yes, many of us deal with discrepancies between what we may have been taught was ethical and what we might feel in our hearts is right or wrong by opting for our heart. When it comes to decisions we feel passionate about, such as abortion, e.g., we are tempted to define moral standards in terms of our own personal experiences and responsibility. Our decisions are validated from within, on the basis of how we feel in our hearts. This is humanism and is, of course, notably attractive, as one’s heart is quite amenable to insight and resolution while one is in the midst of decision making.

Searching beyond one’s self for grace and guidance often appears less appealing, as it involves admitting to and acceptance of our incompleteness and limitations. The ecology debate stands as an example that at times one should not act unilaterally but should stop to ponder how one’s decision fits into a larger purpose. Maybe, just maybe there is something more important than just what I want!

I am reminded of the final scene in the film “Casablanca,” when Humphrey Bogart passes up a chance to flee the pending ravages of WW2 and fly off with his love, by announcing that what a couple of people desire doesn’t amount “to a hill of beans.” Staying behind and resisting the Germans enables him to let her fly off without him.

In Paddy Chayefsky’s marvelous play “Gideon,” the last act ends with this soliloquy by an angel: “God no more believes it odd that man cannot believe in God. Man believes the best he can which is, of course, belief in man. Well, let him be a proper God, well, let him try it anyway. With this conceit we end this play.” - *Ralph Surette*

Comments welcomed at [ralphsur@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsur@gmail.com).

# Say “No” to the Straw!

**D**o you care for God’s creation? Would you like the restaurants of Kent County to voluntarily agree to ask customers if they desire a straw before automatically giving one to them? If so, you may be interested in signing the **Single-Use Plastic Straw Petition** at the Chestertown Town Office located at 118 North Cross Street in Chestertown.

*Did you know ...*

- Each day we use 500,000,000 straws in the United States — 125 school buses full!
- Plastic is 90% of the trash in our oceans.
- Straws are among the top 10 marine debris items.
- In the last 25 years, 6,263,319 straws and stirrers were picked up at beach clean ups.
- 44% of all seabird species and 22% of all cetaceans have ingested plastic.
- A dinner plate of mussels can have up to 90 pieces of plastic in it.
- Straws are made from polypropylene, a petroleum by-product.
- Petroleum products are made to last forever.

Would you like to say “no straw please” and help to raise awareness about the plastic problem? To support this cause, sign the petition (at the Town Office) to show restaurants and the Town Council that this is a worthwhile step for our community.

Note: The Chestertown Environmental Committee promotes careful stewardship and wise use of natural and economic resources with the goal of achieving an improved quality of life for the community (and future generations) through sustainable initiatives. Visit [chestertown.com/environment](http://chestertown.com/environment) or call the Town Office at 410-778-0500 to learn more. - *Lisa Webb*

*Dr. Webb is a member of the PCC Bell Choir and co-chair of the Caring for Creation team at Emmanuel Church in Chestertown.*

From Joe Baker,  
PCC Treasurer

## Operating income August YTD:

Last year - \$216,171

This year - \$197,672

**Annual Budget:** \$367,000

## “Build A Bucket” This October

With the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean, the PCC Mission Committee has designated October as Disaster Relief Month. Our mission partner, Church World Services (CWS), delivers Emergency Clean-up Kits. With a strong need in the above areas they are depleting their supply of kits.

Beginning October 1, PCC is dedicating a month to building emergency clean-up buckets. We will provide 5-gallon buckets with a lid so that families can pick up a bucket (with a shopping list) and add supplies to their buckets over the next few weeks.

We will also have a bucket for cash donations; and shopping lists for those families or individuals who don’t wish to complete a full bucket.

If you have any questions about this important project, please contact [tompier56@gmail.com](mailto:tompier56@gmail.com) or speak with Tom in person. Thank you.

# Presbyterians Speak

This fall we will begin an occasional series in which members of our church talk about something interesting they are doing – vocation or avocation.

The first in the series, entitled “Good News about Cancer!” by **Richard Thorp**, will be on Sunday, **October 22**, from 11:00 a.m to noon.

Richard will give a summary of the DNA (molecular level) cancer research his Chestertown laboratory (ILSBio, LLC) has facilitated over the past 20 years.

The use of new molecular marker tests for the detection of cancer at a very early stage, when it can be most easily treated, promises to reduce significantly the death threat of cancer within the next 10 years.

Highly accurate molecular tests, for Cervical Cancer and Colorectal Cancer, have already been FDA approved. ILSBio maintains a network of collaborating hospitals world-wide and supports the work of most major pharmaceutical, biotech and academic researchers.

Richard will explain how simple diet and behavioral changes can significantly reduce the risk of cancer. - *John Ames*

# Mission Update

- A big welcome to Tom Pierson who has joined our Mission Committee. He’s taking the lead in **Church World Service projects** (clean-up buckets, school kits & hygiene kits).

- **Donation of \$1,000** from the Opportunity Fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane victims.

- **Community Dinner at First UMC** – Sue Basener organized the dinner on August 28. Many PCC members volunteered to cook, serve and clean up dinner at First Methodist Church. Pastor Sara and Madeline Blouch enthusiastically greeted everyone and welcomed them to the dinner!

- Two large boxes and three tubs of school supplies were delivered to **H.H. Garnett Elementary School** on September 8. Principal Brenda Rose was there to receive the items and was most appreciative!

- PCC has qualified to be a Hunger Action Covenant Congregation. We will celebrate **World Food Day** in worship on October 15. Look for more information and a display on this special event before then! - *Linda Culp*

## Suggestions for Church Officers

I suggest the name of / my name \_\_\_\_\_

for nomination to the office of: Elder \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon \_\_\_\_\_

To help the Nominating Committee consider one’s qualifications, please include below any information you see fit to share about your/his/her church involvement or personal skills and gifts you/this individual would bring to the office of elder or deacon:





**The Presbyterian Church of Chestertown**  
**905 Gateway Drive**  
**Chestertown, MD 21620**

Phone: 410-778-6057 / Fax: 410-778-9780

[www.presbyterianchestertown.org](http://www.presbyterianchestertown.org)

E-mail: [pcofc@verizon.net](mailto:pcofc@verizon.net)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 68  
Chestertown MD

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*In your caring for others, God cares  
for you. As you pour out your love,  
God pours his love into you.*

FROM *CELTIC PRAYERS* BY DAVID ADAM