

# Presbyterian Church of Chestertown

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## Presbyterian Church of Chestertown (PCC)

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.)*

**August 2018:  
Volume 290**



## *A Note from Caitlan*

**H**ow do you feel about change? I have mixed feelings about it. I enjoy having a routine and I appreciate the comfort and reliability of continuity. But I also like change – it’s refreshing, gives me a new perspective, and challenges me in new ways. Change can be both scary and exciting.

No matter how we feel about it, change is rarely easy. It requires flexibility, adjustment, and a certain openness. You may be experiencing many different emotions during PCC’s time of change and transition in light of Pastor Sara’s retirement – grief, fear, anxiety, or maybe even excitement about what lies ahead for us.

The liaison to our session from New Castle Presbytery’s Committee on Ministers and Congregations, Tom Speers, shared the following with our Session at a meeting this spring: “Sara may be leaving, but the real pastor of this church will stay. That pastor has been here from the very beginning and will be here throughout all your history.”

Tom is right – our true pastor, our permanent spiritual guide, is Jesus Christ! He ignited the desire in the hearts of our charter members to start a Presbyterian church in Chestertown. He faithfully led us to become the thriving, worshiping, serving community that we are. And Christ is providing and guiding the opportunity for us to look at where we’ve been and where we’re heading.

Though these may be uncomfortable and unknown times for us, we are not alone. God is with us. We can rest assured that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” [Hebrews 13:8].

*(continued on page 2)*

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## SESSION

### Clerk of Session

Ruth Vietri-Green

### Class of 2018

Ralph Surette - *Human Relations*

Betsy Taylor - *Christian*

*Education; Nominating*

Doug West - *Mission; Property*

### Class of 2019

Sue Caswell - *Discipleship;*

*Congregational Life*

Dave Menzie - *Administration*

*& Finance*

Tom Pierson - *Youth Ministry*

### Class of 2020

Joanne Clarke - *Communications*

Lanny Parks - *Worship,*

*Music & the Arts*

Lance Williams - *Nominating*

## DEACONS

### Class of 2018

Ellie Jetton - *Youth Deacon*

Dallas Higginbotham

Jackie Urlock

James Wood

### Class of 2019

Wendy Barnette

Sandee Trakat

Sue West

### Class of 2020

Betsy Miller

Sue Willits

Diane Zang



## Caitlan's note cont.

And so, these are also exciting times for us. Our God is steadfast. And our great pastor, Jesus Christ, is the one leading us forward – guiding us, inspiring us, and comforting us as we enter into the next phase of our life together.

In Christ,

*Caitlan*

## Thank You from Pastor Sara

Bob and I want to thank everyone for honoring us on our retirement celebration weekend. We loved that the retirement committee found so many ways to bring together the people and places that have been important to us through the years. We will enjoy the gifts of quilt, flags, scrapbooks, photos, recipes and more for many years to come.

Youth and young adult mission experiences were so important to both of us in our own personal journeys, so we were overwhelmed by the incredibly generous financial gift you have given to the Youth Mission Fund at PCC and deeply honored to think that you would name the fund in our honor. We were also truly grateful for the generous personal financial gift which you have given to us.

We will enjoy the memory of all of you and the many ways we have had over these past 18 years to be a part of what God is doing at PCC. It has been the greatest joy and honor in my life to be your pastor for 18 years. You will always be in our prayers and we look forward to seeing all the best that is yet to be for PCC.

In Christ,

*Sara*

*Steadfast, steadfast is  
his kindness toward us;  
and the faithfulness of  
the Lord endures.*

Based on Psalm 117:1, 2.

# Mission Update

- Heartfelt thanks to Pastor Sara Holben for her guidance of the Mission Committee for many years. We will greatly miss her! Welcome to Pastor John Ames for stepping up to be our staff resource in this committee. We look forward to his wise guidance!

- For those who are supporters of the Humane Society of Kent County, you have another opportunity to help. Donate toilet paper rolls so that treats can be packed inside and given to each dog at the shelter for a midday snack. ( If you want to know more about this, talk with Charlie or Marti Hawkins.)

- In October 2017 Cathy Higgins and Carrie Saathoff, members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, spoke to our committee about their partnership in Guatemala with the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development. One of the many things they do is matching up prayer partnerships with women in Guatemala and women in our Presbytery.

They are asking for at least 10 women in our church to commit to this. It involves sharing your picture and getting a picture back of a woman there to pray for daily. The only information given is first name. The desire to pray for a woman in another part of the world is incredibly rewarding!

- For those interested in corresponding or sending cards to Mel Baars O'Malley (and new baby Thomas) and her husband Greg:

Chaplain (CPT) Mel Baars O'Malley  
2610 Spring Grove Terrace  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Greg O'Malley  
HHC, ¼ BCT  
TB Gamberi  
APO, AE 09354

We have sent six boxes of goodies to Greg and his unit and plan to involve the congregation in this outreach in the next couple of months.

- Linda Culp



## August Birthdays

Troy Mishaw	August 3
Bill Trakat	August 3
Cindy Moore	August 5
Kate Bennett	August 6
Owen Fry	August 6
Taylor Richardson	August 6
Cole Taylor	August 7
Ned Leverage	August 8
Caitlan Gartland	August 8
Patsy Alverson	August 9
Brad Moore	August 10
Carolyn Grotsky	August 11
Luke Barnette	August 12
Charlie Gloyd	August 13
Tom Speakman	August 15
Jean Leverage	August 21
Barbara Brillhart	August 21
Bill Williams	August 23
Elizabeth Watson	August 23
Adrian Baker	August 24
John Hellwege	August 24
Garrett Shirk	August 24
Joanne Clarke	August 25
Dorothy Blevins	August 26
Anna Shirk	August 27
Brian Arnold	August 28
Tom Pierson	August 28
Mark Kamon	August 29
Mary Alice Munson	August 29
Sandy Winquist	August 29
David Brown	August 30

August 2018  
PCC News Vol. 290

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

**September deadline:  
August 20, 2018**

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*The Lord speaks of  
peace to his people  
and his holy ones  
and to those who  
turn to him.*

*cf. Psalm 85 (84):9*

# Christian Education News

## With Grace and Gratitude

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped provide Sunday School and Nursery Care throughout the summer: Linda Culp, Jason Jarvi, Melissa McIntire, Mary Alice Munson, and Madison Walbeck. (My apologies if I missed anyone.) It isn't too late to help – please see me if you are interested! - *Terri Gloyd*

## Vacation Bible School

Thank you to the MANY volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School – you are too numerous to mention! Over 50 children learned that Jesus rescues when we feel lonely, when we struggle, when we feel powerless and when we worry. We didn't have to “worry 'bout a thing” [to quote one of our VBS songs] because of the generosity of spirit and time of the many volunteers and the support of area churches.

Thank you for supporting our VBS mission project which raised funds (\$793) for water filtration devices for Puerto Rico.

## Annual Music Camp

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to orchestrate our annual Music Camp in July. The children learned songs, instruments and movements to remind them (and us) that God is good all the time.... all the time, God is good!

## Dog Days of Summer – A Reflection

As we enter the “dog days of summer,” I am drawn to share the story below which has recently been circulating on social media. It challenges us to take the advice of a dog's perspective to live a full life, even in the hottest and most challenging of times. I hope it might inspire you and your family. - *Terri Gloyd*

### **Why Don't Dogs Live as Long as Humans?**

Here's the surprising answer of a 6-year-old child. Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker. They were hoping for a miracle.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Dog days of summer cont.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that dogs' lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life, like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay for as long as we do."

*Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.* And remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- When your loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- Take naps.
- Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Be faithful.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

That's the secret of happiness that we can learn from a good dog.

*- Adapted by Terri Gloyd, from social media*

## Youth Ministry

What a fantastic summer we're having together! In youth group we're studying an overview of the Bible, and we will end the summer with an intense game of "Bible Jeopardy."

We've also had a lot of fun together – a lock in, a night at the trampoline park, and a trip to the beach. We volunteered at Vacation Bible School, the Humane Society, and the Maryland Food Bank in Salisbury.

And there are plenty more activities planned for August before we head back to school in September.

As part of my Certificate in Youth Ministry and Theology from Princeton Seminary, I have assembled a **Youth Ministry Leadership Team** comprised of Meredith Kenton (Communications Coordinator), Paul Taylor (Fellowship Coordinator), Carlyne Grotsky (Middle School Spiritual Development Partner), Betsy Taylor (High School Spiritual Development Partner), and Abbi Barnette and Ellie Jetton (Youth Representatives).

This awesome group is working hard to assist in planning and leading youth ministry. They are a great gift to me and to our youth. Please pray for each of us as we discern and lead youth ministry together!

- *Pastor Caitlan*

## Transition Team Update

**P**CC is a very young congregation within one of the oldest Presbyteries in the United States. From our beginning we have challenged "the way things have always been done". After Presbytery declined to help us establish a church here in Chestertown, we organized ourselves into a viable congregation under the direction of a retired Presbyterian pastor and then petitioned Presbytery to receive us.

Now we are attempting to deal with transition time in an original way without a traditional interim pastor but with a Part-Time Interim Consultant and a congregational administration team. That does not mean that the Presbyterian Way of transition is wrong. Our denomination understands the necessity of "break time". We need time to re-group, re-think, and re-imagine.

Organizations that fail to provide this time have learned that members are generally unwilling to accept new leadership, always comparing the 'new' to the 'former' - with the 'new' generally failing to measure up. "The way we've always done it" is held tighter, and resistance makes for dissatisfied and resentful attitudes on all sides.

Interim time is essential to smooth transition. Our plan incorporates both continuation in the persons of Pastor Caitlan Gartland and Pastor John Ames and 'new' in the person of an interim staff member who will guide us through transition and prepare us to eventually call a new senior pastor. This period is expected to take about a year. During this time we will also host many guest preachers in our pulpit. Please help make them feel welcome.

In the meantime, every member of the congregation will have the opportunity to participate in gathering data for the Mission Study, a requirement that provides the basis for the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee, which will be recommended by the standing Nominating Committee, and elected by the Congregation some time later in the fall.

Patience. Participation. Prayer. These are the three P's of transition time, and we can all practice (is that a 4th P?) them to make this transition time an opportunity for congregational growth. - *Lanny Parks*

As we begin our time of transition, you may visit our website <http://www.presbyterianchestertown.org/news/transition-updates.html> for regular and detailed updates.

## A View From The Pew

### *In Search of A Shepherd*

*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God [Romans 12:2].*

Certainly, there is no more important topic to cover, in this my 100th installment of VIEW FROM THE PEW, than the calling next year of a new pastor for PCC. Soon a Pastoral Nominating Committee will embark on the quest for that person and I offer the following suggestions for their consideration.

Please seek out a spiritual leader who will help us define the role our faith plays in our daily lives. Seek out a person who will assist us in reconciling the darker side of life, evil and suffering for example, with Christian love and compassion. Seek out one who will exhort us to find meaning and purpose in our daily lives and to seek congruence between our values and our conduct, encouraging us to regulate our behavior by our faith. Seek out a pastor who will foster our prioritization of alternate choices that we might make so that spiritual growth will ensue from those choices. Seek out one who is committed to objective moral thinking that is rooted in both Biblical exhortation as well as the human experience. Seek out a person who welcomes the disenfranchised and oppressed, the LGBT and Me Too movements for example. Finally, seek out a person who encourages us to turn away from defining life's purpose and meaning in terms of achievement, prestige and wealth by substituting care and concern for others.

I conclude with this from the early 17th-century saint, Francis de Sales: "The test of the worth of a preacher is when the congregation goes away saying not 'what a beautiful sermon!' but instead 'I will do something today!'"

*Contributing writer Ralph Surette welcomes comments at [ralphsur@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsur@gmail.com).*



### Happy Anniversary in August

Jon & Karen Wright	August 3
David & Sharon Brown	August 7
John & Jackie Urlock	August 12
Jeffery &Carolyn Grotsky	August 13
Scott & Deeann Jones	August 15
Warren & Carol Beaven	August 23
Bill & JoAnn Bowdle	August 25
David & Christine O'Neill	August 26
Ed & Marian Fry	August 28
David & Lorraine Nickle	August 29
Danny & Caitlan Gartland	August 30

*For the Lord is  
gracious; his mercy  
is everlasting; and  
his truth endures  
from generation to  
generation.*

Psalm 100:5

## *From John's Study*

I have no intention of subjecting you to a “what I did on my vacation” essay. In some years I have concocted a sermon out of the various churches in which I worshiped when I was away, but I’m not going to do it now. What I am going to do is talk about several times on a wonderful trip in which I was inspired. Sara often prefaces such conversations by asking: “Where do you see God?” Only one of these experiences occurred in a church – though we visited many beautiful and historic churches - none happened during worship.

The first was a chance opportunity to hear Benjamin Brittan’s War Requiem performed in Winchester Cathedral in England. We didn’t know it was happening until we visited the Cathedral on a Friday; the concert was Saturday night and we were able to get tickets. Brittan wrote this magnificent work in 1963 for the dedication of Coventry Cathedral, which had been rebuilt after being bombed during World War II. I attended the first American performance in Avery Fisher Hall in 1964.

This massive work was performed by a choral group of about 100, singing the Latin words of the traditional requiem mass. They were accompanied by a full orchestra. Soloists sang, in English, the words of English poet Wilfred Owen who was killed in France in 1917. He wrote hauntingly beautiful, anti-war poems which were published after his death. The boys of the Cathedral choir, joined by other children’s choirs, sang in response to the soloists’ war memories. It was an incredibly moving experience.

### *Pop-up Shower*

A poem by Floyd L. Parks, c. 2018

The sun abides from the east  
From clear blue sky it shines warm rays  
As hours leave the dawn behind,  
They convalesce, intensify  
Down in the black macadam yard.  
They call the lowest air to rise  
And so it does and brings with it  
The dews and damps of night gone by.

Faster, higher, billowing, white,  
Expanding, sweating, towering high,  
Now on the march across the land,  
Full of fire and grumbling loud  
to snatch the peace that was before  
To thrash and rumble through.

So we must pray survival as it leaves.  
And, then, the hissing rain with ebbing calm;  
So out we come to look around.

A few days later we visited the Nobel Peace Museum in Oslo. A small museum in a modern building, it occupies a beautiful site on the Oslo waterfront which has recently been rebuilt from an ugly slum. There were changing exhibits which we skipped out of concern for time. The permanent exhibit consists of interactive portraits of the hundred or so winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. You touch the screen and read something about the person or organization which was awarded the prize that year. Sometimes there is a recorded sentence or two from the person. It’s an incredible group. I took the time to read about almost all the prize winners. I was deeply moved.

Then we visited the “European Solidarity Museum” in Gdansk, Poland. This is a magnificent building, built on the edge of the shipyard where Lech Walensa and others launched the Solidarity movement in 1981 which brought down Communism in Poland and eventually all

*(continued on page 9)*



## John's study cont.

over Europe. We shared a taxi there with an English couple, simply to save a few bucks on the cab fare. Knowing we couldn't see the whole museum in the time available, we agreed to meet in the lobby in an hour. We met them, and they said they wanted to go out into the Memorial Garden to place a painted stone in front of a monument which had been erected to commemorate three young workers who were killed in an anti-government riot in the early '70s. The stone had been given them by a little girl in their church, in Sheffield, England, who was dying of brain cancer. She paints rocks and gives them to friends who are traveling, asking that her painted rocks be placed around in various places. I went with them; they put the rock in front of the monument, which had been dedicated by Pope John Paul II in a mass attended by a million people. I was deeply moved both by the museum and by that gesture of this couple. I prayed silently for this little girl, whose name is Karen.

The fourth inspiration from my trip was enough leisure time to read Jon Meachem's brand new book, *The Soul of America – the Battle for our Better Angels*. It's a timely reminder, in a time of political and social confusion, of what has made America great in the past. Read it, whatever your political views. You will be inspired as I was. Meachem is a Pulitzer Prize historian and journalist and a very significant religious commentator. I don't know whether he has any theological training or not, but he writes as if he does. He makes the reader believe that our "better angels" – the quote is from Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address – will prevail. I believe it will, despite abundant evidence to the contrary.

Travel is expensive, it can be exhausting. But it can also be inspiring. - *John Ames*

## Lunch & Learn Events

Mark your calendars for a "Lunch and Learn" with speaker Kay Day on Tuesday, **August 14**, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Kay Day is a Presbyterian missionary in Rwanda whom we support through our mission budget. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office.

(For a sneak preview of what is happening in the ministry of the church in Rwanda, please read Kay's letter on page 10 of this newsletter.)

Looking ahead to autumn, PCUSA missionary Tyler Holm, based in Malawi, will be at PCC for another "Lunch & Learn" on Tuesday, **September 25th**. Lunch will be provided for this special mission event as well (also in Fellowship Hall at 12 noon). - *Doug West*

In his book, *Sacred Compass*, J. Brent Bill writes, "Paying attention to our interior leadings alerts us to God's company around and within us. The leadings remind us to live the prayer of St. Patrick:

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be in my end, and at my departing.*

July 2018

Dear friends and family,

Praise the Lord. I have been saying this repeatedly as I have prepared to come to the States and have been getting settled here. God has provided for me so abundantly and I am so grateful, and I share that gratitude with one of my students.

About a year ago, I preached a sermon in the English chapel about God changing our hearts and giving us new natures. My student Jean Baptiste came to me after the service and said that he wanted to change his name to reflect who he has become in Christ, not the name his parents gave him at his birth. Unlike in America, everyone in Rwanda has his or her own name. There are no family names. An infant is given a Kinyarwanda name that reflects the family's situation at the time of the child's birth, or the parents' hope for the development of the character of the child, and then they add a Christian name. Most people are known by their Kinyarwandan name. He told me the meaning of his name NTAMBABAZI - merciless. He said that he was born just after the genocide ended and his name reflects his parents' feelings about their situation at that time. But God has changed his heart and has called him to be a pastor and he can't face a congregation and speak of God's grace and mercy with the name Merciless. To change his name challenges his parents, is costly and takes a great deal of time. We prayed together, and he decided to undertake the project. First, he went to his parents to explain that he meant no disrespect, but his life had changed, and he wanted his name to reflect that. They agreed.



Jambo Ashimwe

Then he began the legal process. It cost about \$100 just to file the paper work. After approval, he had to take notices in the national newspapers, so if there were any claims against him, he would not be escaping them by changing his name and finally he had to apply for new identification and get approval from all the levels of the government - national, regional, district and sector. As I tell this story, he has just received the final paperwork from the national level, so he can claim his new name - JAMBO ASHIMWE (Praise the Lord) Jean Baptiste. I praise the Lord with him.

There are so many reasons to praise the Lord. My need for a car here in the States was graciously met by a clergy couple, friends of mine who offered me their second car, serviced it, and are covering the insurance for these three months. I am overwhelmed. Every Sunday of this trip is filled with opportunities in supporting churches and many week days are spoken for, to meet individuals and small groups. I have two "homes" this trip, one on the east side of Pittsburgh and the other on the west, to make travel easier for me. What generosity! I am humbled by all the care offered to me. Praise the Lord. Just the opportunity to serve in Rwanda is a blessing from God. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in the next three months. I am so grateful for all of you who support me financially and with prayers. I could not be serving in Rwanda were it not for you. I still have some open days, if anyone is interested in a weekday time. Please contact me.



My "new" car. Praise the Lord

My prayer for you is that you have many things for which to praise the Lord, too. Our God is so good and provides so abundantly for each of us, more so than we even realize. I hope you will take time with me this summer to praise the Lord for all that he has done and is doing.

Jambo Ashimwe  
Kay, (Cathie to the family)



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*O gracious Light, pure brightness  
of the everliving Father in Heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*