

# 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.)*

**September 2018:  
Volume 291**



## *A Note from Caitlan*

Ahh, September! That glorious time when things shift in our lives. Come fall, many of us are getting back into a routine of some sort, which we aren't bound to during the summer months, including work, volunteer commitments, practices, rehearsals, homework, and meetings.

What does your routine look like? How do you prioritize how your time is used and what becomes part of your daily or weekly routine? ... and where does God fit into your routine? I'll be honest, this is where I struggle. I used to wake up at 5 a.m. and start my day with devotions. But in recent months, I've been getting up at 5 a.m. to squeeze in my workout and sometimes even start working from home. It's easy to put time with God on the back burner.

I challenge you this autumn to intentionally create space in your routine to be with God. There are numerous ways to do this through PCC – Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday worship, our choirs, Bible studies and discussion groups, youth group, teaching Sunday school, and any number of mission opportunities. And there are numerous ways to create space for God outside of the church – maybe it includes a daily time of meditation, devotion, or Bible reading (talk to me about some great apps!). Or maybe it's something like exercise or gardening.

No matter how busy Jesus became, he was intentional about creating space for God, stepping away from his work and friends to spend time in prayer. This fall, as you settle back into a routine, consider where God fits in your routine. And if it doesn't seem like there's any room, it's time to make space. God is already with you, patiently waiting...

In Christ,

*Caitlan*

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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

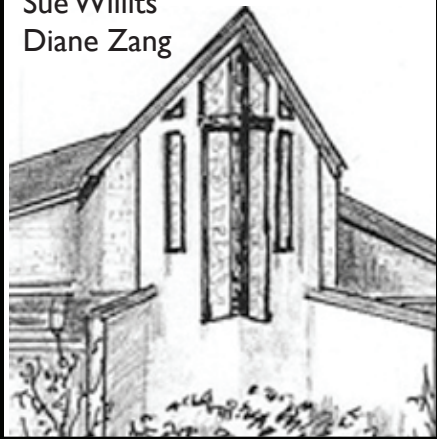
Sue West

### **Class of 2020**

Betsy Miller

Sue Willits

Diane Zang



# *Christian Education News*

## Sunday School & Nursery Care

September 9th marks the return of our regular Sunday School. This year's lessons begin in Genesis and continue in the Old Testament. Each week the children will learn about God's love for us. Would you consider being a part of this ministry at PCC? Teams for each age group rotate and serve about once a month.

We welcome back Holly Kennedy to our nursery this fall. If you like nurturing our littlest ones, would you consider lending a helping hand? Please see Terri Gloyd if you'd like to volunteer in the nursery or with Sunday School.

## Fall – A Time for Spiritual Balance

*Adapted from The Spiritual Meaning of Balance by Vinita Hampton Wright*

September brings a new "season" for families, with the start of school and the crispness of autumn returning to the air. Schedules can get very hectic, so it is important to find balance in your lives spiritually and to leave space for God in your days.

The autumnal equinox may prompt you and your family to balance your life, just as nature balances night and day. A balanced life is one in which, simultaneously, we keep all our projects going and all our relationships healthy. From earliest times, Christians have valued spiritual balance. In Christian spirituality, balance has more to do with temperance, which means that we allow our deepest principles to hold our passions in check.

Saint Ignatius spoke of people having "disordered affections"—being ruled by desires rather than free to make wise choices. When we don't practice temperance, eventually our affections will become disordered. A temperate person honors their desires and passions as gifts from God, but does not constantly rearrange their life according to the ongoing flux of those desires and passions. One of the best gifts of temperance is that it frees us to enjoy our lives.

Can you identify situations in which you feel pushed, or hurried, or desperate? Can you describe what's going on, and how you might apply some temperance?

For those who are familiar with Saint Ignatius, you know about the Examen, a prayer designed to help a person make a daily review with a focus on gratitude and openness to the

*(continued on page 3)*

## Balance cont.

Holy Spirit's direction. The steps of the Examen—pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance; review the day; identify where you saw God at work and give thanks for it; identify where you could have done better; pray with a view to tomorrow's challenges—can be a great remedy for stress and busy schedules.

If you are willing to try, here are two tasks to help you to become more spiritually aware and open to God's grace and mercy this fall:

**1. Do you feel grateful?** Ask yourself, "What's the best thing that happened to me today?" This question helps you to reflect on the greater significance of your day, so keep asking it. Looking at your experiences through the eyes of gratitude helps to remind you that God uses everything (even our personal challenges and wounds) for His greater glory.

**2. Are you open and ready to learn and grow? ... to finding some tools or meaningful rituals that support you?** Many people find greater balance in their lives by practicing forgiveness, mindfulness, meditation, yoga, or general morning and nightly routines such as lighting a candle before prayer or reflection. Pay attention to your routines. Do they nourish you and your family? Remember to practice the things that serve to bring you greater clarity, calmness, and compassion for yourself and others.

The Lord gives us two great commands to help us lead a deeply spiritual life. We are instructed to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind. And quickly on the heels of this command, we are instructed to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39). Together they produce a wonderful balance. - *Terri Gloyd*

The **Chancel Choir** will begin singing in worship on Sunday, September 9th. Are you interested in singing with us? We will run through the music for the fall on Saturday, September 8th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Regular Sunday warm-ups are at 9 a.m., and choir rehearsal is from 11 a.m. to 12 noon each Sunday.

The **Handbell Choir** will begin rehearsing on September 13th. Newcomers are welcome; it does help to know how to read music. The Handbell Choir practices every Thursday from 4:15 - 5:45 p.m., and plays in worship every four to six weeks.



## September Birthdays

Bob Schminkey	September 2
Sue West	September 3
Chris Smith	September 5
George Burris	September 6
Mia Barnette	September 8
Betty Brooks	September 9
Lucia Rather	September 12
Elly Bayne	September 17
Karl Strootman	September 20
Will Speakman	September 21
Nanny Porter	September 24
Nancy Jones	September 27
David Nickle	September 28
Doc Walbert	September 29

## Youth Ministry

After a busy summer, youth ministry is settling into a regular routine. High school and middle school youth will gather twice each month for Bible study and discussion. In addition, there will be many opportunities to serve our community and enjoy fellowship together. We're also excited about creating some opportunities for inter-generational activities like roller skating. Stay tuned for more information! - *Pastor Caitlan*

## September 2018 PCC News Vol. 291

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

**October deadline:  
September 20, 2018**

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*I will pour clean  
water on you and  
wash away all  
your sins.*

*Ezekiel 36:25*

## Mission Update

- There is "Afghanistan money" left over for Greg O'Malley and his unit. Would members of PCC be interested in holding a cookie baking party at the church so goodies can be sent to these soldiers? (If so, please let Linda Culp know.)
- The Mission Committee will be collecting school supplies for Church World Service and for Garnett Elementary School in Chestertown. The supply lists will be available on the Mission Station in the narthex.
- For those who donate to the Community Food Pantry at PCC, there will be a monthly alert for the items that are most needed. Sue Basener reports that a large amount of fruits and vegetables have been donated to the Pantry this summer by Lockbriar Farms and other local gardeners.
- Courtney Sjostrom and I visited Deep Roots, a shelter in Cecil County, on August 8. We met with the director, Ola Boswell, to talk about their program needs. She gave us a tour of the farm, including the chicken coop and area which PCC volunteers helped to construct.
- On August 14 twenty-six people attended an enlightening "Lunch and Learn" presentation by Rev. Kay Day, a mission coworker in Rwanda. Thanks to everyone who participated and those who helped with the delicious luncheon (arranged by Lainie Surette). And thank you to Doug and Sue West for graciously hosting Kay during her four-day visit.
- Save the date for our next "Lunch and Learn" on Tuesday, September 25, featuring Tyler Holm. It will be held at noon in Fellowship Hall. Tyler and his wife Rochelle are mission co-workers in Malawi. - *Linda Culp*

## Mission Highlight: Deep Roots

In the next couple of months, the Mission Committee will be seeking volunteers and donations to assist Deep Roots. Deep Roots is a farm that shelters families who are homeless, and it aims to break the generational cycle of homelessness. Located near Cecilton, the farm usually operates at full capacity by sheltering 38 persons. Treatment is arranged for those with mental health and addiction problems. Parents are responsible for the care of their own children and for chores in the community. Some parents are employed; for those that are not, job training is provided. Deep Roots has a volunteer base of 60 – 70 people. It receives financial support from grants, donations, and from state and federal funding.

## From John's Study

The late TV newsman Eric Sevareid once said: "I am pessimistic about tomorrow, but optimistic about next year." I don't know the context of that statement and I don't know anything about Sevareid's religious affiliation or opinions, but it's as good a statement of the Christian faith as I've seen recently.

The Apostle Paul said about the same thing in his letter to the Romans: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. Paul knew – we all know – that bad things happen to good people. He was in prison in Rome, under a death sentence. As a Roman citizen he knew that he would not be sacrificed to lions in the Coliseum or burned at the stake as others were; but execution of any sort – while possibly less painful – is equally fatal. "Things are not good here," he said. "But everything will be all right in the end."

Sevareid also knew that to be true. He covered world events from 1939 until his retirement in 1977. He was shot down in Burma in 1943 and was rescued after several days alone in the jungle. He was the first American journalist in Paris after it was liberated from the Nazis. He was blacklisted for a time by the "House Committee on Un-American Activities" and was condemned by Joseph McCarthy. He knew about plenty of bad stuff.

But he remained optimistic about the future. This is the most characteristically Christian attitude toward life – whether public or private. "Things may not be all that great now, but in the end everything will be all right." Paul said the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

The nations may be suffering from political malaise – they are. War, violence, famine, disease continue to ravage the world. Your life may not be all that great. Bad family relationships, dreadful medical diagnoses, addictive or destructive behaviors, business reversals may affect you. Not all these stories will have a happy ending. But ultimately everything will be OK because God is in control – of the world, and of your life and mine.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Therefore, I am pessimistic about tomorrow, but I am optimistic about next year. - *John Ames*

### September Lunch & Learn with Tyler!

Tyler Holm, a PCUSA missionary based in Malawi with his wife Rochelle and their daughter Mphatso, will visit PCC for a "Lunch & Learn" presentation on Tuesday, **September 25th**. Please join us for this special event at 12 noon, in Fellowship Hall, where lunch will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. - *Doug West*

### We're Forming A History Team!

Do you enjoy creating scrapbooks, like taking photos, have an interest in history—especially the history of our church? PCC is seeking two or three people to serve as our history-keeping team. Primarily, the team will be responsible for maintaining the PCC scrapbook (manually, as in the past, or as new books that can be constructed online) and maintaining the newsletter, bulletin and photo archives.

If you have an interest in any aspect of preserving our church's history, please speak to Pastor Caitlan or Joanne Clarke or e-mail them, respectively, at [cquinn6@live.com](mailto:cquinn6@live.com) or [joanne8780@gmail.com](mailto:joanne8780@gmail.com). Thank you.

## *Thoughts on Singing in the Choir*

Sundays during my pre-college years were spent at a Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, where my father was a choir singer. I began group singing in fourth grade at an Episcopal school on the grounds of Washington National Cathedral, where there was the typical professional paid choir of men and scholarship boys under the direction of two distinguished church musicians, Paul Calloway and Richard Dirksen.

For the Christmas and Easter holidays that choir was supplemented by a treble chorus of other school boys whose voices had not yet changed, of which I was one.

After that I wasn't part of an organized singing group until freshman year Glee Club in college. And then there was another hiatus of some thirty-five years until Bud and Jane Dengler assumed the music leadership responsibilities here at PCC. At that time in the early 1990's our Choir consisted of perhaps six members, so the Denglers set out to grow the group. After a fellowship dinner and hymn sing one evening, Jane approached me and others and had small groups step up to sing a verse or two. Afterwards she approached us individually to say, "You have a good voice. Come and sing in the Choir."

I resisted the invitation for several weeks, citing long gaps in my group singing history, but she and Bud persisted with gentle prodding. When I pointed out that the last piece I remembered singing in college was a spiritual, "Climbing Up the Mountain, Children", that admission proved to be the proverbial "camel's nose in the tent". Bud arranged for the Choir to sing the song: the rest of the camel (me) followed its nose into the Choir's tent.

Since Bud and Jane retired, the PCC Choir has been blessed with the leadership of Jim Conte and Kate Bennett, and has grown to roughly two dozen members. On most Sundays there are 18-20 of us singing during worship. There are opportunities for individual singers and small groups to sing anthems and special music during worship when the full Choir is on vacation during the summer. John Henderson was the instigator behind the formation of a men's group several years ago, which began by singing Appalachian music, and a women's group quickly followed suit.

The PCC Choir's repertoire ranges from religious classics from the likes of Bach and Mendelssohn, to folk and gospel songs. There have been a few members over the years who don't even read music, a few who have more formal music training, and some who also sing in auditioned groups elsewhere. Right now there are some twenty-six chairs in the Choir loft and no auditions here, so there is room for additional singers.

You may have noticed that the PCC Choir features a number of us in our 70's and 80's. Aging can be a challenge for a first tenor who is beginning to lose the top end of his range, and wishing he could sing second tenor or even baritone once in a while (guess who?). But this congregation as a whole sings enthusiastically and well on Sunday morning, so I know there are some 30 and 40-year-old types out there, and some teens, who could contribute greatly to our efforts.

If you love to sing, as I do, please join the Choir when it resumes in September. Being a member of PCC is not a prerequisite, only that you worship regularly with us. And with the exception of several Saturday mornings during the year, we rehearse right after Fellowship Hour on Sunday—no additional time commitment needed.

There are chairs in the loft and robes waiting for you. - *Dal Holmes*

## A View From The Pew

### *The View From Our Porch*

Several issues ago a *New Yorker* editorialist, deploring technological advances which threatened to disrupt the present state of affairs, suggested the formation of a Society For Letting Well Enough Alone. The past has many qualities we hold dear, he opined. We like the view from our porch. Well, here at PCC the view from our porch is changing and many of us are anxiously waiting to see just what form these changes will take. What can we expect? How much of the past can we hold on to?

Of course, old expectations and habits are highly resistant to change, as we imagine being thrown into turmoil if we attempt to alter our ways. Try changing the side of the bed you sleep on; try having Italian food without wine, or crabs without beer; if you always put your right leg in first when you don slacks or shorts, try putting the left one in first instead; try sitting on the opposite side of the sanctuary next Sunday. Enough already we declare! Spare us the trouble. We will stay with the tried and true habits thank you! Unfortunately, opting to stay with the same old behavior can rob one of a desire to risk experiment and a willingness to assess a myriad of other possibilities and scenarios.

Soon we will have a part-time interim consultant and until we call a new full-time pastor next year we will have a variety of preachers in our pulpit. It will fall on us then to avoid getting caught up in what used to be and instead embrace the present and future. To resist change amounts to limiting emotional growth, retarding learning, and short changing our ability to bask in the rich bounty that a new spiritual life can offer. A new yet-to-be-lived life! May we discover an equilibrium among tradition, habit and change.

I conclude with this from W. Somerset Maugham: "Tradition is a guide and not a jailer." And this anonymous wisdom: "Habits are at first cobwebs, at last, chains."

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

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### Water Filters for Puerto Rico

When a giant hurricane hit Puerto Rico last year, the mission committee sent funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance right away. But, we wanted to do more. That's when social media and the idea that God works in mysterious ways all came together.

As we were searching for a project to support, FaceBook showed a caring couple working to provide inexpensive water filters for families. (Potable water was scarce in many places months after the hurricane struck.) The need was great, and the concept of the water filters was easy for PCC children and families to understand in light of the "marooned on an island" theme of our Vacation Bible School.

Later, we discovered that the parents of "the FaceBook couple" are childhood friends of John Sjostrom! Forging a connection with their son and daughter-in-law along with their two sons who live in the western part of Puerto Rico lent a greater credibility to our mission project. Our combined church families and children at VBS raised \$800.00 in four days! That meant that 40 water filters could be distributed to families in need. And that God does work in mysterious ways and helps us to realize that we are all one family. - Courtney Sjostrom

# Nominations for Deacon or Elder

The Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions for either Deacon or Elder for a three-year term, 2019 - 2021. You may use the form below to nominate someone. Simply drop off the form to Carol Taylor in the Church office, or put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Would you please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve PCC and the congregation? You are welcome to suggest your own name as well. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Taylor or Lansing Williams. Thank you.

David & Carolyn Menzie	September 5
Joe & Sabina Baker	September 6
Lansing Williams & Sue Caswell	September 9
Conrad & Angie Heinold	September 10
Bob & Sarah Arnold	September 13
Ted & Jo Clark	September 13
Ray & Sherren Tarrach	September 16
Patrick & Kiki Jones	September 21
Ken & Marie Thomas	September 23
George & Dee Burris	September 24
Ned & Jean Leverage	September 24
Bob & Nancy Hewes	September 27
Bland Dickey & Letha Hammon	September 29

Happy Anniversary  
in September



## Suggestion Form *for* Church Officers (2019-2021)

In the space below, please include any information you would like to share about a person's qualifications, church involvement, skills or gifts that she/he would bring to the office of elder or deacon. This will help the Nominating Committee to decide, among all the names suggested, whom to nominate. You are welcome to suggest your own name as well.

For nomination to the office of DEACON, I suggest the name of

---

For nomination to the office of ELDER, I suggest the name of

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*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the  
Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us  
in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble  
with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4