

NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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BPC Mission Statement

Connecting all to God's love and grace.

Engage. Nurture. Serve.

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From Pastor Carrie

Greetings!

What a wonderful Christmas season this has been so far! The beauty of the Christmas Eve services and the young adults leading the first Sunday of Christmas worship have both been moving and meaningful, and the upcoming celebration of Epiphany this next Sunday, I hope, will be an experience of God for you!

For Epiphany, we will be giving out "Star Words" to all. On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus (Epiphany), we pass out pieces of paper cut into star shapes with a printed word and invite the congregation to take a star in worship. In times past, sometimes the star word that I got was not really to my liking at first glance. But it is amazing what the Holy Spirit does with that star word – many times the Spirit can open us up to a fuller understanding of what the word might mean for our faith if we are intentional about being aware of the "God Moments" in our lives. I have learned to trust that the star word I receive, is really what I need to learn about during the year.

On another note, we have had such generosity shown in these past few months. We have had several very generous donors invite us to also be big-hearted for this next year. We have matched and surpassed the donation of \$20,000.00 from one donor to hire a Director of Family Ministries and we are very excited about the mission and ministry that lay ahead for us. We continue to ask for your prayers as we seek to move into the adventure that God has been preparing for us. Over and over in our prayers, strategic planning sessions and in our congregational forums, the one area that keeps coming forward in our hopes and dreams is that we might capture the younger generation's hearts for Jesus. To do this, we can't continue to do things the way we have always done things. Our community is changing, the needs of families have changed, and we have to be willing to risk our (those who already have a level of spiritual maturity) comfort for the sake of the Gospel! As we are starting from ground zero as far as numbers are concerned in family ministry, we have to do something remarkable and with intensity and start a new thing here at BPC. It is both exciting and a little scary, but we walk in faith that our God is with us and directing our way into the future. We just have to trust this with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and move into the future with an "adapt and adventure" spirit.

Even as we begin a new thing, we continue to care for the congregation and community as needs arise, when people find themselves in the throes of grief or when family emergencies take our breath away. Our Mission team is hard at work partnering with and serving the community needs through the WUMCO organization as well as within the Daly Elementary families. Our Deacons and others in the congregation help oversee the condolence bags that are brought to grieving families and our Mission and Merriment team continues to provide prayer shawls to those who need to feel the love and hug of God. Thank you church for your kindness, service and attention to continue to build strong and loving relationships with each other.

May you experience many blessings in this New Year!

Carrie

Upcoming & Recurring Events

Lunch Bunch meets the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. The next gathering is January 14th at NOON at *Longhorn Steakhouse* in Germantown. For reservations, contact Sharon in the church office at 301-540-2544 or boydspc@comcast.net by Sunday, January 12th.

Young Adults will meet January 15th and 29th, time TBD, at *Millstone at Kingsview Clubhouse* (behind the Giant off Clopper Mill Road). Casey Pleasants and Jasper Davis facilitate this group, so if you're interested, please contact Casey at caseypleasants95@gmail.com or Jasper at jasper.a.davis@gmail.com.

Music Team now meets most Tuesdays at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. Contact Jasper at 706-405-5262 if you're interested, or you can just come join us.

M&Ms (Mission and Merriment group) meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in P-W Hall, from 11 AM – 1 PM. At each meeting, we start with a devotion, have a brief business meeting and then make fleece blankets for local charities. Some members also knit and crochet prayer shawls and hats at their homes. Contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265 if you're interested in receiving any of the items we provide or for more information.

Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, following the 10 AM worship service. Potluck Fellowship and meeting will be in Kerr Hall.



Bad Weather Action Plan

In the event of heavy weather this season, please use one of the following for worship schedule changes:

- * Call the church office @ 301-540-2544
- * Check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BoydPresbyterianChurch>
- * Check our webpage: <https://www.boydspc.org>

We will update any service change info before 8 AM on Sunday morning.

CHURCH NEWS

From the Session

From the Session – January 2020

Happy New Year to all our members, friends, neighbors and the surrounding community! What a blessed season we have experienced with fun Advent events, meaningful worship services and tremendous participation in the Christmas Eve candlelight and communion.

Now on to the new year – 2020. It's hard to believe the children who are born in 2020 are likely to see another century! In just 80 short years, it will be the year 2100!

It's also likely that you will feel like 2020 is flying by all too fast.

Ash Wednesday is coming in late February – the 26th.

Maundy Thursday is April 9th,

Good Friday is April 10th and Easter is April 12th!

We will open a book
Its pages are blank
We are going to put words
on them ourselves
The book is called
"Opportunity" and its first
chapter is New Year's Day
-Edith Lovejoy Pierce

In the midst of Lent and Easter planning, we have many exciting initiatives underway. To name just a few, here are some examples.

- Sunday, January 26th – installation of new Church Officers and recognition of Trustees during the worship service that is followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in Kerr Hall. At the meeting, each Ministry Team will be highlighting their plans for 2020, all aligning to the Mission Statement – Connecting All with God's Love and Grace. It's potluck fellowship so plan to bring something!
- February 7th is our next First Friday event which is an effort to bring the surrounding community into some element of worship and service at BPC. This evening is a "parents' night out" led by the Faith Formation Ministry Team, led by Dee Smith. We need volunteers to help organize games, crafts and food for the many kiddos that we are expecting.

*Stop being afraid of
what could go wrong
and start being excited
about what could go
right*

-Tony Robbins

- Pastor Carrie will begin to post our Director of Family Ministry position. This new staff position is a result of a very generous gift at the end of 2019. The intent is to bring a laser focus to designing and delivering family-focused events and worship to our Church. Much more will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on January 26th.

- To enable communicating our opportunities to the community, we will be revamping our website, creating more focused and broad social media campaigns and finding ways to reach the unchurched.
- Some changes are coming to the sanctuary to enable better visuals and audio. In the pulpit, the baptismal font and the lectern will be switching places. For some seated on the left side (as you face the pulpit), the lectern has been obstructing the view of the projector. We are also adding a wireless microphone to improve the overall sound quality and reduce ambient noise transfer.
- Members of Session will be researching the opportunity to gain co-op funding from Presbytery to help create new and vibrant ways to achieve community outreach. We don't know what is available, but grants have been provided to other churches who truly explore and adventure into new ways of "doing church."
- The Session and the Trustees will be considering the sale of the manse. If you don't know, the Church owns the home across the street. Manses in the past have been used for pastor homes. In recent times, fewer and fewer pastors want to live in church-provided housing. Instead, they prefer to own or rent the home of their choice. Proceeds from the sale would be used to continue funding the family ministry programming. Selling the manse will require a congregational vote. More information on this will be available at the Congregational meeting on January 26th.

LEAP AND THE
NET WILL
APPEAR
-UNKNOWN

*Taking the easiest path in life
seldom accomplishes anything
beyond immediate
gratification*

-Unknown

- We have a wonderful children-based outreach opportunity already "in residence." The ELF School holds pre-school classes each weekday. The Ministry Teams are identifying ways to intersect with these families and the faculty, connecting all with God's love and grace. More will be discussed at the Congregational meeting on – you guessed it – January 26th.

Session is excited about the opportunities and adventures that lay before us in 2020. It will take everyone's time, talent and treasure to create what promises to be an exciting year of bringing God to many families. Please join with us as we plan, prepare and host many events.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity.
An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.
-Unknown

Next meeting: Monday, 1/6 at 7 PM in P-W Hall.

From the Deacons

The deacons met on December 8th. Pastor Carrie delivered a Condolence Connection Container on behalf of the deacons to the family of Mable Sizemore, who passed away on December 14th. A Condolence Connection Container (CCC) is a reusable shopping bag filled with household supplies (plates, plastic cutlery, napkins, etc.). When BPC is notified of a death within the church community, the deacons will deliver a CCC to a family member of the deceased. It is meant to help the surviving family members spend more time with friends and loved ones during this difficult period.

Next meeting: Monday, 1/13 at 7 PM in P-W Hall.

From the Trustees / Buildings & Grounds Team

The Board of Trustees didn't meet in December.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 1/28 at 7 PM in P-W Hall.

Ministry Teams



Faith Formation Team, By Dee Smith

The faith formation team did not have a regular meeting in December. Rather the volunteers for the First Friday/ Advent Fair met on Tuesday December 3rd in the Vail Educational building to plan and prepare. Supplies were organized, tasks were discussed, crafts were prepped, and volunteers were assigned to tasks.

The first Friday event in December was our annual tree lighting and Advent fair. There were five crafts/activities offered downstairs and coloring banners upstairs. Volunteers signed up using a sign-up genius created by Jasper Davis as well as a QR code for visitors to register on the night of the tree lighting. Jasper also led the musicians. He was accompanied by Lia on piano, Matthew Ashley on bass and a guest musician, Ulong on several instruments. Carols and traditional Christmas music was enjoyed by all.

Several congregants baked cookies to enjoy with fresh hot cocoa. Many volunteers attended including Mark and Barb Stunder, Wendy Sutch-Kiser, Janice Edwing, Lisa and Doug Fieldler, Sarah and Matthew Ashley, Janet Riese, Brenda and Bob Hoyt, Norma Russell, Cornelia Burr, Marie Allnutt, Casey Pleasants, Darlene Kerr, Matthew Buehler, Ashley Baron, and Margie Smith. There were several volunteers from the community as well including Dave, Jenny and Zoe Flood (Santa, Mrs. Claus and helper elf), Kayla Winfel and Diana Menendez (young adults who came to help) helping with crafts, and Ulong a worship leader friend of Jaspers who came to play music.

There were visitors from Richmond as well as many more local guests. Children ranged in age from infants in arms to seniors who came to enjoy the evening. Many guests were long time community members and others were first time visitors. It seemed that all had a good time.

Adult Study Group – from Dick Ernst

On January 8th, we will start a new study “Life Changing Prayer” by Jim Cymbala that will take us to February 12th. On February 19th, we will start our lent study “The Walk” by Adam Hamilton which will conclude on March 25th.

If anyone who is not currently attending would like to join us for either of these studies, please let us know so we can be sure to have enough materials for everyone. You can contact Dick Ernst at dickernst48@yahoo.com or 301-540-2143.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 1/24 at 6:30 PM at Carrie & Bill's home. There will not be a first Friday event in January, but there are plans to continue in Feb. with a parent's night out.



PULPIT SWITCH... BUT... IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT CHRIST

1969 Location of Pulpit



“Why was the pulpit” moved may be the question some of you will be asking sometime in January. The Worship Team at our December meeting discussed a request to move the pulpit due to blockage of part of the wall projection by a preacher standing at the pulpit. The preacher can block the lower part of the projection particularly for those seated on the right front side of the church. The Worship Team had no knowledge this was going on until it was brought to our attention.

The solution is simple: switch the location of the pulpit from the left side to the right side and the location of the baptismal font from the right side to the left side. This switch will be done sometime in January.

When the Worship Team was formed several years ago, we agreed that any proposed worship/related changes would first be looked at through the lens of scripture followed by doctrine, and history. It was interesting to follow these principles for the pulpit switch decision.

Scripture

The Bible does not give very much guidance on pulpits and their use, or location. In fact, the Torah/Old Testament was read from scrolls in synagogues standing up or laid upon a table. Luke 4:16 and 20 indicates this type of reading. Jesus is in Nazareth at a synagogue and is asked to read Isaiah:

- ¹⁶ *Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. (Then skipping to verse 20) -*
- ²⁰ *Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.*

However, one Old Testament text from Nehemiah does mention “pulpit” which was translated from the original Hebrew. The scene is after Jerusalem has been rebuilt with its new walls, and all of Israel is gathered to hear God’s word. Ezra reads that word from a pulpit: Nehemiah 4:8

- ⁴ *And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose.*

In fact, Nehemiah says that Ezra the prophet/scribe read and spoke about The Word at that pulpit from daybreak to noon-- a long time!

History

The first churches were in homes and the practice of reading and speaking about The Word was done at tables, much like Jesus in Luke 4 above. Constantine and the birth of the Roman Catholic church changed all that with the evolution of dedicated church buildings starting in the 300/400’s AD. However, Roman Catholic emphasis then and now is more on the liturgy and “the altar” where the priest conducts the Eucharist (communion). A separate pulpit evolved then along with a “lectern” for reading scripture. This continues today in Catholic churches, but the majority of the service takes place at the altar.

The Protestant Reformation changed all that for the new denominations that came out of the reformation, such as Presbyterianism. In particular, in Presbyterianism “The Word” is central. Thus, preaching and interpreting The Word had far more significance than the altar and its rituals. So, pulpits were moved closer to the congregation in Presbyterian churches and many times were front and center along with the baptismal font. This evolved again in the 1960’s and 70’s with pulpits still in front but to either side for visualization purposes, although many Presbyterian churches still have center pulpits or even a lectern for scripture reading AND a pulpit for preaching.

Boyds

Some of you veteran members of BPC may remember that prior to 1978 our pulpit was front and center with the communion table *in front* of it on the floor (see picture at front of article). Research shows that this configuration was a carryover from the early days of Presbyterianism after reformation. (e.g. "Presbyterians are centered on the Word thus the pulpit in the center") Dick Ernst reports that the Planning Committee of 1978, of which he was a member, thought about how to redesign the front of the church and came up with what you see today. He notes that the original pulpit was cut in half and the front half today is centered against the wall below the window with the cross sitting on that remaining original pulpit. There was no significance to left or right side for the new pulpit installed after 1978.

The Worship Team could find no theological or other reasoning from scripture, history or the 1978 Planning Committee on whether the pulpit should be left side or right-side. We also talked to some of you and found no negative opinions.

Final Note: It's All About Christ!

The 1978 Planning Committee had a purpose in their design. The purpose was to create a visual flow like an inverted "V" (^) with the pulpit (The Word) flanked by baptism (the font), with the table (communion) and cross leading up to a focus on Christ. How true this thinking of 40+ years ago holds today! Whether related to church matters, home, work, or wherever/whenever, everything should focus on Christ. That concept is preserved with the change. The planners from 1978 made sure we remember that each Sunday as we meditate and prepare for worship... it's all about Christ!

Happy New Year from the Worship Team! We usually meet once a month in P-W Hall. Members of the team are Glenn Karta, Nancy Knott, Dee Smith, Mark Stunder, and Marj Turbyfill. Staff members include Jasper Davis, and Rev. Carrie Yearick.

Next meeting: Thursday, 1/9 at 7 PM in P-W Hall.

Mission Team, By Glenn Karta

Many thanks to all who participated in our mission activities during December, especially the second annual winter clothing drive for needy Daly families, which culminated on December 17. We greatly appreciate all who participated! We know that our efforts truly made a difference in the lives of many families.

Of course, our collection of diapers and wipes for the Daly families is ongoing. This month we will collect through January 19th. If you can, please drop your donations off to the Church by then. Thanks for your continuing support!

May 2020 be full of love and joy for the BPC community!

Next meeting: TBD

Fellowship Team, By Anne Davies

Sunday Fellowship: Thanks to Carrie & Bill, Brenda & Bob Hoyt, and Lisa & Doug Fiedler for hosting Fellowship in December, and to all who contributed to the two potluck fellowships.

Soul Sisters dined at Carrabba's on December 12th. We will be at the Clarksburg Tavern (formerly Bennigan's) on January 21st. We would LOVE to have you join us. Please let Anne Davies know if you can come at 301-922-4332 or nannedavies@verizon.net.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1/14 at 7 PM in P-W Hall. We invite you to join us!

2020 Offering Envelopes are in the church vestibule. If you weren't assigned a box and would like envelopes, please contact the church office.

The **2020 Per Capita** for each communicant member is **\$42.64**. Per capita is what BPC pays to *The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, in order to cover the denomination's general administrative expenses. If you choose to help offset this expense, you may use the first blue envelope in your offering box designated for "per capita apportionment."





Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who passed away during December:

- Gerard Hurley (Diane Jordan's father),
- Jesse Colgrove
- Dave Johnson (Kelley Fiedler's grandfather)
- Mable Ballenger Ahalt Sizemore
- Gay Rogers

Pray for healing:

Alicia, Ashley & Grayson, Betty Allnutt, Pat Williams Allnutt, Taylor Barnes, Karla Barron, Tom Blackman, Jenny Larner Brown, Leroy Byrd family, Aaron & Bill Cantler, Justin & Claire Cantwell, Mark Cantwell, Julia Clayton, Jeannie Coley, Larry (Butch) Curtis, Nancy & Ben Daughtry, Meghan Davidson, Dean, Averi Donat, Larry Dorsey, Doug Fiedler, Blair Gibson, Ginger & Steve Gibson, Gregory Glaude, Greg, Amy Gupta, Ken Heins, Gene & Rex Hoilman, Audrey Hopkins, Ruth Hoyt, Billy Huff, Pam Huff, Jason Johnson, Peggy Johnson, Joe Katran, Keegan, Ellen Kennedy, Kreg Kephart, Larry King, Eddie Kiser, Irene Kiser, Paul Kiser, Renie Kiser, Ellen Landriau, Sterling Large, Betty Lohr, Eleanor McIntire, Charles McIntosh, Jane Mote, Tina Norris, Tony Pirrone, Tracey Plummer, Dan Rock, Reza Raoofi, Justin Rosner, Robert Schmidt, Bobbie Lou Shipman and family, George Smith, Karen Springer, Mark Sutch, Valyn Toquinto, Evelyn Vail, Arthur & Mary Virts; those who have recently lost loved ones, active members of the armed services and their families, members of our church, those affected by natural disasters and tragedies. Pray for those recovering from their war wounds, for victims of violence and war throughout the world.

**Mission & Merriment has prayer shawls to give to anyone, church member or friend.
To request a prayer shawl, please contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265.**





- January 1 – New Year’s Day (Office Closed)**
- January 5 – Epiphany & Communion**
- January 6 – Session**
- January 9 – Worship Team**
- January 12 – Officer Training**
- January 13 – Deacons**
- January 14 – Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Team**
- January 15 – Officer Training**
- January 15 – Young Adults**
- January 20 – Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)**
- January 21 – Soul Sisters**
- January 23 – Officer Training Examination**
- January 23 – Newsletter Deadline**
- January 24 – Faith Formation Team**
- January 26 – Congregational Meeting & Potluck**
- January 28 – Trustees / B&G Team**
- January 31 – Youth Retreat through February 2nd**