



NEWSLETTER

Boys Presbyterian Church

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VOL. XXVIII

July 2018

7

From Pastor Carrie

Greetings!

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE. This is the tag line for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program of our denomination. Some of you know that the PDA is our first-line response team that is poised to respond and work closely with congregations and local mission partners to bring Christ's love and healing when natural or human-caused disasters impact communities.

Recently, I have been involved with the planning relief efforts of two places where hurricanes have devastated lives and lands. Harvey Houston Hope is a volunteer work trip to help rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. Adults and youth over 16 can register to help for one or two weeks from July 22nd - August 4th by e-mailing the project coordinator for National Capital Presbytery's mission work, Tom Hull, at constructivellc@gmail.com. The cost is only \$100 per week for room, board, and meals plus your travel expenses to get there and back.

Another rebuild, mental health, and partnership project that will be coming up will be a work trip to Puerto Rico. Last newsletter, I wrote about my and Bill's experience meeting with a pastor and some Elders from La Iglesia Presbiteriana en Levittown. Bill wrote a letter which went out in the Presbytery's Thursday Mailing and it is also included in this newsletter. There is so much need still in Puerto Rico that Presbytery is forming a mission team to work alongside the people, mainly within the 3 churches and their communities with which we are now partnering. This is likely to happen in the fall. Skilled or unskilled- there is work to do for everyone who might be interested in this mission experience. More will be forthcoming about this trip, but if you are interested in getting involved, please contact me at carrieyearick@gmail.com

Although the PDA is a mission agency working with the aftermath of disasters like hurricane Maria, the eruption of the Fuego Volcano in Guatemala and Hurricane Harvey in Texas, this tag line, "Out of Chaos, Hope" could be used in what's happening in many of the churches in our denomination. Because of the changing nature of the world in which we live and the culture we find ourselves in, churches are having to redefine the methods (but not the message!) of bringing the Good News to those around them. The interim period is a wonderful time to figure out the new and different methods of bringing the love and grace of Christ to others and how we might turn outward to meet the needs of those in our community. It takes time, a concerted effort by all, a willingness to be open to where the Spirit is taking us, and an atmosphere of innovation and creativity. I want to encourage you, in this time where there is still some conflict and chaos, to seek the hope that can only be found in Christ our Lord! God has a plan for BPC and it is beginning to unfold. Out of chaos, hope!

That being said, we have an opportunity to share the love of Christ through our hospitality in an outreach event that is coming up in the middle of July into early August. We will invite the community to a Friday “Dinner and a Movie” event (see flyer in this newsletter). This is the best time to really mingle and spend some time learning about the families who come to this fellowship event. The movies start on July 13th and end on Aug. 3rd.

On Aug 3rd, we will give out school supplies to the kids and youth who come. If you would like to donate to the school supply drive, please bring your donations and put them in the bin located in P-W Hall.



Please donate the following school supplies-
these are the only ones we need for this project!

- Packs of **Mechanical** Pencils
- Yellow Highlighters
- Composition Books- Any Design and Color
- Washable Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Spiral Notebooks (any type- single, 3 or 5 tabs)

If you prefer, you can **donate a gift card from Target or Walmart** and we will go buy the needed supplies!

Blessings to all!
Carrie

A Message from Our Brothers and Sisters in Puerto Rico

Recently, my wife (Rev. Carrie Yearick) and four of our nieces and nephews traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico during a family vacation. While there, we met with the pastor and lay leaders of our Presbytery’s sister Church, La Iglesia Presbiteriana en Levittown. You are no doubt aware of the devastation Hurricane Maria caused in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the Caribbean. We had planned to learn of the continuing issues that confront the community and how the National Capital Presbytery and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (<http://pda.pcusa.org>) may help address those needs. More importantly, however, we wanted to make a “personal” connection with the people of La Iglesia Presbiteriana and the community that it serves.

Unless there is a personal connection to a tragedy – that is, it’s “close to home” either literally or figuratively -- it just becomes part of the background noise that we’ve learned to tune out. We often are inured to the more mundane losses in our communities and nation. The “stakes”, if you will, typically need to be much higher to warrant our attention in any meaningful and persistent way, for example, like Hurricane Katrina or 9/11. For many of us in the continental U.S. without connections to Puerto Rico, we have only been briefly disturbed by the loss of only 64 lives (the earlier purported official death toll) and the months its inhabitants endured without power. We presume that life is mostly back to normal.

The reality stands in stark contrast, where the citizens of the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico will not be back to normal anytime in the foreseeable future, and are confronted with learning to cope with a new “normal.” The power grid, while mostly restored in the more populous areas, is merely bandaged and substantially weakened, more susceptible to future storms. We saw major intersections in San Juan, the most urban area of the island, where the traffic lights are still not working, eight months after the hurricane struck. Not only was extraordinary damage caused by the 150 mph winds, but the flooding was equally extensive and damaging, affecting many residents of the island.

Hurricane Maria is the third costliest tropical cyclone in history and the most costly in Puerto Rican history. A Harvard University study was just published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine estimating the death toll in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria to be 4,645. **That’s 2.5 times that of Hurricane Katrina, or put another way, almost the combined number of deaths due to Katrina plus 9/11.**

Our hosts informed us that many residents, not surprisingly, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder from the storm and its aftermath. The wind of a near category 5 hurricane sounds like a freight train, a common description of powerful tornadoes. However, unlike tornadoes, a major hurricane does not pass over in a few minutes, but can last all day. The prolonged, harrowing ordeal exacted a huge physical and psychological toll, only to be exacerbated by the loss of loved ones and the new reality of a life consumed by a focus on daily survival.

La Iglesia Presbiteriana has been trying to address the mental health needs of the community by providing counseling services, but they need help to sustain this effort. Churches serving as critical sources for assistance and aid to devastated communities are strained by the continuous, ongoing demand. Pastors having worked continuously since the disaster are in dire need of relief.

Where there is tremendous loss, there is tremendous opportunity to be the “hands and feet of God in this world.” While a necessary part of our spiritual discipline, the people of Puerto Rico need more than our “thoughts and prayers.” They need partners that are willing to make a “personal connection” and dare to be transformed in the process. As I write this, the 2018 hurricane season has just begun.

National Capital Presbytery’s Disaster Response Network asks us to join them in several ways to provide immediate assistance:

- 1) Send financial support to the Presbytery office, clearly marked with code **02-710200-50**.
- 2) Join the weekly update conference call on disaster response- please e-mail Karen Chamis at the Presbytery office at kchamis@thepresbytery.org to receive information about the call.
- 3) Provide your contact information to receive the name of a church or pastor to pray with and encourage in Puerto Rico.
- 4) Join a Work Team (likely forming in the fall) for the various communities in Puerto Rico that have been impacted by hurricane Maria. (Inform the Presbytery if your congregation is responding in this way, and if you have need for volunteers.)

Contact Karen at the Presbytery office (kchamis@thepresbytery.org) for more information on any of the above responses!

Yours in Christ,
Bill Wall



Upcoming & Recurring Events



SEMI-ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

The **Semi-Annual Congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 22nd, following a single, 10AM worship service in Kerr Hall. As usual, we will start with a fellowship then begin the meeting.



The **Choir** meets every Wednesday at 2PM at Jane Dassen's house. Contact Jane at 301-948-9816 if you're interested in joining.



The **Praise Team** meets most Wednesdays at 7PM in Kerr Hall. Contact Jasper at 706-405-5262 if you're interested, or you can just come join us. The Praise Team will not meet on July 4th.



Lunch Bunch meets the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. The next gathering is July 10th at noon at **Outback Steakhouse** in Germantown. For reservations, contact **Mary Virts** at 301-972-0161 or amvirts@aol.com by Sunday, July 8th.



M&Ms (Mission and Merriment group) meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in P-W Hall, from 11AM – 1PM. At each meeting, we start with a devotion, have a brief business meeting and then make fleece blankets for local charities. Some members of M&Ms also knit and crochet prayer shawls and hats at their homes.

Contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265 if you are interested in receiving any of the items we provide or for more information.



Soul Sisters usually meet the last Thursday of each month. The next gathering is July 26th at **Ruby Tuesday** in Germantown. Come join us anytime between 6:30-9PM for fun, fellowship, and food with friends.



Adult Bible Fellowship, led by Anne Davies and Brenda Jones, meets most Sunday mornings at 9:30AM in the Sanctuary. They do not meet if there is only one worship service.



The **Adult Study Group** is taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting in September.

CHURCH NEWS

From the Session

Greetings and blessings to you! Session has been studying a book on church leadership in today's society. "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger is centered on how the traditional church has been outpaced by society. Very compelling and interesting parallels are drawn from the Lewis and Clark expedition to find a western route to the Pacific Ocean. The Lewis and Clark expedition left with canoes, thinking they would "river" their way to the Pacific. Imagine their surprise when they first saw the Rocky Mountains and all of the rivers were flowing in the wrong direction! They had to abandon their canoes and go "off the chart" using new tools and leadership to get over the mountains. Lewis and Clark used "adaptive leadership" to lead the expedition into unknown and uncharted territory. They couldn't use "technical leadership" because the unknowns were so unknown.

Technical leadership is knowing how to use the tools and skills you have to lead. Bolsinger makes the point that seminaries have done a great job of equipping pastors with technical skills of preaching, counseling and running the business side of the church. However, Bolsinger points out that the societal evolution around us is requiring church leadership (not just pastors – this includes all church boards, too) to lean into adaptive leadership. Bolsinger contends that churches which "stay the course" will see continuing membership declines and financial struggles. Those who move towards adaptive leadership will thrive and survive. What does adaptive leadership look like? It means that the church re-focuses on its mission in the local community. The adaptive church seeks new and different ways to reach the unchurched and those who just can't find the time for church. Each experience is new, different, and uncharted, but remains focused on the mission of bringing the word of Christ to the surrounding community.

Session will continue to discuss how Boyds Presbyterian can gain increased relevancy and become meaningful to a broader audience, especially those with young children. This "mission" work is critical to understanding and defining our way forward. In the coming months, you will see new and different "off the chart" experiences. Our next large effort will be the return of Friday Movie Nights. In July 2017, we saw many community members who had never been to church and we intend to reach out to those again, providing an opportunity to learn about the love of Christ. Help is needed with providing dinner, games and more. Please consider volunteering in any way you can.

Next meeting: Monday, 8/6 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Deacons

The Deacons met on June 11th. We continue to coordinate with the Worship, Fellowship and Mission Teams. We agreed to recommend the following Q2 mission allocations: Lord's Table/Gaithersburg Soup Kitchen—\$1500; WUMCO Help—\$1500; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—\$500; and United Campus Ministry—\$500. There was also interest expressed in expanding the Deacons' responsibilities to include bringing Communion to the homebound (training will be later in the summer). We are also investigating the possibility of holding fundraiser nights at local restaurants that participate in these types of events; proceeds would be used for local mission projects currently under discussion. Finally, we discussed plans to collect school supplies (for all grades) during June and July for distribution in August.

Next meeting: Monday, 8/13 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on June 26th. There's a broken window in the upstairs classroom of the CE Building. This will be addressed once a pathway is made clear for access to the window. The thermostat on the HVAC unit at the CE Building was replaced: cost \$399. An 80-gallon trash barrel was placed on the access road to the cemetery. Arrangements are being made to repair the rotting boards on P-W Hall. Doug Smith installed a solar-powered light on the sign in front of the Sanctuary.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7/24 at 7PM in P-W Hall.



From the Worship Team: We're On Vacation, But Does God Get A Vacation?

(by Mark Stunder, Chair)



"In Atlantic City or out in Malibu
Or anywhere between, I'm telling you
When you feel those balmy breezes on your face
Summer time is the best time, any place

'Cause it's summer
Summer time is here
Yes it's summer
My time of year

(From the 1976 Top 10 Billboard Rated Song "Summer")



Whether you like the words above from the 1976 hit song "Summer," or like Nat King Cole's 1963 hit "Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer," or any number of other summer themed songs, there's no denying... it's summer! The kids are out of school, the pools are packed, the roads to the beaches and mountains are clogged, and a lot of people are vacationing or about to vacation.

The Worship Team, at its last meeting, decided to take a vacation this summer too. (One big event we are planning is a hymn sing—more details on that in the early fall).

But, what about God in the summer? Does God get a vacation? Does God take off? Of course, the answer is no, but did God ever take a vacation? Take a look at Genesis 2:2-3; "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." So, God did take a day off -- or not?

The Hebrew word "rested" found in the scripture doesn't really relate to "rest" as we know it. Instead it is the word "Shabbat" which means to "cease or stop." So, God didn't really get a vacation. God just stopped God's work—all that was created was good and God's work was done. Thus, the origin of the "Jewish Sabbath" or "The Shabbat" (on Saturday) and our Sunday: God "stopped work."

God doesn't go on vacation. But what if God did? Here's an interesting poem by Lillie Smith from 2013.

What If God Took A Vacation

What if you realize one day
You needed God's help
And no matter how you tried
There was nothing to be felt
Sick on your bed and the
Doctor's has given up hope
So with the little strength
Left in your hands you
Write someone a note

You said you look for God
And he were nowhere
To be found
At the point in your life you
Needed him he somehow
Let you down
Your children running wild
And there are bills to be paid
Drive by shooters, shoot
In your home, and now
You are afraid

So you feel like God has
Taken a vacation from all
The mess down here
Just the thought of God on
Vacation has arose
Your deepest fear
You call God with prayers
Only his answering machine
Picks up the slack
He said I'm on vacation
If you need anything it'll
Wait till I get back

When God needed you
Just to spread the word
You refuse to do the job
Because you lost your nerves
He needed you to help your
neighbor
And help the homeless out
You said I can't give away my
money

So you sat in a corner and pout
You thought you had it made
With your brilliant education
It's not helping you now
Cause God's on vacation

So what if God took a vacation
And left this world alone
Where would any of us be
When he return home?
This is how God feels when
He gives you a task
He wants the job done and
He wants it done fast
So when God give
You a plan to carry
To the nation;
And you refuse his orders
Then to him you're on vacation

Link: https://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/what_if_god_took_a_vacation_459663

Of course, God is still with us and never leaves us (even during our vacation), but here are some things you can do to worship and keep God close to you no matter how short or long your vacation may be:

- Continue to pray. Vacation shouldn't interrupt prayer.
- Read the Bible. Nothing like reading the Bible along with an ocean sunrise or mountain sunset
- Remember that many motel rooms have a Bible (just look in a drawer). If not, then go online. A good site is www.biblegateway.com
- Get out there and explore nature with whomever is with you. God has given us the gift of nature's beauty
- If possible, find a church to go to. One never knows the experience you could have. Or create your own worship service with your family and friends.

So, take worship with you this summer!

And as Nat King Cole says:

*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
You'll wish that summer, could always, be here....*

The Worship Team usually meets once a month in P-W Hall. Members of the team are: Glenn Karta, Nancy Knott, Dee Smith, Mark Stunder (chair) and Marj Turbyfill.

Next meeting: tbd



Appreciation and Gratitude to:

- ❖ Everyone who hosted a June fellowship:
 - Brenda & David Jones
 - Brenda & Bob Hoyt
 - Everyone who contributed to the Potluck
- ❖ Margaret Leaman for cleaning the church.
- ❖ John Burdette & James Marker for trimming and weeding the shrubs.



Fellowship Hosting is needed during the first three or four weeks of each month. The last Sunday of each month is designated as "Potluck." The sign-up sheet is in P-W Hall. Join with a friend or other family or two to host Fellowship between the services.



The **2018 Sanctuary Cleaning** schedule is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule. Please sign-up to clean for one month.



The **2018 Per Capita** for each church member is **\$39.91**. Per capita is what BPC pays to *The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, to cover the denomination's general administrative expenses. You may use the first blue envelope in your offering box designated for "per capita apportionment." Thank you to those that have paid their per capita for 2018. So far, we have received \$3,016.57 in per-capita contributions.



Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who died during June:

- Karen Willcox, who passed away June 11th
- Edna Reffit, who passed away June 13th
- Jim Rhea, who passed away June 23rd

Pray for healing:

Gwen Alred; Carlos Aulestia; Karla Barron; Stephanie Bennett; Susan Blackman; Morgan Bone; Nell Brewer; Michael Broschart; Cornelia Burr; Charles Shepherd Burton; Mark Cantwell; Brian Cowan; Dave Cullen; Nancy Daughtry; Anne Davies; Dean; Averi Donat; Billy Dorsey; David Frazer-Hidalgo & family; Blair Gibson; Ginger Gibson; Perri Green; Gene Hoilman; Ruth Hoyt; Tom Jerz; Joe Katran; Eddie Kiser; Renie Kiser; Joe Knott; Kaisy Knott; Sandy Llewellyn; Jack Louth; Christine O'Connell; Jim Pedersen; Nancy Peterson; Jean Phillips; Tony Pirrone; Rex Reed; Linda Reise Brainard; Carolyn & John Repass; Justin Rosner; George Smith; Mark Sutch; Grace Turner; Gene Younkin; Arthur 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 have prayer shawls to give to anyone, church member or friend.

To request a prayer shawl, please contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265.



National Capital Presbytery and Puerto Rico

Thanks to the generous response by many congregations in the National Capital Presbytery (NCP), there are strong efforts underway now to partner and assist with hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Although it has been 6 months since Hurricane Maria struck on September 27, 2017, more than 100,000 island residents remain without electricity. We have current partnerships with several congregations around the island and are working to build more.

You can be a part of NCP's outreach to create and build relationships with Presbyterians in Puerto Rico. You can donate funds or goods for disaster relief and clean-up, allowing actions like those below. You can volunteer as a trainer and/or interpreter to conduct workshops to strengthen the island's community leaders, pastors, teachers and volunteers. Mental health workers can train counselors for persons suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome from the hurricane's aftermath. Churches need financial assistance to replace destroyed libraries, hymnals, chairs, liturgical cloths, Bibles and other supplies.

Total Funds Donated from NCP Congregations



Want to get involved? Here are some things you can do:

- Join a prayer partnership or create a joint Bible study group with a Puerto Rican congregation in English or Spanish;
- Correspond or Skype with members of a Puerto Rican congregation, and solicit activity suggestions from them;
- Work with Puerto Rican doctors or counselors in mental and physical health care;
- Work with Puerto Rican trainers in housing and building repair, mold and mildew remediation, pipe and plumbing repair, rewiring and cable repair, road repair, etc.;
- Welcome Puerto Rican Presbyterians temporarily relocated to the US and solicit activity suggestions from them;
- Check with local US businesses to see whether they might be willing to donate or discount basic supplies and relief items to Puerto Rico or to specific island churches.



• Presbyterian Camp in El Guaclo

Donated 5000 water purification tablets as well as spigots (turns 5 gallon buckets into water buckets)
Nov 17



• Inglesia Presbiteriana San Sebastian

\$1000 - Adult Diapers and food assistance to local homeless (Dec 8, 17)
\$1150 - Purchased 5 battery powered nebulizers (Dec 21, 17)
\$2000 - Congregation continued work with homeless and elderly in their community (Mar 7, 18)

• Inglesia Presbiteriana Hato Rey

\$1500 for a local feeding program and assistance to local economy (Dec 17)



• Iglesia Presbiteriana USA en Levittown

Developing relationship with congregation and understanding needs (Mar 17)





Harvey Houston Hope

Volunteer Rebuild Trip with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders



Trip Details

Who: Adults and Youth (16 years and older).

What: Volunteer work trip to help rebuild after Hurricane Harvey

When: Sunday, July 22, 2018 – Saturday, August 4, 2018
(1 week, 2 weeks, or any combination over that time frame)

Where: Houston, TX

Cost: \$100/week (includes room/board and meals!)

Transportation: Own expense - however, carpools may be arranged.

How do I sign up?

It's easy! Register online at:
<https://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>

Each individual must fill out the online registration form and enter NCP under:
"Group or Team Name."

Please email Tom Hull at constructivellc@gmail.com once you have registered with your dates of arrival and departure.



For additional information please contact:
Tom Hull at constructivellc@gmail.com
or visit: fullercenter.org





- July 4 – Office Closed
- July 13 – Dinner and a Movie – *Ferdinand*
- July 20 – Dinner and a Movie – *The Miracle Season*
- July 22 – Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
- July 23 – 27: Camp Sunshine
- July 27 – Dinner and a Movie – *Coco*
- July 29 – Potluck

DINNER AND A MOVIE
FRIDAYS — JULY 13 · 20 · 27 · AUG 3
BOYDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5:30 PM: DINNER AND RAFFLE
6:00 PM: MOVIE STARTS

JULY 13
FERDINAND
DEC 15

JULY 20
West 19
EVERYBODY EVERY GAME EVERY REBELLION GREY FOR HER
ALL military wives and
THE MIRACLE SEASON

JULY 27
COCO
Disney Pixar
TRISTAR

AUG 3
WONDER

AUGUST 3RD: SPECIAL SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAYS
FREE EVENT — OPEN TO ALL!
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