



NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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From Pastor Carrie

Greetings!

It has been a busy summer despite the nature of what summers are supposed to be like- rest, relaxation and renewal! Even so, it has all been good. As many of you know, the Session has been reading a profound book called *Canoeing the Mountains*. You can read the Clerk of Session, Doug Fiedler's, article within this newsletter for some highlights of this book and our work with Tina Smith.

What keeps coming to me in my devotional times is the scripture from Isaiah 43:18-19-

But forget all that I have done in the past—
it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.
For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

God has done mighty things for God's people in the past, but God wants us not to focus on those former things, even those amazing saving acts like the parting of the red sea to save the Israelites from death. It's like God saying, "That's right I had saved you with a mighty hand, and there was none like it that had ever happened before. But you know what? I say, forget the former thing, do not dwell on the past saving event! Because I will do a much greater thing than the former thing you remember with the fondest memory."

What a hopeful thing for us to remember! God promises to do greater things starting now! If you thought creating miracles so that the Israelites walked out of bondage in the land of Egypt was good, it won't compare to what God will provide for us here and now and into the future. Have you ever seen a river in the desert? Or if you are confused or lost, a path that leads you out of the wilderness? These are the things God has promised us. Presence. Provision. Power. It's like light at the end of a tunnel or help when confusion gets overwhelming. **Our part in this journey of faith is to stay awake and attuned to what God is doing-** because God is definitely doing a new thing. **Do we perceive it?**

The very nature of “doing a new thing” involves change. That’s really a given. What the adventure in all of this is the discovery of what this new thing is all about and how we might participate with God- who is already ahead of us preparing the way for this church to be an outpost where we are sent into the world to:

Love God and neighbor,
Make disciples,
And to do justice.

Yes, these are exciting times to be the church. It is my prayer that all of us will be engaged in a spirit of adventure where in discovering this new thing God is doing, we will be renewed and refreshed for the journey ahead.

Blessings!
Carrie

Upcoming & Recurring Events



Our Session members will host an **Ice Cream social** on August 12th, during fellowship time in P-W Hall. Come join us!



A **Town-Hall meeting** will be held on Sunday, August 26th, following a single, 10AM worship service in Kerr Hall. We will start with a potluck fellowship, and 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.



Lunch Bunch meets the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. The next gathering is August 14th at noon at **Bassett’s** in Poolesville. For reservations, contact **Betty Allnutt** at 301-349-5304 by Sunday, August 12th.



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 meet the last Thursday of each month. The next gathering is August 30th at **Bennigan's** in Clarksburg. 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.



From the Session

On Sunday, July 22nd, we hosted a Town Hall Meeting to review progress and learnings on how we can be a better church in our community. As was highlighted recently in a Friday update, Session has been reading, *Canoeing the Mountains*, by Rev. Tod Bolsinger. His book chronicles the journey he and his church, San Clemente Presbyterian, went through when faced with many similar situations as Boyds.

Rev. Bolsinger uses the journey that Lewis and Clark were tasked with under President Thomas Jefferson as a template for leadership learning. Truly, Lewis and Clark were exemplary leaders. They were familiar with living in the wild. They had extensive knowledge of Indian language, lore and attitudes. Lewis and Clark were exceptional canoers – the mode of transportation they thought would get them to the Pacific Ocean. Once there, they would learn how to open a commerce path to distant Asia.

Something happened, though. They were “on the map” until they reached the headwaters of the Missouri River. Before them stood the giant Rocky Mountains. Their canoes would do them no good where they had to go. They had to go “off the map into uncharted territory.” Just imagine how they felt and what they were thinking as they looked out at soaring mountain after soaring mountain.

Their leadership skills had to change. The way their Corps of Discovery behaved had to change. They had to find new alliances with native Americans and happened on Sacagawea, a brand-new mother with an infant baby, who would help lead them to the Pacific coast. But it wasn't with the training and experience they had learned previously.

Lewis and Clark had been trained on how and what to do. They knew why they were doing it. But when presented with the Rockies, their training, their preferred mode of transportation (canoes) were useless. As the terrain changed, so too did their leadership skills and talents.

American churches face many of the same challenges that Boyds has faced in recent years. The era of Christendom where Sundays meant you went to church are over. Replaced by soccer, baseball, sleeping in, Starbucks, and so much more. Churches today, including Boyds, are in uncharted territory. We have gone off the map. We are facing our own set of new and unfamiliar Rocky Mountains. Rev. Bolsinger quotes Bob Johansen, "in less than a generation, our world has become VUCA: volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous."

Session has had the wonderful opportunity to work with our mediator, Tina Smith. Our meetings have forced us to examine our past, listen to our congregation and consider the options for the future.

First, examining our past. For decades, Session has identified that Boyds has been an inward-facing church. At the time, we were "on the map." We repeated those things that worked well. We tweaked those things that needed tweaking. We made "technical adjustments" as Rev. Bolsinger would put it. But, we mainly did things for ourselves.

"For church leaders facing this missional moment, the reframing of church strategy from a sanctuary-centered, membership-based, religious-and life-service provider to a local mission outpost for furthering the kingdom of God enables our congregations to discover a faithful expression of our corporate identity in a changing world.... At the heart of adaptability is learning. If you are not learning anything new, it is not adaptive work! If our church is addressing a new challenge with an old solution, relying on a best practice, then the solution is a technical one, not adaptive." We need to become a learning community to do this.

Yes, we sent donations to local missions in the community, but we did very few things that put our feet on the ground in our mission partners' goals and objectives. Christ Himself challenges us to send ourselves to those who don't know or don't believe. Rev. Bolsinger challenges us to think about "adaptive change" that helps us find our way when we are "off the map." Adaptive change requires experimentation, adventure, the risk of failure and the joy of success, all built on learning together.

Tina listened to our congregation. Tina held many small group discussions, talked one-on-one with many members current and past, and visited each of the other board meetings. Tina reported back to Session the outcomes from these meetings.

Session considered the options for the future. There are rumors we are closing. Please help us stop the rumor mill because, at the present time, Session is not considering closing. Tina challenges us to, "stop the chatter." If you hear something that seems untrue, please ask a Session member. On the other hand, there are three options for the future, one that does include closing. For full transparency:

1. BPC could decide to close. Closure comes at the request of Session. Presbytery does not come in and close churches (another rumor we would like you to help stop). At this time, Session is not considering closing. We fully support Rev. Carrie Yearick and look forward to her continued leadership as we go "off the map."
2. BPC could decide to just survive. Our active member attendance has fallen and with that, our finances are under strain. We have withdrawn from operating reserves (as communicated in our budget meetings last year). We have plans to continue to use our reserves. If there is one thing you as the reader of this article could do, it is check in on your own financial commitment to the Church and its finances.
3. BPC could thrive. We are entering a new period of "adaptive change" as Rev. Bolsinger describes it. We are going to try things. We are going to reach out into the community with our hands, feet, heart and heads to make our mission partners SEE us, not just get a check from us. We are turning outward, following God's request to go forth and bear fruit. Adaptive change means "adventure, letting go of the past, learn as you go, no matter what." We have to change to meet the needs of the unchurched and non-believers.

Two examples. First, our Friday “Dinner and a Movie” nights have been a huge success. We have had 50-60 people there, most are not affiliated with our Church, much less any church. Yet, few of our members have been there to help out. To say hello, to hug a child, to share a meal. For these people, church is not on Sunday morning. For them, church is Friday night. **Come see the excitement of these children.**

Second, a new Mission Statement. In the closing moments of the Town Hall Meeting, we distributed a first draft of a new mission statement. Our current statement is a full page and, while excellent in content, is not memorable. Rev. Bolsinger challenges churches to get the mission statement down to seven or eight words in a “verb, target, outcome” format. Our mission statement first draft is:

**Connecting our community to God’s grace and love.
Connect. Engage. Serve.**

In summary, perhaps we as Session haven't communicated the necessity of change to the congregation. The need for change is so apparent to us that we assumed that all could clearly see it. We've emphasized that BPC might be dying which may have alienated some because it was taken as a rejection of the traditional ways of the church. We should have emphasized the transformation of the church instead of the negative dying aspect. We leave you with these closing thoughts:

- BPC exists to do God's mission on earth; continuing to be insular and catering to our own wants and needs is not fulfilling His purpose.
- Engage and let your voice be heard. Nothing haunts us like the things we don't say. No question is a bad question and communication is a two-way street.
- No decision has been made on BPC’s specific mission focus; what acts we will perform as a community of God is yet to be discerned.

The **next Town Hall Meeting** is Sunday, August 26th following a single 10AM worship service in Kerr Hall. The focus will be how will we make the mission statement come alive.

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

From the Deacons

No meeting.

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

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 24th. The cemetery by-laws have been updated and are being sent to Session for their review and approval. The ELF School agreement has been reviewed and is being renewed. The rot on the exterior of P-W Hall is being addressed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 8/28 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Worship Team

No meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, 9/13 at 7PM in P-W Hall.



All buildings and carpets will be cleaned by United Cleaning Services the week of August 5th.

- P-W Hall will be closed Friday, 8/10.
- Kerr Hall dates tbd.



Appreciation and Gratitude to:

- ❖ Everyone who hosted a July fellowship:
 - Brenda Reid Jones
 - Our Session members
 - Everyone who contributed to the Potluck
- ❖ Margaret Leaman & Kay Curtis for cleaning the church.



We need volunteers to do **Fellowship** between services on Sundays. It's easier than it sometimes looks. Deacons make the coffee and help serve it and the lemonade. The food is meant to be simple: e.g. cookies, grapes, cheese and crackers. The emphasis is on fellowship and, while a big spread is appreciated, it is wholly unnecessary. So partner with another family, if you like, but please take a turn. Sign up is in P-W Hall. The last Sunday of each month is potluck.



The **2018 Sanctuary Cleaning** schedule is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule and in Kerr Hall. 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 July:

- Jim Rhea
- Brian Cowan
- John Repass, Betty Allnutt's brother
- Gary Wenzel
- Morgan Bone

Pray for healing:

Gwen Alred; Carlos Aulestia; Karla Barron; Stephanie Bennett; Susan Blackman; Nell Brewer; Michael Broschart; Cornelia Burr; Charles Shepherd Burton; Mark Cantwell; Nancie Kondo; Dave Cullen; Nancy Daughtry; Dean; Averil Donat; Billy Dorsey; Dick Ernst; David Frazer-Hidalgo & family; Blair Gibson; Ginger & Steve Gibson; Perri Green; Gene Hoilman; Ruth Hoyt; Tom Jerz; Joe Katran; Megan Kerr; Eddie Kiser; Renie Kiser; Kaisy Knott; Ellen Landriau; Sandy Llewellyn; Jack Louth; Marcia Nass; Christine O'Connell; Jim Pedersen; Nancy Peterson; Jean Phillips; Tony Pirrone; Rex Reed; Linda Reise Brainard; Carolyn 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.



August 3 – Dinner & Movie – *The Miracle Season*
August 5 – Communion
August 5-11 – Building & Carpet Cleaning
August 12 – Ice Cream Social
August 19 – Dinner for 8, Carrie & Bill's home
August 26 – Town Hall Meeting, 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



AUGUST 3RD: SPECIAL SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAYS

FREE EVENT — OPEN TO ALL!

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