

NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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VOL. XXVIII

September 2018

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From Pastor Carrie

Greetings!

It has been a busy but wonderful summer! From All-Church Town Hall Meetings, listening sessions, SunDate gatherings, to caring for those in need, dynamic worship and to our Friday Night Dinner and Movies, we have connected in ways that created opportunities to build trust, make new friends, share in each other's lives and be the church! **Thank you** Tina Smith, BPC Session, members and friends who participated in these events- it has made such a difference!

As we look toward the fall, we continue our structure of Ministry Teams to enhance community building, discipleship, and using everyone's gifts for ministry. Each team is responsible for a part of the spiritual health of the congregation and brings forth to Session innovative ideas and initiatives that create opportunities to engage the community and to build up BPC as the body of Christ. At this stage, it's important just to try different things that will help us care for one another as well, as share the good news of a loving and grace-filled God to others that need that word of hope. Discovering and using your God-given gifts is what makes ministry happen! We hope that everyone will either join a team or be a part of a short-term project or event so that BPC can be all of whom God is calling it to be.

On another note, many of you know that the Presbytery took a small assessment team over to Puerto Rico to meet with and listen to community leaders, pastors, church members and Presbytery staff. I was one of those people on the team and we heard story after story of the experience of trauma and we witnessed blue tarp after blue tarp, open roofs, water damage and the ravages, both physically and mentally, of a country destroyed by this hurricane and forgotten in the aftermath. I can't tell you how heartbreaking it was. But I also was so inspired by the people we met who were transformed in the midst of this devastation. Churches found their true calling in their community and the faith that it takes to be resilient in the midst of it all was something like being on holy ground. Out of chaos HOPE. They found God's presence standing in the midst of ruin.

Our Presbytery's Disaster Relief Network is sponsoring a Mission Rebuild and Partnership Trip from Monday 12/31/18 - Wednesday 1/9/19. This is an expansive trip where whatever skill you have will be used. **The need is that great.** We will be partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and working in the Añasco community. A few of the needs identified are home building repair, a day camp for kids and youth on resilience, and we will be organizing a huge annual celebration called Tres Reyes (like our Epiphany) for a whole

town up the mountain from Añasco. As Isaiah 61 reminds us, God sends us to partner with those who stand in the midst of desolation to renew, repair and rebuild the ruined cities. We will worship together, pray together, build together, laugh together, cry together and be in community together. Depending on how many sign up for this work and partnership trip, we might have a second work site in another area of Puerto Rico.

Detailed information and the online registration for this mission endeavor is at <https://ncpdrn.carrd.co>. The cost of the trip will be \$450 per person NOT including airfare. A \$100 nonrefundable deposit is due by 9/30.

We are also inviting **churches** to donate some much needed gift cards so that we can buy the needed supplies for our projects in the stores in Puerto Rico, which boosts the local economy. Visa, Mastercard, Walmart, and Home Depot are the identified cards we need. This could be an alternative or an addition to the holiday giving with which churches engage. Of course donations for scholarships to help young adults participate in this life changing experience and help with supplies are also appreciated! You can donate online at <https://ncpdrn.carrd.co> or write a check to BPC with PR on the memo line.

Blessings to all!
Carrie

Upcoming & Recurring Events



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 every Wednesday 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 September 11th at noon at **Ruby Tuesday** in Germantown. For reservations, contact **Marj Turbyfill** at 301-972-0265 or just4foxie@gmail.com by Sunday, September 9th.



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 September 27th at **Ruby Tuesday** in Germantown. Come join us anytime between 6:30-9PM for fun, fellowship, and food with friends.



Christian Education Ministry Team

The main topics at the Christian Education (CE) Ministry Team meeting were the preschool and elementary school class curricula and the youth Ablaze schedule. Dee Smith (Chair), Cornelia Burr, Barb Stunder, Mark Stunder, Jasper Davis, and Pastor Carrie Yearick attended the meeting on Tuesday, 8/14.

Both preschool and elementary school-age curricula are needed because of the ages of the children who will attend Sunday School. The Cokesbury Deep Blue "At Home with God" materials will be used. Cokesbury Children's Bibles and Bible Storybooks will be purchased for class use. It is important for young children to learn about the Bible in an age-appropriate manner. The first Sunday of the month, the children will attend the 9:30AM service to receive communion. The children will learn about communion at a Communion Workshop on Saturday, October 6th (tentative date), the day before World Communion Sunday. The Youth will assist in this workshop.

The youth fall focus for us will consist of the big questions of faith and will serve as the foundation for the Confirmation class that will start in September and culminate in worship on December 2nd. We will use the PC(USA) materials called "Big God, Big Questions." The CE Team discussed possibilities for the December 2nd confirmation schedule and decided to recommend to the Worship Ministry Team to have a single service at 10AM in Kerr Hall, followed by Fellowship/Celebration in Kerr Hall.

Dee and Mark met with Pastor Carrie earlier to discuss youth plans. Pastor Carrie proposed a detailed Fall Youth Schedule, including Ablaze topics, Lock-Ins and the annual Brambleton trip. To kick-off the new year, a Lock-in will begin on Saturday, September, 15th, at 6PM and end the next day at the close of the Sunday 9:30AM Rally Day service. The questions "What is Confirmation?" and "How Do We Know and Trust God?" will be the focus. Saturday dinner will include the parents and confirmands' mentors.

Lastly, the "Sunday School Bulletin Board" schedule for the fall was developed. This is the first bulletin board on the left down the Sunday School hallway from the building entrance. The bulletin board is an important way to provide information about the church to non-church members who are in the Vail Building (ELF School, Boy/Girl Scouts, Boyds Civic Association, etc.).

Next meeting: Tuesday, 9/4 at 7PM in P-W Hall.



Beginning September 23rd our youth meet for **Ablaze** most Sunday evenings from 5–6:30PM for a meal, a lesson and preparation for youth involvement in the 9:30 AM Sunday services. We have some exciting events planned. Come join in the fun!



Adult Bible Fellowship will meet at 9:30AM on Sundays in the sanctuary for devotionals and discussions based on scripture. They do not meet if there is only one worship service.



The **Adult Study Group** will resume meeting on September 12th. Study material will be *Down to Earth, The Gospel of Light and Life*, by Adam Hamilton. Contact Dick Ernst at 301-540-2143 for more information.



From the Session

First, our heartfelt gratitude for the nearly 60 people who attended the All-Church Meeting on Sunday, August 26. We were very pleased with the outcome and would like to summarize what was discussed for those who could not attend. Our commitment is full and transparent communication and we hope you will find this brief summary interesting.

Our mediator, Tina Smith, led us through a small-group conversation centered on four main questions. We dealt with each question one at a time and each table reported out their answers after a small table discussion time. The following summary characterizes the discussions.

First, we answered the question, “Why do we exist as a church?” The responses predictably included answers such as: to worship God, learn how the Bible can be applied to our lives and to spread the word of God. Some of the other answers included:

- Be God’s hands and feet on the ground through local mission work (not just sending a check but actually doing the work with our local mission partners).
- Gives kids grounding and education in the faith; help kids with spiritual formation.
- Reach out to surrounding communities to spread the word of God.

Second, we discussed what it means to be an “inward-focused” church and what does “outward-focus” mean. Generally, we agreed that these two focuses are not mutually exclusive, and we can serve both inward and outward audiences. Inward meaning taking care and having concern for our congregation and friends of the church, but we can also be outward-focused to our community and the unchurched among us. The central themes that came out of this discussion included:

- Change is challenging, and we are realizing we cannot be only inward or outward-focused.
- We recognize there are many different, and sometimes, opposing distractions that can cause confusion. This requires clarity of communication in the future, so everyone understands how an upcoming project fits into our mission statement.
- Church can be generational but not insulated from the ever-changing communities surrounding it and the challenges that come with newer generations, it takes time and discussion to understand what’s different versus how things use to be.
- Looking beyond what we know and are comfortable with – there will be discomfort with the unknown

Third, we considered the question, “What are the principles that we must hold on to?” The answers centered on “above the line behavior” where there is an automatic assumption of positive intentions and where behaviors reflect positivity. History proves we are active believers and we have persevered our faith tradition but, at the same time, we recognized that the world around us is changing faster than ever. This begs the question of “how do we change to outpace society around us?” Some of the other answers include:

- Having faith in our leaders and assume positive intent at all times.
- Understanding that there is a process to adapting to change or to anything we do that requires patience, two-way conversation with active listening, understanding, and most important, prayer for God’s guidance and mercy.
- Love, support, trust, adapt, respect, hospitality
- The five Lenten principles (Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission, Extravagant Generosity)

Our fourth question involved letting go of things from the past. The idea of this question was to help us identify how to move forward into the future while maintaining and serving those who are already affiliated with the church. Some of the answers include:

- Letting go of past learned negative behavior (below the line behavior is negative and destructive and lacks respect of others).
- Overcome fear of change; embrace change; anticipate the unknowns.
- Recognize that new things can be costly and uncomfortable.
- With any change like with loss, there is a grieving process. Be aware of that process and that working through each phase is important and leads to healing and helps stay above the line.

Finally, we considered the newly revised draft mission statement. Our goal was to make it short, so it is memorable and actionable. Additionally, we suggested three “action tenets” that represent how the Church lives out its mission. The first draft suggested by Session was:

Connecting our community to God’s love and grace.

Connect. Engage. Serve.

At the All-Church Meeting, participants agreed that the current wording sounds like the Church is all outward-focused on our community and did not include those already a member or friend of the Church. It was recommended to consider the following variations:

- Nurturing God’s love and grace for everyone
- Nurturing everyone to connect with God’s love and grace
- Connecting everyone to God’s love and grace

Further, it was suggested that the action tenets include “Worship” and “Teach” so Session is now considering re-wording the mission statement and the action tenets. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Ministry Team Meetings

Get involved and stay involved in the life of the Church outside of Sunday worship services! Most Ministry Team meetings are held in Pollock-Williams Hall. The Ministry Team meetings that are coming up include:

- Christian Education (CE) – Tuesday, 9/4 at 7PM
- Christian Fellowship – Tuesday, 9/11 at 7PM
- Worship Team – Thursday, 9/13 at 7PM
- Buildings and Grounds/Trustees – Tuesday, 9/18 at 7PM

Next meeting: Monday, 10/1 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Deacons

The Deacons met on August 13th. We continue to coordinate with the Worship, Fellowship and Mission Teams. We also received training from Pastor Carrie on bringing Communion to the homebound (more on this in subsequent Newsletters). We had further discussion on holding fundraiser nights at local restaurants that participate in these types of events; proceeds would be used for local mission projects currently under discussion. We expect these plans to be finalized soon.

Next meeting: Monday, 9/10 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees did not meet in August. If something comes up that needs attention, they will deal with it in the appropriate manner at that time.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 9/18 at 7PM in P-W Hall.

From the Worship Team

No August meeting.

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



Appreciation and Gratitude to:

- ❖ Everyone who hosted an August fellowship:
 - Session members
 - Doug & Lisa Fiedler
 - Janet Reise
 - Everyone who contributed to the Potluck and Cookie Sunday
- ❖ Margaret Leaman & Kay Curtis for cleaning the church.



We need volunteers to host **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.



Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who died during August:

- Joe McGinity
- Norma Camp
- Brian Carnihan
- Tom Jerz
- Jennifer Lauren Cramer

Pray for healing:

Gwen Alred; Carlos Aulestia; Taylor Barnes; Karla Barron; Stephanie Bennett; Susan Blackman; Nell Brewer; Michael Broschart; Cornelia Burr; Charles Shepherd Burton; Mark Cantwell; Dave Cullen; Nancy Daughtry; Dean; Averi Donat; Billy Dorsey; Dick Ernst; David Frazer-Hidalgo & family; Blair Gibson; Ginger & Steve Gibson; Perri Green; Gene Hoilman; Judy Howton; Ruth Hoyt; Joe Katran; Megan Kerr; Eddie Kiser; Renie Kiser; Kaisy Knott; Nancie Kondo; John Labbe; Ellen Landriau; Sandy Llewellyn; Jack Louth; Zelda Morgan; 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.



- September 2 – Communion
- September 3 – Labor Day (office closed)
- September 9 – Guest Pastor
- September 15 – Youth Lock-in
- September 16 – Rally Day & Ice Cream Social
- September 30 – Potluck Fellowship



Service & Partnership in Puerto Rico!

Come and join the National Capital Presbytery's Disaster Relief Assistance Network's adult volunteer rebuild trip and partnership with Presbyterian churches and their communities in Puerto Rico.

Who: Adults (18 years and older)

What: Volunteer work trip to rebuild and build partnerships

Where: La Posada de Ángeles; Añasco, Puerto Rico

When: Monday Dec. 31, 2018- Wed. Jan. 9, 2019

(Dates flexible on the back end of trip.)

Cost: \$450.00 (Room/Board, Meals and Rental Van Costs)

This Does Not Include Airfare

<https://ncpdrn.carrd.co/>



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