

CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.

Associate Pastor

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Douglas Heist, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

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Christian Education Consultant

Jen James

Membership Secretary

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Administrative Assistant

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Bookkeeper

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André Bosshardt

Sunday Sextons

Katrina Bucher

Eva White

Nursery/Kangaroo Room Care Provider

Taylor Craig

Child Care Center

Acting Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center

Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Another Road

By Kenneth Kovacs

In Matthew's Gospel (2:1-12), the magi from the East were not present on the night Jesus was born. They arrived (perhaps two years later) at a house (not a manger), to see a child (not an infant). When they eventually see him, "They knelt down and paid him homage" (Mt. 2:11). Of course they did. We know the carols; we've seen countless Christmas pageants. They knelt before Jesus. But pay close attention to this gesture.

The Greek here suggests kneeling, but it also means to make obeisance, to fall prostrate with your face to the ground. In the Persian world, this was a gesture of utmost honor and respect. In the Roman and Jewish world, however, kneeling and falling

continued on page 2 ↪

INSIDE

Growing in Grace: January Adult Education Opportunities. *See page 3.*

Why C. G. Jung: Dessert and Conversation on January, 29 at 7:00 p.m. *See page 4.*

December Session Meeting: Learn more about what we're doing. *See page 7.*

Holiday Photographs: Members support the Cookie Walk. *See page 10.*

"Another Road"

Continued from Page 1

prostrate were considered undignified. In Judaism, though, kneeling was reserved for one thing, epiphanies—moments of radical insight and revelation, manifestations of the Holy, the appearance of God.

In Matthew, we have an epiphany so incredible, so amazing that the wisest of the world, the scientists of his age, kneel before it, the knowledge of God revealed in the birth of Jesus. This was an epiphany so astonishing, so astounding, that even Gentiles, foreigners, people unlike Matthew, could recognize in Jesus' birth the dawning of a new day for all the nations of the world. A new light breaks forth, not from a star, but from his luminous face. In his light we see light (Ps. 36:9) and in his truth find freedom. His light leads us across a threshold into a new day, a new way to live and to die, a new way to embrace God and be embraced by God, a new way that prevents us from ever going back to the old ways, a new way that never quite leaves us feeling, thinking, or believing the same way. Pope Gregory the Great (540-604) once said, "Having come to know Jesus we are forbidden to return by the way we came."

When the magi knelt before Jesus one journey came to an end. When they got up on their feet a new journey began. Matthew tells us that they returned home by "another road" (Mt. 2:12). Jesus' birth attracts us, calls us to journey toward him; but there's also another journey, a journey that starts with him, and a journey from him, one that he sends us on, into new possibilities, new adventures, through new thresholds of faithful risk and service that we would probably never think to venture toward but for having encountered him. That's what epiphanies do—they change everything and send us across new thresholds, down different roads.

There's a custom in some European countries that on Epiphany people (often children dressed as magi or kings) go from door to door and write with chalk over the threshold of a house: C+M+B, followed by the year. The letters

stand for: *Christus mansionem benedicat*—Christ bless this house. The letters also represent Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar, the traditional names of the magi. (When I was in Switzerland, in October, I saw homes with C+M+B 2018 markings; the chalk was faint, but legible.)

As the light of Christ sends us across the threshold into a New Year, may our homes and this household of faith discover in new and wondrous ways the blessings of Christ. In this coming year, may we embark upon new adventures as a church, opportunities to take faithful risks, travel in new directions, down new roads, continuing the journey of the Spirit who longs to take us where we need to go. That's what epiphanies always do. When we gather at the Lord's Table on Epiphany (January 6), we will break the bread of life, bread for the journey, the journey of faith, following still the light from Christ's luminous face. ✚



Image: Sergiy Shkanov, "Beginning" (2008).

Growing in Grace

Adult Education Opportunities in January

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the library. Child care provided.

January 6

Balance

LED BY DOROTHY BOULTON

It was a great theme for a sabbatical; it's also a great way to approach a new year. Dorothy Boulton will share her reflections about her 2018 sabbatical. Perhaps you'll discover something new for you? Special guest Josh Semiatin will help lead a brief meditation and introduction to contemplative prayer.

January 13

Maryland Legislative Roundup

LED BY ERIC EBERSOLE

Delegate Eric Ebersole, CPC member and member of the legislature in Annapolis, will facilitate a conversation on some of the major issues facing our community and state. We've also asked Eric to share how his faith is informing and shaping his service to the community, as well as talk about aspects of his work where his faith is being challenged.

January 29

Sermon on the Mount

LED BY KEN KOVACS

Our Thursday Morning Bible Study is slowly making its way through Matthew 5-7. This Sunday we'll provide an overview of the class, with special attention given to Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." What is Jesus talking about here? Is perfection possible? Is Jesus setting us up for failure? What if "perfect" is a really terrible (and unfortunate) English translation of a profoundly meaningful Greek word?

January 27

The Race Card

LED BY JEFF BOLOGNESE

Accusing someone of "playing the race card" is a common rebuke when people of color bring up their experiences with racism. But what exactly does "the race card" mean, both for those saying it and those hearing it? Join us as we explore through videos and discussion "the race card" and other "microaggressions" that get in the way of real, productive conversations about race.

Christmas Eve Service

A joyous season celebrating Advent and the birth of our Lord!



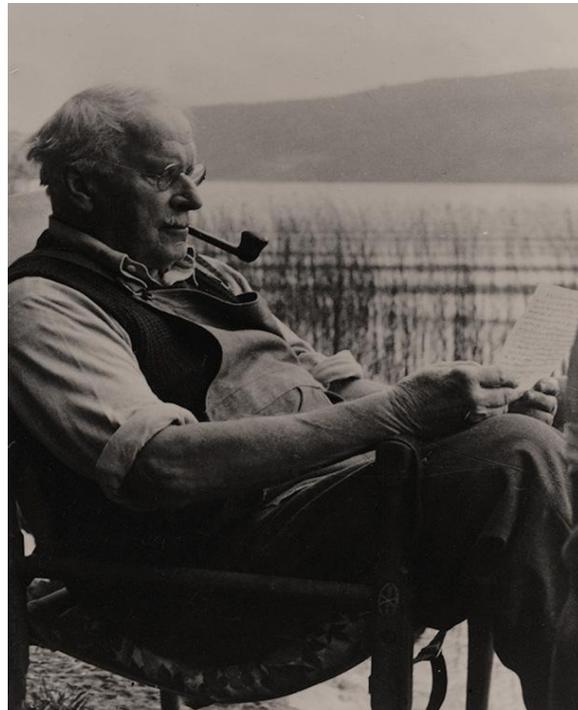
Why C. G. Jung

Dessert and Conversation on January, 29 at 7:00 p.m.

By Ken Kovacs

For the past year and a half, I've made several treks to Switzerland to attend the C. G. Jung Institute in Küsnacht, near Zürich. For more than ten years now, I've been on a personal journey of going deeper into the theories of the Swiss psychiatrist C. G. Jung (1875-1961). I've been (very) slowly writing a book on Jung and contemporary Christian religious experience. And in June 2017, I was accepted into the training analyst program at the Institute. You might be asking: Why C. G. Jung? What does this have to do with my call to ministry? Good questions. Let's talk.

On this evening, I'll share how I've come to value Jungian psychology, the difference it has made in my life, personally, as well as the impact it has had upon my growth as a Christian, including my ministry here at CPC. I'll share some of the joys and frustrations of attending the Institute, touch upon how Jungian analysis is different from psychotherapy, and suggest why Jung has a lot to offer contemporary Protestantism, including the health, vitality, and future of the church. I'll also try to answer any questions that you might have. Come for dessert and conversation, Tuesday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the France Room. ✚



Mission Work

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

2017 was a record year for the number of hurricanes and other natural disasters in the United States and the Caribbean. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the national office of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that is responsible for leading our denomination's disaster response and recovery. PDA's commitment to long-term recovery means there are volunteers needed in locations that are no longer in the media headlines. Typically a team volunteers for a week, offering skilled (and not-so-skilled labor), willing hands, and listening hearts. Fourteen CPC members and staff have already expressed interest in learning about the possibility for a CPC work team to Puerto Rico or Florida in 2019. Are you interested in being part of a work team?

You are invited to a second "exploratory" meeting for a CPC mission work trip on Sunday, January 20, 2019 after worship in the Library. If you can't attend on January 20, and are interested in the possibility of a trip, please contact Susan Krehbiel, susankr79@gmail.com.

Upcoming in January



Catonsville Concerts at 3 p.m. January 20

Performing a wide range of chamber music, from classic to contemporary and everything in between, the United States Navy Band Chamber Players connect communities everywhere with America's Navy. These Navy musicians frequently perform at the White House and for functions hosted by the most senior military and government leaders. You can hear them right here in Catonsville.



Annual Congregational Meeting January 27

The purpose of the annual Congregational Meeting is to receive the budget for 2019, approve any changes in the Pastors' Terms of Call, and conduct any other business related to the life and witness of the church.

Ahead of the annual meeting, the reports for 2018 are due no later than Wednesday, January 9. Please send reports to office@catonsvillepresb.org and limit to two pages.



SouperBowl of Caring Luncheon February 3

Members and friends are invited to join us in fellowship hall following worship for a delicious soup and sandwich luncheon hosted by our senior high and middle school youth. Donations go towards hunger-relief through our support of Westside Shelter ministry.



Winter Blues Throughout Winter Months

These cold, dark winter months can be difficult for the spirit. Come join a pastor for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and have a time for conversation, prayer, and words of support. Please contact Dorothy or Ken at the church office at (410) 747-6180 to set up a time to get together.

Newly Elected

Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Historical Society

Dr. Cheryl Thurber has been elected by Committee on the Office of General Assembly (COGA) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Historical Society, located in Philadelphia. She previously served on the Board in the early 1990s. The mission of the Society is to collect, preserve and share our history. The Board meets a few times a year at the archives and provides oversight and guidance for this mission of our denomination. PHS was organized in 1852. Learn more at www.history.pcusa.org. Congratulations, Cheryl!

2019 Pledge

Stewardship at Catonsville Presbyterian Church

We're grateful for and encouraged by the strong response to our Grace and Gratitude campaign. If you've already submitted your pledge, we thank you! If not, please try to send yours in by Sunday, January 6. We will be putting together the 2019 budget in early January, in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27.

—Rai Cary & Keith Glennan

Christmas Concert Service

Family, friends, and church members share in the holiday joys together with our service full of music of the season on December 16, 2018.



December Session Meeting Highlights

The Session is a body of fifteen members, elected by the Congregation and ordained as ruling elders, who provide leadership for our congregation. Following are highlights of the regular monthly Session meeting of December 5, 2018.

■ The Nominating Committee reported that they are making good progress in preparing the slate of new officers for our congregation. The Committee is seeking candidates for Ruling Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Child Care Council members, and Nominating Committee at-large members. Our officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

■ The Finance Committee reported that there has been some improvement in the budget deficit, but that recovery is not complete. Appeals will continue to be made to the congregation to bring pledges up to date, and to make special end of year contributions to avoid a year-end deficit.

■ Youth ministry consultant Jen James has completed the Listening Sessions with interested members of the congregation, and will continue gathering information for a report to be presented in January, 2019. Our Christian Education team is especially impressed with the sessions so far.

■ The Personnel Committee and Child Care Council have been interviewing candidates for the Child Care Center Director's position, and are nearing a decision. Session will be asked to approve the final candidate presented by the Committee.

■ Session approved funds for the Worship Committee to purchase a welcome themed banner to be displayed in Fellowship Hall after the Christmas season.

■ The Website Design Team is well into the production stage for the new church website, and will be working with our contractor, Theory One, to upload the website for beta testing in the next months.

■ Session reviewed recommendations from the Columbarium Task Force, and approved their proceeding with a preliminary design, to be located on the church lawn area between the HC access ramp and Beechwood Avenue. After approval of the preliminary design, the next step will be to get zoning approval from Baltimore County.

■ Session voted to call the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 27, 2019, immediately following worship. At this meeting the 2019 budget will be received, Pastors' terms of call approved, and church officers elected. It is vital that all members attend this important meeting.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. Session member contact information is listed in the Church Directory, so it is easy to communicate directly with your church leaders. Take a few minutes to send a message to a Session member, the pastors, or the church office, and let us know what you think. We want to hear from you!

*—David Hutton, Clerk of Session
(dhutton1@verizon.net)*

Our Financial Resources

We rely on everyone to support what God is doing through this congregation. The vitality of this ministry is secured by God's grace and funded by the faithfulness and commitment of God's people. We are counting on the ongoing generosity of our members and friends. Thank you!

—Keith Glennan, Finance Committee

Actual income as of December 17:	\$ 468,529
Actual expense as of December 17:	\$-494,308
Total:	\$ -25,779

Scouts Update

By Glenda K. Johnson
Chartered Organization Representative

Boy Scout Troop 306

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Christmas Tree Sale which was held November 24 through December 9. This was nearly record time for the 200 freshly cut trees to be completely sold out! Funds from this project are used to operate the troop and to purchase needed supplies for the Scouting program. The Troop enjoyed a holiday gathering with a movie and refreshments, a festive sweater parade, and donations of non-perishable foods for the Church's ongoing food collection program. During the holiday, eligible Scouts attended a day long Fire Safety Merit Badge class in the Scout room which concluded with a visit to a local fire station.

Cub Scout Pack 306

Members of the Pack have sold lots of popcorn and will probably meet the "High Achievers" level amongst various packs and troops. Each den's top seller will be honored at the January Pack Meeting and the adult Den Leaders will be recipients of a "special treat" provided by these top sellers. Many thanks to all who purchased popcorn from either our Pack or Troop. The December Pack meeting featured a family Christmas Party with games, refreshments, and a gift exchange. Plans are being made for the Pack families to attend a Baltimore Blast game in January.

For additional information about membership or activities, email Scoutmaster Jeff Scharf at jscharf306@gmail.com.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Our 2019 church school schedule resumes on Sunday, January 6. Youth choir meets with Dr. Doug at 8:45 a.m., education for all ages begins at 9:00 a.m.

Children in Worship

Many thanks to the Peace and Justice Committee for sharing some new sanctuary books with us around the theme of God's welcome to all people. We will be introducing these during the Children's Message this month. How might we be welcoming of people who might look or sound different from us?

Youth Nights

For all middle and high schoolers interested in participating in the play, *Godspell*, we invite you to attend to attend youth group at Catonsville Presbyterian Church from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on January 13 and January 27. All are welcome to join to learn more information our plan for putting on this production. Dinner and dessert will be provided. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Youth Group

Lord's Little People Youth Group, grades 3-5, will prepare a meal for the Grassroots Crisis Center on Sunday, January 13, during the church school hour.

Please Welcome

New Member Millicent Bender to our Church

Millicent Bender, alongside her family, joined us in November as a new member to our church. She lives in Catonsville with her husband, Mike, their son Frank, and the family basset hound, Daisy.

The family moved from Washington DC to Catonsville in 2017, and after "church shopping" around the area, they attended CPC one Sunday and really like the atmosphere. "I felt so welcomed," said Millicent. She continued in saying, "The new member class was a great experience. I grew up in a UCC church, so it was fascinating to learn about what makes Presbyterianism different and unique. I left the class feeling ready to join! This church community has been so welcoming to our family since we began attending worship. I look forward to participating in more family events and church school activities as our son grows older. I hope that he'll sing in the children's choir!"



Millicent works part-time for the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program designing leadership development training for community college leaders. During her downtime she enjoys cooking and reading. Please welcome Millicent and her family!

Christian Education

Update on Christian Education Consultant

Thank you to all who participated in our November listening groups and stakeholder gathering with our consultant, Jen James. Jen is writing up a summary of her findings and insights which the Christian Education committee will discuss at its meeting on January 6. We'll keep you posted as we seek to discover where God might be leading us into the future in our ministry to and with children, families, and youth. If you interested in being part of the committee, please speak with Jodie Virago jvirago@gmail.com or Dorothy Boulton dboulton@catonsvillepresb.org regarding details.





Cookie Walk

Church members enjoy and support the Cookie Walk on a cold winter day in December to raise funds for the Santi School in Nepal.



Website Development

By Ann Nickels, RE and Co-Chair of the Web Team

We continue to make steady progress in the development of the new Catonsville Presbyterian Church website, which we will unveil early in the New Year. We have several key milestones ahead in the coming months, including uploading content and images, receiving training on the new system, final review and testing of the website. Watch for an announcement regarding the debut of the CPC website 2.0. You're going to be pleased with the results!

CPC Calendar



EVERY WEEK

SUNDAYS

9 a.m. Church School, ages 3–high school
9 a.m. Adult Education, Library
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
(Communion is the first Sunday of the month)

MONDAYS

3:15–5:15 p.m. Tutoring Syrian Children,
Crossroads and Rising Stars Rooms
7–9 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall
8–10 p.m. Scottish Dancers, Gym

TUESDAYS

9–11 a.m. Al-Anon, France Room
9:30 a.m. Needles Group, Library
7–9 p.m. Charm City Dancers, Gym
7–9:30 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS

3:15–5:15 p.m. Tutoring Syrian Children, Cross-
roads and Rising Stars Rooms
7–8 p.m. Cub Scouts, Scout Rooms, Gym,
Fellowship Hall and Rising Stars Room

THURSDAYS

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library
5:30–6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Library
6:45–7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Upper
Music Room
7–9:30 p.m. Kung Fu, Fellowship Hall
7:30–9 p.m. Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms and Gym
7:35–9 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal,
Music Room

UPCOMING IN JANUARY

TUESDAY, January 1

New Years Day
Church Offices Closed

WEDNESDAY, January 2

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Committee on Ministry, Library

THURSDAY, January 3

7–9 p.m. Boy Scouts Committee, Library

FRIDAY, January 4

2–3:15 p.m. Writing Group, France Room

SATURDAY, January 5

1:30–4:30 p.m. Child Care Center Open House
1–4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, January 6

Epiphany

11:45 a.m. Christian Education Committee, France
Room

MONDAY, January 7

9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle,
France Room

TUESDAY, January 8

7:30 p.m. Worship Committee, Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, January 9

7 p.m. Session, Library
7 p.m. Child Care Council, Crossroads
7:30 p.m. Trustees, Conference Room

THURSDAY, January 10

7–4 p.m. Cub Scout Committee, Library

SUNDAY, January 13

Baptism of the Lord

9 a.m. Lord's Little People Prepare Meal for
Grassroots Crisis Center, Church Kitchen
11:45 a.m. Personnel Committee, France Room
6–7:30 p.m. Youth Group Night

MONDAY, January 14

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, France Room
7:30 p.m. Adult Education Committee,
Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, January 16

6:15–7:45 p.m. Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support
Group, France Room
7 p.m. Envision Board, Conference Room

THURSDAY, January 17

7:30 p.m. Dismantling Racism Group, Library

FRIDAY, January 18

2-3:15 p.m. Writing Group, France Room

SATURDAY, January 19

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Piano Recital: L. Fromm's Students, Sanctuary
1-4 p.m. Tia Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, January 20

11:45 p.m. Mission Committee, Library
3 p.m. Concert Navy Chamber Ensembles, Sanctuary and Reception France Room

MONDAY, January 21

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Presbytery Anti-Racism Training, Fellowship Hall, Library, France Room

SATURDAY, January 26

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Piano Recital: L. Fromm's Students, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, January 27

11:45 a.m. Annual Congregation Meeting, Sanctuary
2-5 p.m. Baltimore Classical Guitar Society Open Stage, Sanctuary
6-7:30 p.m. Youth Group Night

MONDAY, January 28

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, France Room

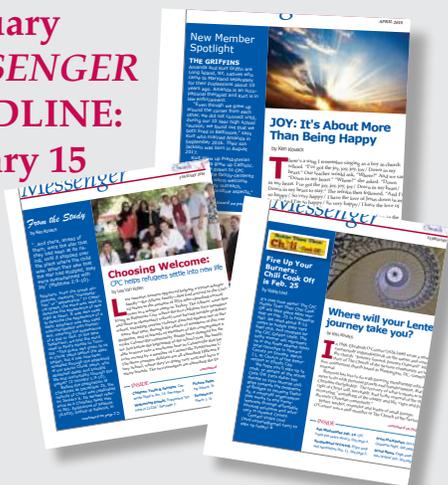
TUESDAY, January 29

7 p.m. Why C. G. Jung?

WEDNESDAY, January 30

7 p.m. Deacons, Library

**February
MESSENGER
DEADLINE:
January 15**



Send your content for inclusion in the December Messenger to Editor Lisa Roca at lroca@catonsvillepresb.org.



THE Messenger

OUR MISSION

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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www.catonsvillepresb.org

www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
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office@catonsvillepresb.org

Child Care Center

(P) 410-747-4581, (F) 410-744-5168

www.cpcfccc.org

