

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Dorothy L. Boulton, M.Div.

Director of Music

Greg Knauf, D.M.A.

Organist

Douglas Heist, D.M.A.

Interim Messenger Editor

Jen Lockard

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

André Bosshardt

Sunday Sextons

Katrina Bucher
Eva White

Nursery/Kangaroo Room

Care Provider

Taylor Craig

Hoppers Room Care Provider

Kelli Sutherland

Child Care Center Director

Vanessa Williams

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Gather Us In

by Kenneth Kovacs

On September 9—Kickoff Sunday—we kickoff another program year at CPC! Church School is back in session (9:00 a.m.). Worship returns to the sanctuary (10:30 a.m.). Our adult education program resumes on September 16 (see page 3 for details), with a variety of ways to explore and deepen our faith. And the All-Church Picnic will be after worship on September 23.

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July Session Meeting. Learn more about what we're doing. *See page 6.*

“Gather Us In”

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Throughout the summer, committees, boards, and staff, have been dreaming about and planning for this new season in the life of the church. The fall will be busy. The Mission Committee will be exploring new initiatives as we approach the needs of the wider community with fresh eyes. The Outreach Committee will host a new members class on Saturday, September 22. We will have a special guest from the Democratic Republic of Congo on World Communion Sunday (October 7)—and we will welcome Dorothy Boulton back from her sabbatical. The Website Design Team will be hard at work developing a new website for CPC, which we plan to unveil on the First Sunday of Advent (December 2). This is just a small sampling. There are plenty of ways for you take part, get involved, share your gifts and passions. I’m looking forward to exploring what God is calling us to be and to do in this remarkable community of faith.

“You are the salt of the earth,” Jesus told us (Mt. 5:13). “You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:14). When the church is truly being the church, this is who we are, salt and light. Marty Haugen’s hymn “Gather Us In,” centers on these images of salt and light. I’ve come to really love this hymn because it casts a beautiful vision

of the church, who we are, and what we are called to be. And I like it because it’s a prayer—a prayer of the entire congregation in worship, hoping, dreaming, searching, longing to be transformed and then used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.

It is my hope that this hymn will become our constant prayer this coming year:

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.*

May it be so! ✚



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 7. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received and we will welcome to the pulpit **Dr. Isaac Kalonji**, President of the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

MISSION IN MOTION:

Growing in Grace: Adult Education Opportunities in September

On September 16, we kick off another season of classes, studies, seminars, and discussions on a variety of themes and issues designed to deepen our commitment to Christ, foster our growth as Christians, and challenge us to be faithful in new ways!

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

SEPTEMBER 2

No class.

SEPTEMBER 9

Kickoff Sunday. No class.

SEPTEMBER 16

Prayer in the Silence of God.

We kick off our season with an exploration of silence and prayer. Kierkegaard tells the story that one day, “A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer was listening.” No words. No talking to God. Only listening. Listening in silence, listening to the silence, listening for what the silence has to say to us. All of this isn’t easy, especially when we do everything we can to avoid silence. But what if God resides there, in the silence?

Led by Kenneth Kovacs.

SEPTEMBER 23

Loving the Refugee.

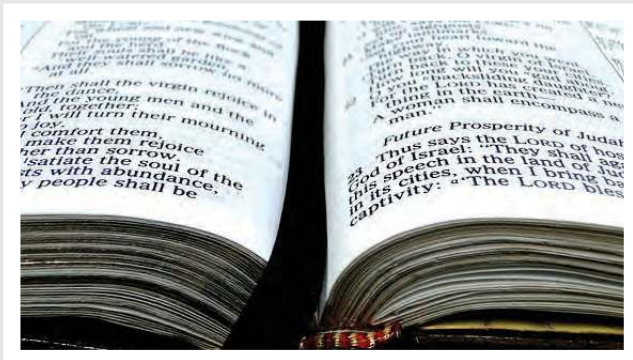
Families and children from around the world, the majority from Central America, continue to arrive at the U.S. southern border to seek safety and hope. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been responding in cooperation with mid-councils and congregations working with refugees and immigrants. **Susan Krehbiel**, a PDA staff member, will provide an update on the church’s response to the plight of immigrants and refugees coming to the United States.

SEPTEMBER 30

The Community of St. Dysmas: Ministering to Those in Prison

Jesus gave his disciples a few very direct commands that specify actions we are to take

as his followers—tell his story, feed the hungry, care for the sick and those in need—and be present for those in prison. The Community of St. Dysmas (housed at Salem Lutheran in Catonsville) is a ministry of the Lutheran Church (ELCA) that provides worship for those incarcerated in the Maryland state prison system. The **Rev. Susan Beck**, interim pastor of St. Dysmas, will talk about her ministry and the joys and challenges of ministering “inside the walls.” So who was St. Dysmas? Come and hear his story and learn how you can get involved in this ministry. ✚



ATTENTION PARENTS OF THIRD GRADERS!

Catonsville Presbyterian has a long history of giving Bibles to our third graders. If you are the parent/guardian of a child this age, please make sure that the Christian Education Committee has your child's name (as you would like it inscribed) on file. Please send this information **by September 9** to Jodie Virago at jvirago@gmail.com. Thank you!

Worship Through Music

by Greg Knauf, Director of Music

We are truly blessed at CPC to have so many individuals participate in life of the church through music! Each season provides many opportunities for those of all ages to share their musical gifts in worship. We have a congregation that loves to sing and isn't afraid of exploring new songs and hymns. How great it is to be surrounded by music each Sunday—from the voices in the pews to the music of the choirs, to the organ and piano. For anyone interested in becoming more involved with any of our choirs, please see the descriptions of each ensemble below. There is a place for everyone who wants to participate!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir regularly contributes to Sunday worship services and provides music for special services throughout the year. Our Chancel Choir members love being able to present weekly musical offerings and help lead worship through singing. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:35–9:00 p.m. in the choir room, and we meet Sundays before worship at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Our first official rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 13th, but we will meet briefly after worship on Sept. 2nd to prepare for kick-off Sunday.

HANDBELL CHOIR

The handbell choir offers music in worship roughly one Sunday a month and is a unique way to participate in worship. We are looking for new ringers this season. No ringing experience is necessary, but it is strongly recommended that players know how to read music. Handbell choir rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:45–7:30 p.m. We'll begin the season with a "polishing party" on Thursday, Sept. 20th and will start regular rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 27th.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir is part of our Church School program, involving children in Kindergarten through 4th Grade. Through the use of sacred songs appropriate to their age level, the children are taught basic musical and vocal skills. The children also learn the value of sharing their talents with the congregation, and offering praise to our Lord, by frequently participating in worship services throughout the year. The children rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Choir Room prior to their church school classes.

YOUTH CHOIR

Young people in 5th grade and higher participate in this choir. The singers in this group develop their vocal skills and

music reading skills by learning music in a variety of styles, including contemporary Christian music. This group also participates in selected worship services throughout the year. They rehearse on Sunday morning from 8:40–9:00.

As we kick off another season, please join me in thanking all of the volunteer musicians who contribute in such a valuable way to our worship experience!



If you are interested in getting involved with the music ministry of CPC, or want more information, feel free to speak to me or email me at music@catonsvillepresb.org. You may also speak to Doug or a current member.

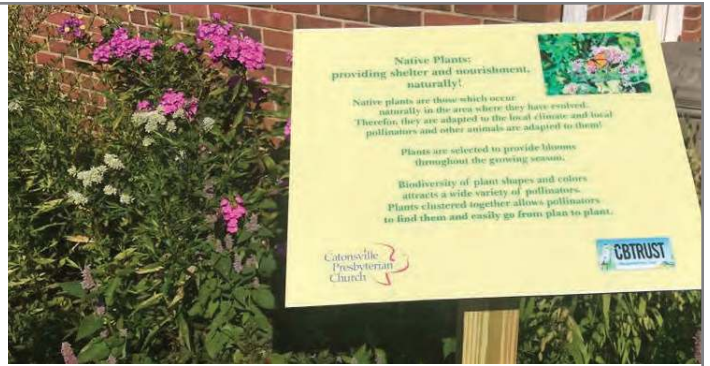
Love Getting Your Hands in the Dirt? The Creation Care Team Has An Activity for That.

by Ron Gunderson

We are happy to report that the BGE Green Grant program has awarded us funding toward conservation landscaping which will capture stormwater runoff from the garage and the adjacent small parking lot. In addition, we will be extending the design to include an upgrade of the plantings around the existing labyrinth. We are always grateful for the support of external partners!

Is your idea of heaven playing in the dirt? Do you appreciate a freshly weeded bed? Looking to make like-minded, dirty-fingernailed friends?

If any of the above sounds familiar, please join the Creation Care Team as we continue to make our woodlands a healthy and beautiful place as well as close out this season in preparation for winter.



Fall is a great time to enjoy our woodland sanctuary and the native plants around the Church House.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 9 AM

Come when you can, stay as long as you can

- Remove weeds and invasive/non-native plants
- Clear overgrown areas/prepare for over-seeding with meadow grasses
- Prepare mulched walkways
- General garden preparation around the Church House/Garage

Don't let a lack of garden gloves or fear of dehydration deter you: gloves and water will be provided.

For more information please email Ron Gunderson at cinron.md@verizon.net.



Dear Catoonsville Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for offering space for my family and friends to have our bridal shower. To be able to celebrate and connect with loved ones in such a meaningful and beautiful space was such a gift and made the experience very special for me. All the efforts your team went through to advise us on timing as well as where to place things were so appreciated. We had a lovely time, made all the more special by being in a space shared by those I love and who have supported Josh and I along the way.

With gratitude, Beth Klingaman

Life in the Community

Austin and Emily Fromm

Thomas welcomed Jane Emily Thomas on June 26, 2018.

Josh Semiatin and Beth

Klingaman were married at CPC on July 14, 2018. **Diane Doctor**

and Dawn Given were married at Kittamaqundi Church in Columbia on August 11, 2018.

Both marriages were officiated by Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Kovacs.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of **Walter Hughes**, who died on July 13, 2018.

July Session Meeting Highlights

The Session is a body of 15 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 July 25, 2018.

- The Finance Committee reported that we are experiencing the drop-off of income that is typical of the summer months, while expenses continue. The current result is a deficit of \$23,709 through the June 30, 2018 financial report. Reminders to members to “pay before you go” are being made in the Sunday bulletin and the Messenger, to remind members to keep their giving to the church up to date through the summer months. A recovery in the fall is expected.
- The Trustees gave the Session a status report on our recovery from the flooding caused by the heavy rains in late May. Replacement of the bottom 2’ of drywall will be necessary in Child Care Center areas of the basement. Fortunately, no mold has been found. Repairs are also being made in the Church House basement. The new floor in the gym will not require repairs, as it returned to normal after it dried. We have received \$5,000 from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and \$25,000 from our insurance carrier toward flood recovery, but the total expenses are expected to exceed those funds.
- The Worship Committee announced that new pottery communion ware was purchased for CPC at the 2018 General Assembly of the PC(USA). It has been the

recent custom of the PC(USA) to commission a new design for communion ware, which is used to serve communion to the General Assembly commissioners, so our new communion ware will be “slightly used.”

- The Website Task Force reported that site design is under way with the website design firm, and content for the site is being developed over the summer. It is expected that the new CPC website will be launched on the first Sunday in Advent, in December 2018.

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 Doing God’s Work

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 August 18: \$300,220

Actual expense as of August 18: -\$326,440

Total: -\$26,220

CPC Calendar



EVERY WEEK

SUNDAYS, starting September 9

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

Starting September 16

9 a.m. Adult Education, Library

MONDAYS

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

7–8 p.m. Cub Scouts, Scout Rooms/Gym

THURSDAYS

5:30–6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Library
7–9:30 p.m. Kung Fu, Fellowship Hall
7:30–9 p.m. Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms/Gym

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY, September 1

1–4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, September 2

9:30 a.m. Worship: Communion, Fellowship Hall
(final summer worship)

MONDAY, September 3

Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, September 4

7 p.m. Concert Board, Library

WEDNESDAY, September 5

7 p.m. Session, Library

THURSDAY, September 6

7–9 p.m. Boy Scout Committee, Library

SATURDAY, September 8

9 a.m. Creation Care Team Gardens Workday

SUNDAY, September 9

Kickoff Sunday

9 a.m. Church School, ages 3–high school
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:45 a.m. Mission Committee, Conference Room

MONDAY, September 10

9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Monday a.m.
Circle, France Room
6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group,
France Room
7:30 p.m. Adult Education Committee,
Conference Room

TUESDAY, September 11

6:45 p.m. Baltimore Dakota Steering Committee,
Library
7:30 p.m. Worship Committee, Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, September 12

7 p.m. Child Care Council, Senior High Room
7 p.m. Outreach Committee, Library
7:30 p.m. Trustees, Conference Room

THURSDAY, September 13

9:30 a.m. Presbytery Gathering, First Presbyterian
Church of Cumberland
7–9 p.m. Cub Scout Committee, Library
7:35–9 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal,
Music Room

SATURDAY, September 15

1–4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, September 16

9 a.m. Adult Education, Library

WEDNESDAY, September 19

2–4 p.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry,
Library
6:15–7:45 p.m. Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support
Group, France Room
7 p.m. Envision Board, Conference Room
7 p.m. Personnel Committee, Library

THURSDAY, September 20

7:35–9 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal,
Music Room

SATURDAY, September 22

9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Exploring Membership Class, France Room

SUNDAY, September 23

11:30 a.m. All-Church Picnic, Church House Back Lawn

6:00–7:30 p.m. Crossroads, Youth Rooms/ Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, September 24

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, France Room

WEDNESDAY, September 26

7 p.m. Deacons, Library
7–8 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, September 27

6:45–7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Upper Music Room
7:35–9 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room



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,

8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepresb.org

Child Care Center

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

www.cpcfcc.org



We Choose Welcome



MESSANGER DEADLINE: September 15

Send your content for the October Messenger to Interim Editor, Jen Lockard, at jlockard@ariacreative.net.