

October 16, 2020

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.

Interim Organist

Jason Kissel, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Sunday Sextons

Cecilie Nilsen

Paige Peercy

Sunday Child Care Provider

Roberta Harris

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Overflowing

By Kenneth Kovacs

Grace and gratitude. These two beautiful words sum up the rhythm and flow of the Christian life. Our experience of God's grace, love, and acceptance stirs something deep within us, something that moves us to respond with praise and gratitude. The extravagance of God's grace shapes our lives, lives that long to be equally generous and gracious.

The apostle Paul experienced the transforming power of God's grace. And Paul knew the transforming power of gratitude. He rested in God's faithfulness to love and to provide. And Paul marveled at the way the generosity of a church flowed out into the wider community. This was the vision he had for the church in Corinth: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). He reminds them, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7) – or, better, a "hilarious" giver. When this happens, the work of the church "not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God" (2 Cor. 9:12).

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Overflowing

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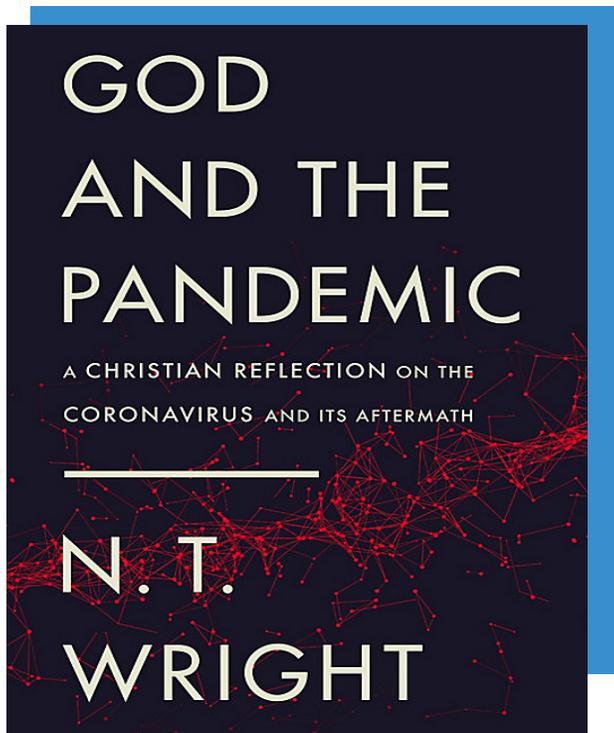
With these verses we're reminded of the importance of stewardship in the Christian life. Stewardship isn't a season, it's about the year-round, regular, even daily response to God's generosity. It's an attitude of sharing our gifts—time, talent, and money.

We are grateful for the faithful generosity of members and friends who have supported the ministry of CPC this past year, especially over the past seven months of the pandemic.

Between now and Thanksgiving we turn our focus toward stewardship. We will hear stories from members sharing why they financially support the work of the church, as well as how

their approach to giving has changed during the pandemic. Pledge cards will be mailed in early November. You will also be able to fill out a confidential pledge form through a new portal on our website. And we will dedicate our pledges on **Commitment Sunday, November 22, 2020**.

Our text for these weeks will be Paul's energetic response to the faithful work of the church in Corinth. Ecstatic about God's extravagance, Paul declares, "Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15). Where are you experiencing God's grace in these difficult days? What does your expression of gratitude look like?



God and the Pandemic

Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm

How do we think Christianly about the pandemic and how do we respond to it? What is God's relationship to the current world events? What is the particular call of the church at this time? Is this an opportunity to revisit the vision and work of the Realm (Kingdom) of God? And how will we live post-pandemic?

These questions are raised by N. T. Wright—research professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews and senior research fellow at Wycliffe College, Oxford—in his latest book *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath* (Zondervan, 2020). Join us for a video interview with N. T. Wright, followed by conversation led by Ken Kovacs. Look for the Zoom invite.

CROP Hunger Walk

Join the Catonsville CROP Hunger Walk Team or consider sponsoring one of the walkers as we continue to fight against the new challenges that leave people hungry. Join us in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year. Register today for the CROP Walk at <https://www.crop hunger walk.org/catonsvillemd/CatonsvillePres>.

Session Meeting Highlights

The coronavirus pandemic has not stopped the work of the church! Your Session has been meeting more frequently lately, and using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on October 7, 2020.

■ Session heard a revised proposal from the Trustees, enlarging the pavilion design and adding some amenities to make it more usable for church and Child Care Center functions and as a community asset. In addition, it will be more architecturally compatible with the church building. Session approved the project for construction in spring 2021.

■ Session agreed to sign the Partner Congregation Pledge from Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, which confirms our commitment to supporting conservation efforts for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. IPC has been a very supportive partner in our Creation Care efforts in the Woodlands and with our tree planting project, and we have supported them with an Envision Fund award.

■ The pastors and the Worship Team members are working together to plan our programs and worship for the Advent/Christmas season, which will have to be very different this year due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A schedule of exciting programs and worship is being developed.

■ Session received Beth Klingaman and Rick Santos into membership in CPC, and they will be officially welcomed by the congregation in worship on October 18, 2020. That service will also include the baptism of Beth's and her husband Josh's son Nathan.

■ A New Members Orientation class for others interested in joining CPC will be planned for November. Watch future Messenger issues for a date and time.

■ The Stewardship Committee is planning the Stewardship campaign for this fall, so watch for

Sunday, when we present our pledges of financial support for CPC, will occur on November 22, 2020. Be thinking about your pledge of time, talents, and money to our church so you will be ready when Commitment Sunday arrives.

■ The Nominating Committee is entering its active season and will be securing nominees for church officer positions in the weeks and months ahead. Watch for an opportunity to nominate yourself or another church member for a church officer position, in support of God's work in this congregation.

■ A search committee has been formed to find and hire a church organist to fill our position that became vacant when Doug Heist died so suddenly in July. The members are Lum Offutt, Laurie White, Tom Enokian, Reid Spearman, Greg Knauf, Ken Kovacs, and Cynthia Schwanz. Keep them in your prayers as they work to find the person who will fill this important position in our music ministry.

■ The Finance Committee reports that the church finances are in a good position for this time of year, with active online giving, support of special offerings, and controlled expenses, leading to an expectation of a balanced budget by year's end. Appreciation is expressed to the congregation for their continued financial support of our ministry.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. 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





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All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday is November 1. We will gather at the Table of the Lord and remember those who have died this past year. If you would like us to include the name of a loved one, just let us know. Please send an email by October 26 to Shirley at office@catonsvillepres.org.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.



By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 4

Peace and Global Witness

There's still time to give to the Peace and Global Witness of the PCUSA. Twenty-five percent of what we receive will be used toward continuing our dismantling racism work in the community. We've set up a special giving portal for you to use at <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/give/PeaceGlobalWitness>.

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.

Doing God's Work

■ Income as of October 10	\$ 511,706
■ Expense as of October 10	\$-524,441
■ Total:	\$ -12,735

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

1400 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD 21228
(P) 410-747-6180, (F) 410-747-7263

www.catonsvillepres.org

[Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb](https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb)

[Twitter.com/catonsvillepres](https://twitter.com/catonsvillepres)

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose Welcome

