

April 15, 2021

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

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Breaking Bread

By Kenneth Kovacs

The French sacred artist Jean-Marie Pirot (1926-2018) loved to paint biblical scenes, especially the Road to Emmaus story found in Luke 24. He returned to this subject many times. Most of these works, together known as *Les Pèlerins d'Emmaus* (The Pilgrims of Emmaus), were painted for the sanctuary of Saint-Hugues-de-Chartreuse in Grenoble. Starting in 1952 (at age 25), Pirot offered to paint for free. Forty-seven years later, in 1999, he finished this project, completing 111 works altogether. One day, I would like to make a pilgrimage to this church to see these remarkable pieces.

I love the way Pirot contemporizes the Emmaus story. His paintings are mystical and a little strange (like the story itself) yet familiar and “modern.” They have a way of drawing us into the story, placing us, seating us at the table with Jesus, breaking bread with him, drinking wine, getting lost in conversation.

Since I was a teenager, the Road to Emmaus is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. Jesus meets us where we live. The Resurrected One

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Breaking Bread

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meets us on the road, he comes to walk with us, often incognito, sometimes fully known, especially when the community of the Risen One gathers around a table to remember him and break bread and share a cup. He becomes known to us “in the breaking of the bread” (Lk. 24:35)—he’s always in the breaking.

And Jesus meets us when we welcome him into our homes, into our lives. He meets us in community, in the life of the church, whenever two or three or more gather in his name.

Soon we will be able to gather again safely. Soon the roads of our lives will bring us back together to

one place and we will be able to tell, like the disciples “what had happened on the road” (Lk. 24:35), stories of how the Lord has been present to us in this year that has witnessed so much “breaking.” Soon we will be able to sit around the Lord’s Table and share his real (not virtual) presence.

Actually, put May 2 on your calendars, 7 p.m. We will gather on the church grounds for an outdoor service that will include Communion, as well as the ordination and installation of new officers. Look for details. Come, taste, and see that God is good!

Session Meeting Highlights

The coronavirus pandemic has not stopped the work of the church! Your Session continues to meet on a monthly basis, and is using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on April 7, 2021. Submitted by David Hutton, Clerk of Session.

- The Finance Committee reported that finances are stable for this time of the year, and the budget is essentially balanced between income and expenses. The congregation is to be thanked for their continued strong support throughout the pandemic.
- Session received a presentation from one of the Deacons about establishing a Stephen Ministry in our church. Stephen Ministers are lay persons trained to provide support to fellow members who are experiencing a time of personal crisis. Session granted permission to survey the congregation for interest in the program, so you can expect to hear more about this in the near future.
- Session approved a request from the Trustees to furnish the new Pavilion with picnic tables and benches to support activities by church members, Child Care Center children and families, scout troops, and our community neighbors. Fundraising activities are planned with these groups to support the purchase.
- Session received and approved the report from the Envision Board recommending Envision grant awards totaling approximately \$128,000 to four different groups. The awards will be announced at worship on May 1. A second grant cycle will be conducted in the fall of this year to award an additional \$36,000 in grants.
- The Worship Committee is exploring options for outdoor worship opportunities as the weather improves. An evening communion service is being considered for some time in May.
- At our upcoming meetings, Session will be exploring what the ministry of CPC will look like after being dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and answering the questions:
 - What have we learned from the pandemic about the nature of the church?
 - Where are we being led to use these learnings?
 - What has worked during this year of adaptive change, and what has not worked?
 - Where are the new opportunities for growth, creativity, and witness?

Stephen Ministry

By Charre Symms

STEPHEN MINISTRY ZOOM

Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m.

Session recently approved a proposal from the deacons to explore the possibility of creating a Stephen Ministry program at Catonsville Presbyterian Church. Stephen Ministers are trained care givers who provide continuing support to one care receiver at a time. Care receivers are individuals undergoing significant challenges in their lives. At my prior church in California, I was blessed to be a Stephen Minister and provide care to three individuals. The first was a woman who was struggling with recovery from her divorce, the second a woman diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), and the third was a woman whose father was in the final stages of his life.

Stephen Ministers are not a replacement for pastors or deacons, but rather an additional group to help meet the needs of the congregation and community. Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk of St. Louis founded Stephen Ministry in 1975, shortly after graduating from seminary and graduate school in psychology and beginning his role as pastor. Dr. Haugk explains, "I felt called to the pastoral ministry—to bring Christ's love to hurting people. But reality quickly set in. There were so many needs and only one of me, and not nearly enough hours in a day. I had a church full of needs, but also a church full of people who could help. So the solution became clear: 'equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4:12). Stephen Ministry was born." Today, more than 13,000 organizations have enrolled in Stephen Ministry, representing more than 180 Christian denominations.

The process to train leaders and Stephen Ministers will require a significant commitment. In order to move forward, our first step is to identify those in our church who see this as a place where they feel called to serve. If you think this might be for you, feel free to contact me at csymms@veridianenv.com or 530-219-5810. I will be happy to answer any questions and relate more of my own experiences. We are hosting a Stephen Ministry Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m., when you can learn more about this program and bring your questions. You can also find more information on their website at www.stephenministries.org.

Magazines Needed for the Seafarers

By Glenda Johnson, Mission Committee

Catonsville Presbyterian has supported various programs of the Baltimore Seafarers Center for many years. Due to Covid-19, there is no shore leave allowed for most seafarers at this time. Because of air travel restrictions during the pandemic, some seafarers have had their time on board ships extended to over a year. This has been an even more lonely time than usual for the seafarers.

How can we help? There is a need for magazines for the seamen whose ships are entering the port of Baltimore. At this time there is a great need for the donation of magazines. The Seafarers Center provides 25 bags of magazines (with 4 magazines per bag) each week...100 magazines each week are needed.

We realize that many people no longer subscribe to magazines, but you are invited to purchase some magazines when you go to the grocery store or to a pharmacy. This

may also be an opportunity for a 'Spring Clean-Out' of your own magazines. To help with this ongoing project, we are requesting you to bring some magazines to the Church House. There will be a covered bin (labeled) the Church House porch for you to drop off your donations. We will collect magazines through May 14 and then provide delivery of them to the Seafarers Center in Baltimore.

Your donations can include any of the following magazines, which are used in the bags: Time Magazine, Sports Illustrated, and People Magazine. Copies of these three titles should be less than four months old.

Other titles to be donated include: Reader's Digest, National Geographic, magazines about Cars, Mechanics, and other Sports related topics. Thank you for your support of this magazine request.

Growing in Grace

REFUGEES, IMMIGRATION, AND THE CHURCH

April 18 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Join us for a conversation with Rick Santos, executive director of Church World Service and long-time friend, now member of CPC. What is happening at the U.S.-Mexico border these days? The Biden Administration has not handled the border as well as they could, but it is not nearly as bad as it is being portrayed.

ROOTED AND GROUNDED

April 25 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

In honor of Earth Day (April 22), we'll discuss the biblical foundations for stewardship of the earth. We will give special attention to the symbol of the tree as found throughout the Bible, and we'll discuss our own personal connection with trees and what they can teach us about the life of faith. Led by Ken Kovacs.

Dismantling Racism Committee

A new initiative of the Dismantling Racism Committee is the purchase of books showing diversity, tolerance, and acceptance. The Dismantling Racism Committee is aware that attitudes are formed early, so the idea took shape of finding children's books showing diversity and inclusion in pictures and stories. Nancy Henderson and Jeanne Mueller have led the effort to find such books and ways to distribute them. To begin, they would purchase books for Catonsville Presbyterian Church (for the back of the sanctuary and classrooms), Grace AME Church, the CPC Child Care Center, and Catonsville Elementary School. Plans include purchasing paperback books to be used at the House of Ruth. Preference for purchasing the books would be from minority owned businesses. This is a pilot project and will be adjusted as time goes on. Thanks to the Peace and Justice Committee for supporting this effort.

SAVE THE DATE

May 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. via Zoom.

The Dismantling Racism Committee will host a video viewing and discussion focusing on the current and historic roots of racism faced by the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and highlighted in the #StopAsianHate and #StopAAPIHate movements. Register for the May Video Discussion at <https://catonsvillepres.org/event/dismantling-racism-may-video-discussion/>.

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

■ Income as of April 10, 2021	\$ 202,835
■ Expense as of April 10, 2021	\$ -196,210
■ Total:	\$ 6,625

Thursday Morning Bible Study

A STUDY OF PHILEMON

Returns April 15 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

Philemon – consisting of 335 words, it's the third shortest book in the Bible. But when was the last time you heard a sermon on Philemon, studied it in a group, or even read it? Our guide will be Brodgon's recent book *A Companion to Philemon* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018). Copies will be available for purchase in the church house (\$21). It's also available on Kindle (\$9.99). ~Ken Kovacs

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.catonsvillepres.org

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

[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

