



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 55, Issue 3, April 2015

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Session, we are writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity we have to take a fresh look at our sanctuary and how it might better accommodate the way we use it today.

Since our sanctuary was built in 1872, a lot about the way we use this space has changed. Over time, we have made improvements to accommodate those changes. Most of the renovations took place in 1929 when the pipe organ was installed and in 1952 when we added the Christian Education building.

The intervening 60 years have seen changes in how we worship and use this space. We think it is time to consider whether there are additional ways we could improve the space for today's use.

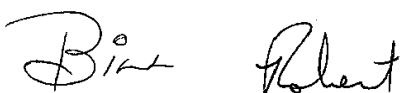
Last winter, we started making cosmetic improvements to the sanctuary, completing the plaster repair and painting just before Easter. We had also planned to replace our well-worn carpet but decided to hold off until we could consider more comprehensively how we might improve the functionality of the space.

In the meantime, an architect from Pittsburgh named Joel Cluskey came to our attention through local organ builder and Emmanuel Episcopal organist, Mark Steiner. He has worked with Joel on several sanctuary renovation projects.

Joel brings an impressive set of qualifications to this work. He has a Masters degree in Architecture with a Specialization in Historic Preservation from the University of Illinois. He is the President of RSH Architects in Pittsburgh, where 25% of their projects involve building or renovating churches. Joel is also a musician and a faithful church member. His avocation is renovating player pianos.

After a series of conversations and a face to face meeting, Session voted to engage Mr. Cluskey to do a feasibility study for possible improvements to the sanctuary. Session also voted to appoint a committee with broad representation from the congregation to review and consider his suggestions.

At this point, we are not committed to making any changes to the sanctuary. Only after we have some conceptual drawings to consider can we begin to assess whether we want to move forward. We expect this part of the process to take about two to three months. In the meantime, we will keep you informed about what is happening and answer any questions you might have.



Bill McElvie and Bob Courtney,
Co-Chairs, Buildings and Grounds Committee



Caroline M. Kelly
Pastor



BIRTHDAYS!

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Bill Workman | 4/3 |
| Chris Gallo | 4/5 |
| Rich Luger | 4/10 |
| Eleaner Johnson | 4/13 |
| Nancy Hodges | 4/14 |
| Bob Kazary | 4/14 |
| Ann Kellermeyer | 4/14 |
| Gwen Harris | 4/15 |
| Matt Young | 4/15 |
| Mary Gallion | 4/17 |
| Brenda Luger | 4/17 |
| Andie Gambrel | 4/19 |
| Dale Corley | 4/22 |
| Joyce Macy | 4/25 |
| Sue Scott | 4/28 |

JOYS AND CONCERNS

† *Sympathy and prayers for Amado Torres and family on the death of Jane Torres on March 23, 2015.*



*May God
Grant you Comfort
and Peace*

MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 8:15 p.m. on Thursday, **March 12, 2015**, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Carolyn Mathews served as Clerk.

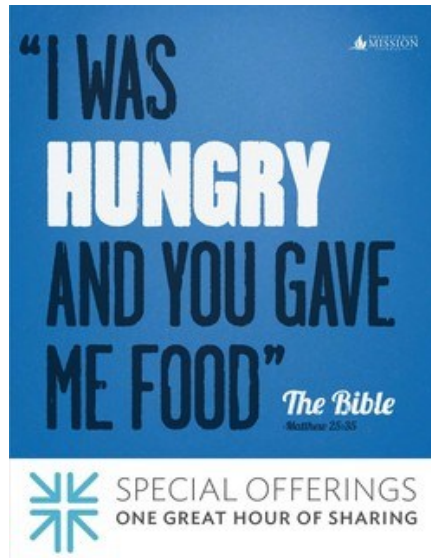
The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the recommendations of the Worship and Music Committee nunc pro tunc to serve communion at home on Sunday, March 1, 2015, by Ruling Elders Kathy Wilhelm and Nancy Hodges to Lena Maas and Lydia Martin and by Ruling Elders Michael Levitas and Carolyn Mathews to Amado Torres at Devlin Manor and Jane Torres at WMHC ICU.
- Approved the serving of communion at the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5, 2015.
- Approved the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee to hire RSH Architects to perform a feasibility study that would provide recommendations to redesign the Sanctuary to be completed in 8 weeks at a cost of \$9,500. This study would be funded from the Property Improvement Fund which has a current balance of \$20,429 (see page 1 for more information).
- Approved the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee to establish a Sanctuary Project Committee to (1) work with the architect and to develop a recommendation to the Session of the final design; (2) support a fundraising campaign for the improvements should the project go forward; and (3) oversee construction of the project. The committee should be made up of a representative from each of the five standing committees (selected by each committee) and up to three additional members of the congregation selected by the Session.
- Approved the year to date financials as of February 28, 2015.

(Session Highlights continues on page 3.)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) supports ministries designed to address these needs and gives us a way to share God's love with our neighbors. OGHS, received on Easter Sunday, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

- Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised

Presbyterian Hunger Program

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access for entire communities to sufficient and healthy food
- Receives 36% of funds raised

Self-Development of People

- Partners with people and communities, leveraging development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice
- Receives 32% of funds raised

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, we have the opportunity to contribute to this special Offering. Please give generously!

*(Session Highlights
continued from page 2)*

In addition, the Session heard:

- A report from Kaitlyn Kauffman that a multi-church Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages for June 22-26 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- A report from Kathy Dowell that there are plans underway for small group dinners this spring.
- A report from Sandi Rowland on grant money coming from Baltimore Presbytery's Self Development of People Committee to the Mountain Fresh Producers Market to expand its farmers' markets and bring fresh fruit and vegetables to South Cumberland.
- A report from Sandi Rowland that the group "Students Today, Leaders Forever" will be staying overnight in our church on Saturday, March 14.

A reminder that the next Stated Session Meeting will be on **April 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of Session or the Moderator.



Like us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

THREE GATHERINGS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

If you enjoyed the time spent with other Presbyterian women at our Retreat, or weren't able to make it, consider these three Gatherings to meet sisters-in-faith in wider settings. They are open to all women, not just those in a PW group.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Baltimore

“Mosaic of Peace”

Featuring Eva Hendrix-Shovlin,
a participant of the Israel Palestine PC(USA) Mosaic of Peace Conference.

Saturday, April 25, 2015 (9am to 1pm)
Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church
4640 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, MD 21229, (410) 566-2926.

Cost for registration and brunch is \$12. **Registration deadline is April 18, 2015.**
Bring non-perishable canned goods and/or laundry detergent.

Bring your daughters, nieces, sisters, god-daughters, or neighbors

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Baltimore

SPRING GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM – 2015

Name of Church _____

Registration & Brunch: \$12 per person Number to attend: _____

Make checks payable to PWP/Baltimore _____ Amount enclosed

Need childcare for _____ children, ages _____

(Please provide your child with a packed lunch)



(Three Gatherings, continues on page 5)

(Three Gatherings, continued from page 4)

**The Summer Gathering of Presbyterian Women
in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic**

June 12-14, 2015

Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA.
“Living Water”



See the brochures on the table beside the church office for details. Workshops include: People of Color Trapped in the American Justice System; Hand bell Techniques; Spent: Act Your Wage; Language of the Mystics; the Caribbean Global Exchange experience; Bible Study tips; No to Prisons, Yes to Caring Communities; and more.

* Childcare for ages 3-8 is provided.

* Costs for 2 nights/5 meals start at \$285 for double occupancy, early registration (before April 25).

**The Triennial Summer Churchwide Gathering
of Presbyterian Women**

June 18-21, 2015

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis, MN.
“One Body, One Spirit”.



This Gathering includes women from all over the globe, as many as 5,000 in the past! That makes for some beautiful singing, and an inspiring communion experience. Includes worship, international crafts for sale, fun activities, workshops, mission partner displays (Veeda from PEB in Pakistan usually attends).

Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for more information.

Check with Linda Smith for more information or with questions about any of these Gatherings.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Seventeen women traveled to the Peterkin Camp and Conference Center in Romney, WV on March 13, 2015, for the second annual First Presbyterian Women’s Retreat.

The theme was “Your Body – God’s Temple: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”. Pastor Caroline led us in worship and a scripture study on:

- Genesis 1
- Psalm 139
- I Corinthians 6:19-20

Laura Fiscus lead two sessions of gentle yoga and stretching.

Julie Courtney presented a study of body image, a comparison of Esther and the bride of Song of Solomon and a guided meditation. Our time (just under 24 hours together) was interspersed with healthy, tasty snacks, conversations, meals, walks, quiet journaling, lively games, laughter and prayer.

We hope more women will join us for our next retreat.



**Watch us live on Livestream- Sundays
at 11 a.m.**

*You can either sign up through your email
address or Facebook account.*

new.livestream.com/accounts/4246707

TABLES FOR SIX

During the months of May through August, members and friends of our congregation have the opportunity to gather together to enjoy each other's company. This is a purely social activity organized with the blessing of Session and the Congregational Care and Outreach Committee to encourage us to become acquainted with people we do not know well and with friends we see regularly but rarely outside of worship and other church activities.

The expectation is that each group of couples, singles, partners, and friends would meet several times during the spring and summer months. Members of each group would take turns being responsible for organizing an evening or an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship.

If you are willing to have a meal with four or five guests either in your home, or at a restaurant, or at a picnic in one of our parks, please sign up before **April 28th** by returning the form below to the church office or by placing it in the collection plate during Sunday worship.

We will organize all persons responding into groups of six people, ready to enjoy each other's company during the spring and summer months. You will be contacted during the first week of May with a list of the people in your group. The first person/persons on your list will be responsible for organizing your first Table for Six.

If you are interested in joining a Table for Six this spring and summer,
please contact the church office at 301-777-3700.

DEADLINE: APRIL 28, 2015



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

The First Sunday Feast has now been changed to the First Sunday Food and Fellowship. Instead of meeting before church in the Library, we have decided to stay after worship and fellowship with one another. The goal is to linger after worship and catch up with old friends and make new friends. Feel free to bring cookies and snacks. Hope to see you there!

AN UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR



Friends,

Many wonderful things have happened this month in the Youth Ministry and we continue to be showered with blessings.

Joint Youth/Congregation North Korea Book Study: On March 22, we held our second book study. Both the youth and adults from the congregation are having a great time learning together and from each other about life in North Korea. This month we specifically looked at life in typical towns, the complex family structure, and education inside the “hermit kingdom”. It is not too late to join us! Our next meeting will be on Sunday April 19 from 5:30-7:00pm.

Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) Event at First Presbyterian: On Tuesday March 3, LiNK visited our church to talk about the situation in North Korea and ways in which we can be involved. LiNK is a nonprofit group that strives to educate people about the situation in North Korea as well as rescue and transition refugees from North Korea. The Youth and Book Study group will be participating in their new campaign, “TO: The North Korean People”, where we will be recording messages of support for the people of North Korea. LiNK will arrange to have them broadcast via radio into the country.

Sunday Night Youth Group: We continue to explore our theme for the spring of being the “dirty hands and feet of Jesus”. Currently, we are exploring what it means to be a servant by looking at the example of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Blessings,

Robby

SAVE THE DATE!!!



On **June 22-26** we will be joining St. Paul’s Lutheran, Emmanuel Episcopal, Souls Won, and Metropolitan AME churches to co-host Vacation Bible School at St. Paul’s Lutheran church from 5:30 PM-8:00 PM. This year’s theme is “**Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace.**” At 5:30 PM children will be served dinner and at 6:00 PM group activities will begin.

More information about this exciting adventure for children and ways for adults to get involved will be included in future newsletters and bulletins. Please share with your younger friends and neighbors who might be interested in attending. And we are looking for youth to volunteer as assistant Tribe Leaders.

Please contact Julie Courtney or Kaitlyn Kauffman for details.

P.S. Coming soon is a list of items which you can donate for VBS.

You can give these items to Julie Courtney at any time between now and June 14.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THE THREE DAYS

Join us for the final three days of Holy Week which complete the commemoration of Christ's Passion, engaging us from Thursday until Sunday in a unified act. What happens on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil forms a continuous dramatic story. Resurrection cannot be understood apart from Christ's self-giving in crucifixion and at the Lord's Supper. Therefore, Easter needs Good Friday and Maundy Thursday to be fully understood. The Easter Vigil, the Queen of Feasts, ties together the entire Holy Week focusing on God's plan to save humankind and the meaning of our baptism into the Church of Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP DURING THE THREE DAYS

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 2, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Our service will commemorate Jesus' last meal with his disciples, including communion and the option of foot washing, prayers for healing, and anointing hands for service, music offered by the choirs of all three churches, and concluding with the stripping of the church and the extinguishing of candles.

Good Friday -7:00 p.m., Friday, April 3, at First Presbyterian Church

Our service will be contemplative and will include a dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative according to John, a time for venerating the cross, and music offered by all three churches.

Easter Vigil -7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 4, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Our service will anticipate the resurrection by recalling the foundational stories of our faith. We begin with a bonfire outside and then go inside to hear stories like the Exodus, Jonah and the Fish, and the Valley of the Dry Bones, dramatized with puppets, musical instruments, costumes and fun songs.

EASTER/RESURRECTION OF THE LORD SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:00 a.m. – Our sunrise service at Rocky Gap State Park will feature the story of the resurrection according to Mark's Gospel, a brass quartet and communion, followed by breakfast snacks and warm drinks.

10:00 a.m. – Join us for breakfast snacks and other Easter goodies in the library prior to the 11:00 a.m. worship service. How have you experienced Christ's gift of new life? Bring a resurrection story of your own to share.

11:00 a.m. – Our worship service will feature the story of the resurrection according to Mark's gospel, communion, and music offered by the Sanctuary Choir and a string ensemble.

Please note that there will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday!

MUSIC FOR THE THREE DAYS

Maundy Thursday

The choral anthems are two settings of the beautiful plainchant “Ubi Caritas,” (Where charity and love are found, God is there.), one by French 20th century composer, Maurice Durufle and one from the Taize Community. The familiar and poignant “Ave Verum Corpus” of W.A. Mozart will be paired with an early setting by G. Palestrina, “O Holy Jesus.” The joint choir of 35 singers from all three churches will offer the choral music.

Good Friday

The music focuses on the crucifixion and the Day of Mourning. Appropriately, Mozart’s “Lacrymosa” from the “Requiem” contains the exact text of Mourning. This beautiful movement will be paired with a vivid depiction of the walk and the act of the crucifixion. “Go to Dark Gethsemane” by T. Tertius Noble will dramatically depict the Crucifixion. The joint choir of 35 singers from all three churches will offer the choral music.

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Triumph! Resurrection! Joyous Praise! The music of Easter is heard and proclaimed throughout Christendom with joyous song and trumpet fanfare! We welcome our string quintet from the Maryland Symphony and our timpanist from Frostburg State University!

Beginning our 11am service will be one of W.A. Mozart’s Church Sonatas, “Sonata in A Major,” K. 225, composed for organ and strings. These dance-like pieces exude joy.

Our Anthem this Easter is from the hand of Paul Halley, composed while he was Organist at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. This setting of “Wondrous Love” builds its way from an intimate setting to a triumphant setting at the end with long flourishes of full organ, strings and percussion.

“Messiah” needs no explanation. This magnificent oratorio epitomizes the celebration of Christmas and our Feast of Easter. Written in only 24 days, the entire *Messiah* work captures the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord. This Easter the beautiful soprano aria, “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” will be sung by Mikayla Dodge as the Offertory Solo. The service will then conclude with the singing of the triumphant “Hallelujah,” welcoming members of the congregation to come to the choir loft and join in this familiar mainstay of this Easter celebration.

FPC welcomes the students of FSU United Campus Ministries to worship on April 12

Students from FSU United Campus Ministry (UCM) are coming to participate in our service!

UCM provides Bible study, fellowship, worship events, and outreach to the students at FSU, many of whom are far from home. Through the Mission Committee our church has had a long connection with UCM. We have provided financial support for over 20 years.

Last year alone our contribution to this local mission was \$625.00. We also participate in the December Cram Pack program which provides encouragement and snacks to students during finals week. UCM is advised by Rev. Cindy Zirlott who led our worship service just last month on March 22nd. A nice number of students will enhance our worship service on April 12 with dance, song and testimony.

Please welcome the energy and worship leadership of these young people as God works in their lives and ours.



First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

April

Address Service Requested



Worship Calendar

- April 2:** 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Emmanuel Episcopal
- April 3:** 7:00 PM Good Friday Service at First Presbyterian
- April 4:** 7:00 PM Easter Vigil at St. Paul's Lutheran
- April 5:** **Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Sunday**
7:00 AM Sunrise Service: Rocky Gap
10:00 AM Easter Food and Fellowship
11:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion
- April 12:** 11:00 AM Worship - UCM Worship Leaders
Second Sunday in Easter
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2; 2 John 20:19-31
- April 19:** 11:00 AM Worship
Third Sunday in Easter
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
1John 3:1-7 ; Luke 24:6b-48
- April 26:** 11:00 AM Worship
Fourth Sunday in Easter
Acts 4:5-12 ; Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18