"An Early Thanksgiving"
Rev. Caroline Kelly

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

– Letter to the Philippians 1:3-6.

It’s not Thanksgiving yet, but why wait when there is so much for which we have to be thankful right now? I am filled with joy as I look around and see how God is present and active in our congregation. Thank you, God, for:

- Our youth and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Robby May, who led worship on September 25th and shared the good news of how God worked in their lives through their mission experiences this summer.
- Our newest members and the ways they model faithfulness both within and beyond the walls of the church.
- Our young adults and the group they have recently formed for fellowship and mutual support.
- Our choir and new Director of Music Ministries, Bryan Lohr, whose passion for leading worship through music is evident by the way the choir continues to grow and the way in which the music fully embraces the variety of traditions available to us.
- Our Faith Formation Team (formerly Christian Education Committee) and their willingness to help us think about how best to grow in faith together.
- Our Stewardship Committee, chaired by Kathy Getty, who will lead us in exploring our understanding of the relationship between grace (what God does) and gratitude (how we respond to God’s grace).
- Our continuing partnership with Emmanuel Episcopal, as we prepare to host our third community-wide Halloween on the Hill together on October 29.
- Our Mission Committee and their renewed efforts to engage us in relationship-building opportunities here in Cumberland, like serving at the monthly HRDC Outreach Dinners and as ally partners for Cumberland’s “Bridges to Opportunity”.
- For our Exec. Administrative Assistant, Brittany Jackson, who brings our ability to communicate with you into the 21st century today with the creation of our first truly electronic newsletter.

For these ways and so many more, I give thanks for our ministry together! Hope to see you Sunday!
September Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2016, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. David Stickler served as Clerk Pro Tem. The Session heard:

- From Rev. Kelly an appreciation of the dedication and diligence of the church’s staff.
- From Rev. Kelly and Bryan Wodaski on the Presbytery Gathering held on September 15, the same day, in Bel Air.

Session had a discussion led by Rev. Kelly of current challenges and opportunities facing First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. Some challenges are our aging population, busy schedules, our distance from Presbytery and our lack of young people. Things to celebrate were New Beginnings projects, Pam Jan’s efforts in Bridges to Opportunity, our staff, music ministries, collaboration with the other Hill churches, growth in relationships, community outreach, and taking chances. Our opportunities are Milestone Ministry, elder training, ecumenical efforts and taking more chances. If you have any questions please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

2017 Stewardship Campaign: Fall Fellowship Dinners

Dear Friends:

This year’s Stewardship dinners are taking shape as we plan for the opportunity to break bread with other members, learn more about our Church’s financial health and the role your giving will play in constructing the 2017 budget. The host will provide the main course, and you are asked to bring side dishes, bread, beverages or desserts.

Those who have agreed to host dinners and their dinner dates are as follows:

Sunday, October 23rd: Fellowship Hall at 12:15PM (Co-hosted by Shirley Giaritta and Deb McElvie)

Sunday, October 30th: Phil and Tracey Klickman’s home in Cumberland at 6:00PM

Please complete your dinner reservation below and include it in the offering plate or give it to Brittany Jackson in the church office.

Fall Fellowship Dinners

Name:__________________________________________

I/We would like to attend a dinner on:

Sunday, October 23rd at 12:15PM: ______________

Sunday, October 30th at 6:00PM: ______________

I will bring:__________________________________________
During this Stewardship Season, we hope to explore our understanding of the relationship between grace (what God does) and gratitude (how we respond to God’s grace). Everything that we are and everything that we have comes from God. When we embrace stewardship as a way of life, as a spirituality, we deepen in our gratitude to our loving and giving God.

During worship in the months of October and early November, some of our fellow parishioners will share their personal stories of faith and how God and our church have impacted their lives. Also in the month of October, we will once again have small group Stewardship dinners which we encourage everyone to attend. We learned last year how those dinners promoted fellowship and gave us an opportunity to understand our church’s financial condition and how our giving impacts our mission.

We thank you for your past ministry of giving and ask that you again prayerfully reflect on the financial support that you may provide in 2017. Your pledges represent the largest component of the church’s budget. With your support we can plan our priorities for both our ministry and mission.

One way to express our gratitude to God is by imitating the giver of the gift. We thank God by doing for another what God has done for us first. As we share our gifts generously and joyfully with one another, we are imitating God himself and thus giving him the highest form of praise possible. So let’s embrace this year’s stewardship theme – Giving with Gratitude. Thank you.

Stewardship Chair
Kathy Getty
200TH ANNIVERSARY
TIME CAPSULE
DEDICATION

On October 9th, 2016, a small steel time capsule will be installed at First Presbyterian Church on Washington Street in Cumberland. Plans to preserve an assortment of church, local, and national artifacts began in 2010 when the church celebrated its 200th year of service to the community.

On October 2nd, congregational members were able to view a screening of the three dozen items contained in the capsule. On Sunday, October 9th, the capsule will be sealed inside a memorial bench designed for a storage task of nearly one hundred years.

October 2110 is set for the unsealing of the capsule’s photos, objects, and publications chosen to capture the imagination of locals enjoying life in the 22nd century.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY KICK-OFF

On Friday September 30th, 12 young adults from our congregation joined together at the home of Jim and Caroline Kelly to form a new Young Adult Group. The group enjoyed dinner together and 4 hours of conversation and laughter around the table. The group will be meeting once a month on the last Friday (except in November and December when they will meet on the 3rd Friday) on a rotating basis at the home of one of the group members. If you are interested in learning more about this group, please contact Robby May.
An Update from the Youth Ministry Coordinator

Friends:

The school year is now back in full swing and our youth, who are involved in a million different activities, are busy as ever. As you may know, I, too, am now back in the classroom teaching History and Government at Fort Hill High School. After a few years out of the classroom, it feels great to be back!

Our school year Youth activities officially kicked off at Rocky Gap at the Fall Kickoff. What a beautiful day we had! The youth enjoyed multiple games with a giant ball (6 feet tall) and some kayaking on the lake. I’m sure you’ll agree with me that it was a great day.

Much of our time this month was spent preparing for Youth Sunday, which was held on September 23. This was my third Youth Sunday with you, and while it is a lot of work to put together, every year I enjoy it more and more. Thank you for allowing our youth to lead worship and being such strong models of faith for them. It is so important that we as a church family integrate them into our worship practices as often as possible. I hope you enjoyed the service as much as I did.

Our first official Sunday evening Youth Group of the year will kick off on Sunday October 9th. As a reminder, we meet every Sunday from 4:30-6:00pm. Currently, I am lining up folks who are willing to provide a meal for the youth on a Sunday evening. If you are interested, please reach out and let me know.

In October, the youth are excited to once again help with Halloween on the Hill. Speaking of which, we will once again be hosting “Trunk or Treat” for this event. Please look for more details in this newsletter, as we will need all the help we can get.

As always, thanks for all you do.

Blessings,

Robby May
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Halloween on the Hill Volunteers Needed!

On Saturday, October 29, from 2:00-4:00PM we will join our neighbors at Emmanuel Episcopal to host Halloween on the Hill. Volunteers are needed for various tasks and will need to report to the grounds of Emmanuel by 1:00PM.

Robby May, our Youth Ministries Coordinator, is coordinating the Trunk or Treating portion in our parking lot. We are looking for people who are willing to pull their car into the parking lot, decorate their trunk, and hand out candy to the children between 3:15-4:00PM. Think of it as trick or treating from the back of a car.

A sign-up sheet is available on the board outside of the Parlor. You can also call the church office to sign up. Candy donations are needed! If you would like to donate, please bring your candy to the church office.
Friends:

Recently, the Faith Formation Committee (formerly known as Christian Education) asked you to fill out a short survey to give us some insight into your thinking about our current offerings and hopes for faith formation ministries within our church.

As you know, the church is more than a building. It is a community of believers who support each other, work together, and grow in our faith together. As we reviewed the survey responses, it was evident that you are interested in finding more ways in which we can connect with one another and grow together in our faith. Amen!

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete this survey. Here’s a summary of what we learned with you (keep in mind that the survey allowed more than one response to some of the answers, so don’t expect the percentages to equal 100%):

- A majority of respondents do not attend Sunday School or Mid-Week Bible Study. Of those that do not attend, the primary reasons are:
  - Nothing is offered that interests me.
  - Do not attend due to my schedule.

- Respondents prefer the following types of faith formation opportunities:
  - Small Groups (78%)
  - Book Study (43%)
  - 25% indicated that they would like them to include food and fellowship

- Respondents prefer that these opportunities take place at/in:
  - Church 93%
  - Homes (37%)
  - Restaurant (31%)

- Respondents are most interested in small group opportunities that focus on:
  - Bible Study (87%), Christian/Presbyterian Beliefs (42%), Social Issues (38%) and Moral Issues (38%).
  - Other suggestions included family-related topics and book studies.

- Respondents prefer small group opportunities offered at:
  - Sundays at 9:15AM (52%)
  - Weekday Evenings (25%)
  - Sunday Evenings (commented on several surveys)

This information is both helpful and exciting. Christian Education has changed greatly over the last 50 years. We recognize now, more than ever, that faith formation and transformation requires more than traditional Sunday School and weekly worship. Faith formation is an active process that involves us all and happens on more than just a weekly basis. From the survey, we realize that there is a desire for many in the church to be a part of some sort of small group (around a variety of themes) in which we can support each other in our faith journeys.

(Faith Formation continues on page 8.)
Worship & Music

Bryan Lohr’s Organ Recital

FPC’s new Director of Music Ministries, Bryan Lohr, will present an organ recital on the church’s Moller pipe organ on November 6 at 3:00 pm. The recital is free and open to all.

Bryan holds degrees in organ performance from The Juilliard School and Carnegie Mellon University and performs regularly across the United States as a solo and collaborative performer. Before coming to FPC, Bryan worked for 11 years in the United Church of Christ, twice serving as that denomination’s General Synod Organist, playing for assemblies of more than 5,000 in Long Beach, CA and Cleveland, OH. Bryan was also a featured performer on the unprecedented recording of the complete New Century Hymnal, available from The Pilgrim Press.

Bryan’s program on November 6 will feature a variety of repertoire spanning five centuries, selected to showcase the best features of FPC’s instrument. FPC’s organ, first installed in 1929 by the Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown, was renovated in 2001 by Lewis and Hitchcock Co. of Richmond, VA. The organ features a rich palette of sounds arrayed through more than 1,500 pipes, playable from 3 keyboards and a pedalboard.
Opportunities to Serve

This Child Here: Luncheon & Presentation

Robert Gamble D.Min. Executive Director, This Child Here

Dr. Robert Gamble has served as the pastor of churches in Collierville, TN, Farmington, NM, Winter Park and Daytona Beach, FL. He has served as an Interim Pastor in Atlanta, GA; New Vernon, NJ; and here at First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland from 2010-2012.

In 2006, he founded This Child Here, a faith based nonprofit, left the parish ministry and was validated for this ministry, and moved to Ukraine. Since 2010, he has served as an Interim Pastor while continuing to manage the work of This Child Here. He and Yulia recently returned from 6 weeks in Odessa in summer of 2016.

This Child Here works with vulnerable youth and children in the region of Odessa, Ukraine—in orphanages, shelters and public schools, and in training for adopting and foster parents. With the current conflict in Ukraine, the work of This Child Here has expanded to the practice of and training for peacemaking and reconciliation with youth and adults.

The staff of This Child Here consists of Ukrainians trained in Quaker techniques of Alternatives to Violence. To read more fully about programs and see photos of staff and the kids served, go to www.thischildhere.org.

Robert is married to the former Yulia Sheludko, a native of the southern region of Siberia, Russia.

Learn & Grow

Faith Formation Continued from page 6.)

Now, where do we go from here? Faith Formation is a small committee made up of four persons, two of whom are ex-officio staff members. While we certainly have the heart to see this through, we only have so many hands. Is God calling you to partner with us in what we hope to be a new “page” in our congregation’s faith formation journey together? Maybe you have a small group idea that you think others would enjoy and you would be interested in leading. It could be a Bible study, meal and fellowship, an age group getting together (i.e. young adults), a social issue, a book study, etc. We know we have the interest in the congregation, now we are looking to find those who can help us to foster these interests.

We read in Hebrews Chapter 10, Verse 24, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.” Are you ready to help us “spur” one another on? If so, please reach out to any of us on the Faith Formation Committee. God is doing great things in our community and we’re excited for new possibilities to share with you.

Blessings,
Faith Formation Committee
“Halloween on the Hill”
Hosted by Emmanuel Parish in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church
16 Washington St., Cumberland, MD

Oct. 29
2-4 PM

Costume Party for ALL ages & pets too!
Face painting and craft stations
Bounce house and slide
Carnival games and prizes
“Haunted” photos in the tunnels of Emmanuel
Trunk or Treat and that means Candy (of course)
Food, Hot and cold beverages
And more!!
Surprises for the whole family

Pre-registration for Event

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Please check age group if planning to participate in Costume Contest:
◊ Infant - 2
◊ 3-5
◊ 6-8
◊ 9-11

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Please check age group if planning to participate in Costume Contest:
◊ Infant - 2
◊ 3-5
◊ 6-8
◊ 9-11

Will you have a pet participating in the costume contest? ____________________________

Parents are invited to come in costume too and join in the fun!
If more space is needed please use back of page then detach and return bottom portion to:
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 16 Washington St., Cumberland, MD 21502
**NURTURE**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

† Congratulations to **Kelsey Parker and Chris Gallo** who were married on Saturday, September 3.

† Congratulations to **Sterlin and Ann Rebuck** on the birth of their grandson, Asher Bryan Rebuck, on Sunday, September 25th, to their son, Johnathan, and Katherine Rebuck.

† Congratulations to **Randy and Sheri Sterne** on the birth of their first grandchild, Tyler McLean Sterne, to son, Kevin, and his wife.

† Prayers and sympathy to **Alan Mease** and family on the death of his wife, Jane Mease, on Wednesday, September 7. At this time service arrangements are pending and we will notify you when more details become available.

† Prayers and sympathy to **Zach Dodge** and family on the death of Zach’s uncle, John Listman, in North Carolina last week.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Debbie Wodaski 10/01
Sandi Rowland 10/04
Rick Bissell 10/07
Olivia Gill 10/13
Bill Courtney 10/15
Miranda Kellermeyer 10/15
Bob Courtney 10/19
Charlene Lelinski 10/20
Carlotta Shaffer 10/24
Nadene Stroup 10/24
Susan Wilson 10/24
Sandy Fritz 10/25
Lianna Bissell 10/26
Baylee Kuykendall 10/26
Sharon Squires 10/28
Stephen Weddle 10/29
Linda Holler 10/31
First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Address Service Requested

We Thank God For:

Sunday Worship Calendar

**October 9:**  11:00 AM Service for the Lord’s Day
Jeremiah 429:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15;
Luke 17:11-19

**October 16:** 11:00 AM Service for the Lord’s Day
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

**October 23:** 11:00 AM Service for the Lord’s Day
Joel 223-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

**October 30:** 11:00 AM Service for the Lord’s Day
Reformation Sunday
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
1Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

301-777-3700

Watch us live on Livestream- Sundays at 10 a.m.
You can either signup through your email address or Facebook account.
new.livestream.com/accounts/4246707