



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 1, February 2017

"Updating our Faith"
Caroline M. Kelly, pastor

We often speak of our Judeo-Christian heritage, but have you ever wondered what that really means? During Lent this year, we will have the opportunity to address that question as we explore the connection between our identity as Christians and our Jewish heritage. As Christians, we are shaped by the bath (baptism), meal (communion) and book (scriptures), represented by the font, table and pulpit in our sanctuary. None of these arrived fully formed with the birth of Christ or the establishment of Christ's church. Each evolved from the existing traditions of our Jewish ancestors.

Together with our sister churches on Washington Street, and their leadership, we will gather at 6:00 pm on four successive Thursdays in Lent, beginning March 9, for a simple supper followed by study and conversation designed to help us explore this topic more deeply.

What is the Jewish practice of tevilah (ritual washing) and how does it relate to baptism? What is the Passover Seder and how does it relate to communion? What is the word of God in Judaism and how does it relate to our Bible? What does it mean to keep the Sabbath in the Jewish tradition and how does that inform our own Sabbath keeping as well as other spiritual practices?

Over the past year, we have had several occasions to worship with people of other faiths. Join us, during Lent, as we examine the religious tradition with which we have the closest familial relationship and uncover an even deeper appreciation for our own tradition.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caroline".

Caroline Kelly

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2016, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Ann Kellermeyer served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Confirmed its December electronic approval of the Worship and Music Committee recommendation to hold the Christmas Eve and Candlelight Service at 7:45 p.m on December 24, 2016.
- Confirmed its December electronic approval of the Mission Committee recommendation that the Dakota Learning Camp hold a soup sale fundraiser on January 29, 2017, after worship.
- Joyously sustained the examinations and received Josh Gilhart and Tiia Kunnapas as active members in First Presbyterian Church, Tiia by transfer of certificate of membership from Incarnate Word Lutheran Church in Tucker, GA, and Josh by Reaffirmations of Faith. They will be introduced during worship on Sunday, January 29, 2017.
- Approved the year end financials as of December 31, 2016.
- Adopted the 2017 Budget as recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee.
- Approved the recommendation of the Personnel and Faith Formation Committees to create an ad hoc committee to review the position description of the Youth Ministries Coordinator in light of changing needs.
- Approved the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire to PCUSA nunc pro tunc.
- Approved the Session Annual Statistical Report to Baltimore Presbytery for the year 2017.
- Endorsed the approval of three amendments to the corporate bylaws which are coming to the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29 for action.
- Approved the creation of a new membership roll, "Other Participants", per the Book of Order, to include people who participate in the life of the church but, for a variety of reasons, have chosen not to officially "join" the congregation.
- Approved the baptism of Sloan Marie Mills, born October 1, 2016, daughter of Corey and Kelley Mills, granddaughter of Phil and Kim Mills, during worship on Sunday, February 26.
- Elected Jeff Getty to serve as Clerk of Session effective June 1, 2017, if the way be clear.
- Elected Phil Mills to serve as commissioner and accompany Rev. Kelly to the Gathering of the Baltimore Presbytery in Odenton, MD, on February 9, 2017.
- Elected David Stickler to serve on the 2018 Congregational Nominating Committee.

In addition Session heard:

- A report from Rev. Kelly about plans that are progressing on the joint Lenten Study and Holy Week services with Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran churches. Each church will hold separate Ash Wednesday services this year.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that the Covenant Bible Study class has 11 attendees.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that a group is forming for those in their fourth or fifth decades of life called the Middle Years Group.

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



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Katie Ross | 2-Feb |
| Marybelle Light | 3-Feb |
| Brenda Clark, CPA | 5-Feb |
| Abbey Workmeister | 5-Feb |
| Meredith Irons | 8-Feb |
| Carol Lee | 8-Feb |
| Debi Mullan | 8-Feb |
| Martha Jane Hochard | 11-Feb |
| Gail Plitnik | 13-Feb |
| Barbara Aber | 16-Feb |
| Tom Chappell | 16-Feb |
| Linda Mellon | 16-Feb |
| Judy Stern | 16-Feb |
| Sterlin Rebuck | 17-Feb |
| Laura Fiscus | 18-Feb |
| Phyllis Bolyard | 19-Feb |
| Gwyn Chappell | 19-Feb |
| Deb Hendrickson | 19-Feb |
| Phil Mills | 21-Feb |
| Deb McElvie | 27-Feb |
| Bill Rudd | 28-Feb |

Joys and Concerns



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Shirley Jenkins who died on Friday, December 30. A funeral service was held at Upchurch Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 11, at 1:00pm.

Prayers and sympathy to John Johnson and family on the death of John's wife, Eleanor Johnson, on Thursday, January 26. A funeral service was held at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, January 30, at 11:00am.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, for the beautiful cards of well-wishing, for your prayers, and for your expressions of concern.

Thank you very much.

Mildred Stickler

FPC WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS!!



Tiia Kunnapas joined by transfer of letter from Incarnate Word Lutheran Church in Tucker, GA on January 26.



Josh Gilhart joined by reaffirmation of faith on January 26.

LEARN & GROW

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Chelsea and Jackie Boor hosted a wonderful evening for our January gathering. Each month, we continue to have new folks join us, which is very exciting. Our upcoming gatherings will take place at 6:00pm on the following dates:

- Friday, February 17
- Friday, March 17
- April TBA
- Friday, May 19

If you know a young adult who would be interested in joining our group, please contact Robby May.

MIDDLE YEARS GROUP FORMING



Adults in their fourth and fifth decades of life will be gathering at Caroline Kelly and Jim Mooney's home on **Sunday, February 5, at 6:00 pm** for a potluck meal, fellowship and Super Bowl LI viewing. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pastor Caroline.

AN UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Friends:

During December, the youth

- Participated in the Family Advent Gathering, decorating the church for the season and baking cookies for our at-home members;
- Adopted and shopped for a local family for Christmas. We helped a family with three children, including a newborn and the mother;
- Prepared and served a meal at the Union Rescue Mission; and
- Enjoyed a youth family gathering.

In January, we took a closer look at our ministry and made some adjustments. As our youth have gotten older, they have become more involved in activities at school and in the community. Our youth are stellar and use their gifts and talents in so many different ways. As a result, they are less able to commit to the number of activities that we have traditionally offered the last few years. After meeting with the youth and families of the ministry, we have made a few changes and affirmed our desire to continue several activities of the ministry, including:

- Meet only twice a month (the 1st and 3rd Sundays) for Sunday evening youth group instead of every Sunday.
- Continue serving at Union Rescue Mission and find other opportunities to serve the community.
- Continue youth family fellowship events.
- Find ways in which to involve the youth and the congregation in a joint time of learning, similar to what we did with the North Korea book study a few years ago.
- Connect youth with ways to get involved in worship, including working with Joe on the sound system.

I know God has big plans ahead for our ministry. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Blessings,

Robby May



First Presbyterian Youth
Annual Sweetheart Spaghetti
Luncheon and Dessert Auction

Sunday, February 12
First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
12:00 PM

Come to morning worship, then enjoy a delicious meal with friends, followed by an auction featuring delectable treats made by members of the congregation.

The proceeds support our Youth Ministry and their summer mission trip to Onancock, VA where they will be working on a variety of projects in an impoverished coastal community. Come, ready to raise the prices!

—
 (DETACH HERE AND PLACE IN ROBBY MAY'S [YOUTH MIN. COORDINATOR]
 OFFICE DOOR MAILBOX)

I'll/ we'll be there...

Name: _____

of adults _____ x \$5.00

of children (< 6th grade) _____ x \$3.00

Total: \$ _____ (\$15 family max) Please pay at the door.

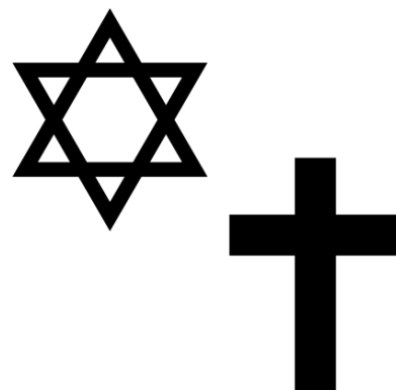
...and bring dessert!

(Bring your desserts to the Fellowship Hall by 11 AM)

What will it be? _____



LENTEN
STUDY SERIES



CLAIMING OUR
JEWISH ROOTS:
HOW JEWISH
PRACTICES IMPACT OUR
CHRISTIAN FAITH
AND LIFE

Join friends from Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran on Thursdays at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper, followed by study and conversation.

March 9 - Holy Water: Ritual Washing and Baptism

March 16 - Holy Words: The Word of God in Jewish and Christian Scripture

March 23 - Holy Ways: Sabbath Keeping and other Spiritual Practices

March 30 - Holy Meals: Passover Seder and Communion

Model Seder with Rabbi Perman
 Sunday, April 2 from 4:30-6:30pm
 Fellowship Hall



MARCH 1, 2017

AT 5:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a 40-day spiritual journey with Jesus toward the cross and the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. It is a time to reflect on who we are and whose we are.

As part of the service, we will offer the imposition of ashes as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin and an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th century. In Scripture, ashes are described as a symbol of purification and repentance.

Our service will be reflective and informal. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique and special service.



Our next Contemplative Prayer Service in the style of the Taizé community will be offered in the chapel at **5:00PM on February 19**. You can come as you are, invite a friend, or the person walking down the street. You may remain silent or participate in the singing and reading. You can also bring an instrument to join in! We will gather for this service on the third Sunday each month (weather permitting).

**A NOTE FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Greetings!

Winter weather aside, this is always an exciting time of year in the life of a church choir. The accomplishments and joys of the Christmas season are still fresh in the memory, while the exciting work of beginning to prepare spring repertoire gets underway. The Sanctuary Choir will soon begin working on special music for services during Holy Week and Easter, and would welcome any new voices. The choir practices each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 in the choir room. Everyone is welcome, regardless of musical experience!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please speak with me after worship, call [\(301\) 777-3700 ext. 104](tel:3017773700), or email bryan@bryanlohr.com.

Blessing,
Bryan Lohr

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

REASON FOR THE SEASON

As a result of your response to God speaking to your heart, twelve different groups will feel a sense of relief in 2017 as they strive to improve lives, or simply to stay alive. In total, we gave \$7095 through "Reason for the Season". God will put it to good use.

Locally, "**Bridges to Opportunities**" will use their \$620 toward a 16-week course, "Getting Ahead", that will help participants reflect on the barriers that keep them from getting ahead and learn how to build resources, to bring relief from the strain of poverty. At least five of our members will work with them as allies.

Globally we've made a commitment to the education of seven "poorest of the poor" (Christians) in **Pakistan** in order to help them break out of poverty. The donation of \$1162 will provide two of the Presbyterian Education Board **scholarships**. The other five are funded through the Mission Committee's budgeted funds. If it weren't for those scholarships, they could well be working in a brick factory.

Our **West Virginia** neighbors need relief from last year's summer **floods** that left devastating damage. Our church is planning to send not just money but also a team in September to work with a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance project. The Reason for the Season donation of \$915 will be used for transportation and work supplies.

Our global neighbors in **Haiti** were also hit by nature, **Hurricane Matthew**, in October last year. Our \$915 for emergency relief such as safe drinking water, food, blankets, tarps, and hygiene kits will help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as they help the more than 350,000 people who were affected.

"**Family Junction**" will have \$590 more to bring relief to families experiencing stress. The non-profit organization shows participants ways to stay together as a family, and mentors them with positive parenting skills for raising children.

Families of **Syria and Iraq** who are **refugee IDPs** will benefit from our \$1033, not only as emergency relief but also educational seminars, and summer and holiday programs, which offer hope beyond their traumatic circumstances. Our Lady Dispensary (OLD), a social service outreach center of the Middle East Council of Churches, has a small team that impacts the lives of 1,200 families.

Other global and local ministries receiving donations were: **Dakota Learning Camp**; **NAILS**; "**This Child Here**"; **Lesotho**; **Special Ministries**; and **Western MD Food Bank**. In all, \$1,860 was given to these other ministries.

The Mission Committee thanks all who gave toward and/or prayed for these ministries. Please keep all of the people and work involved with these missions in your prayers. They DO pray for us, which is humbling. God is working everywhere---what a relief!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT SNOWS ON SUNDAY?



Sunday School — The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 a.m. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, Facebook, and the church website.

Worship — Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS WINTER PROJECT WORK NIGHTS

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has decided to continue painting in the basement and work on several other small projects for our Tuesday Work Night this year. Our first work night began on Tuesday, January 24, at 6:30 and we intend to keep working every Tuesday into March. If you like to paint or can work on some of the fix up projects on the list come and join us. Not to worry. If you do not know how to do something we will work it out together and get it done. Everyone is welcome even if you come supervise and provide “quality control”. There are jobs for all. Contact Bob Courtney if you are going to help out or for more information.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

February

We Thank God For:

Address Service Requested



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

new.livestream.com/accounts/4246707