



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 5, June/July 2017

A Note from the Pastor

Seeing God at work in Guatemala

As you know, I traveled to Guatemala last month with a group of church leaders from our presbytery to meet with our presbytery's newest global partner, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). While we were there, we participated in their Intercultural Encounters program with the goal of learning about evangelism and discipleship with marginalized people.

Throughout our week-long visit, we met with representatives of organizations that are trying to make a difference in the lives of marginalized Guatemalans: a women's group that provides weekly a bible and ethics class for Mayan (indigenous) women to empower them as leaders for their communities; an Episcopal congregation that welcomes and supports gay men who are newly-diagnosed with HIV; a street ministry for transgender women sex workers; and a group of former expatriates who provide welcome and job opportunities for Guatemalans who have been deported from the US. We also learned about the history and demographics of Guatemala, including the impact of Spanish colonization, the civil war and US involvement, poverty, education, government corruption, immigration and gangs.

Each day, the nine of us, together with our hosts from CEDEPCA, started and ended the day with reflection and prayer. We were most struck by how dedicated these organizations were to sharing the gospel with marginalized people, both in their words and actions. We were touched by how God had "converted" those who reached out to others. In several cases, those who perceived themselves as bringing God to the marginalized discovered that God was already there.

The presbytery has scheduled two additional trips to Guatemala, one in November of 2017 and one at the end of January in 2018. If you are interested in learning more about this partnership or these trips, please contact me. I will be happy to tell you more!

Blessings on your summer,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caroline". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Caroline

MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Ann Kellermeyer served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Upon recommendation from the Ad Hoc Faith Formation Committee, Session decided not to hire a Youth/Faith Formation Director at this time.
- Session, also, gave their blessings for the Ad Hoc Faith Formation Committee to continue to pray and discern the next steps for Faith Formation as the church continues on their recommendation with Milestones Ministry, the Youth Group and creates an intentional learning time for younger children.
- Approved the Clerk's request to remove Matthew Young from the rolls at his request.
- Granted the Clerk permission to write to those on the Inactive Roll, which is no longer required by the Book of Order and we will no longer use it, to inform them that they will be removed from the Inactive Roll unless they wish to participate more actively in the life of the church.
- Approved the year to date financials as of April 30, 2017.
- Approved the Mission Committee's recommendation to allow the Dakota Learning Camp participants to sell parking spaces on June 10-11, 2017, for people attending the annual Heritage Days Festival with the proceeds to benefit the Dakota Learning Camp this summer.
- Approved a joint recommendation from Buildings and Grounds, Administration and Finance and Mission Committees to accept conditionally the proposal from 1st Way Pregnancy to sell the Southminster Manse at 310 Race St. to them "as is" for \$5000. This motion is dependent on approval from Presbytery and the Congregation. Session voted to accept the recommendation and conditionally agree with and bless the transaction. When additional information is obtained, Session will vote by email to call a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting on this recommendation.

In addition Session heard:

- A report from Phil Mills on the continuing plans for the WV Flood Work Camp to which 7 members of the congregation have volunteered.
- A report from Judy Stern on the donation that the Mission Committee has given to support 3 students from our partnership ECCB church in Vsetin, Czech Republic, who will be travelling to Odessa, Ukraine, this summer to attend Robert Gamble's peacemaking camp.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that her continuing education trip to Guatemala was very rewarding. She and 8 other members of the Presbytery of Baltimore learned about evangelism and mission with marginalized people.
- A report from Judy Stern on the Presbytery Gathering that she attended as commissioner with Rev. Kelly.

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

LEARN & GROW

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS TIM STERNE & REAGAN MARRALE



After a year-long process of study designed to help them explore the faith of the Reformed tradition and the Presbyterian form of government, Tim Sterne and Reagan Marrale were confirmed during worship on Sunday, May 14. We are grateful for Reagan and Tim and the gifts they bring to the church; to their mentors, Janet Hendershot and Jeff Getty, for their commitment to helping them grow in their faith; and to Julie Courtney and Caroline Kelly for facilitating the confirmation process.

GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE: WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT?



Join us for a potluck picnic supper and conversation about the connection between this important rite of passage and our relationship with God, as we gift and bless these soon-to-be licensed drivers. The event will take place this Friday, June 9 at Rocky Gap State Park, White Pine Shelter, starting at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish!

YOUTH NEWS

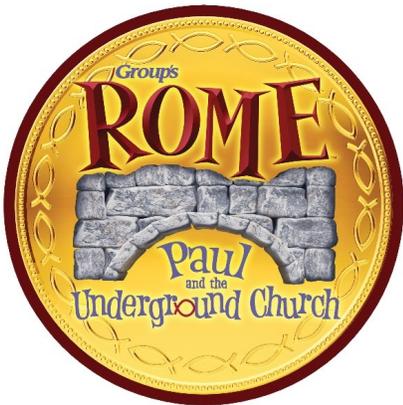
During worship, on Sunday, July 2nd, we will commission our youth participants for their summer mission trip to Onancock, Virginia, where they will be teaming up with Youth-Works for a week long program of service, worship and reflection. In addition, we will be recognizing and thanking Robby May for his three years of service as Youth Ministry Coordinator. Robby will conclude his service in that capacity in mid-July but will remain an active participant in the life of our congregation, leading worship and facilitating the Young Adult Ministry.

LEARN & GROW

WOMEN'S RETREAT



On April 28-29, Katie Ross lead the women in an exploration of some of the women in the New Testament, through story-telling and reflection. Women joined together to strengthen relationships with one another and God through worship, learning, bread breaking and fellowship.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: ROME: PAUL AND THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

Vacation Bible School will take place the week of June 20-24, beginning with supper at 5:30PM, followed by the program from 6-8PM. For more information and details or to register your child, contact the church office.

FAITH FORMATION LEADER RECOGNITION



During worship on Sunday, May 14, we took the time to recognize all those who serve as leaders in the Faith Formation Ministry.

YOUNG ADULTS WORSHIP LEADERS



Our young adult ministry led us in a joyful service of worship on Sunday, May 14 with Beau Hartman directing the music and Robby May preaching. Other participants included Chelsea Boor, Mikayla Dodge, Tanika Henry and Eric Ringler.

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Kathy Dowell	8-Jun	Garrett Corley	4-Jul
Ben Fiscus	16-Jun	Polly Eyer	4-Jul
Judie Brown	17-Jun	Bill McElvie	4-Jul
Shirley Giarritta	18-Jun	Margaret Hartsock	14-Jul
Bonnie Martin	23-Jun	Bob Martin	14-Jul
Sean Aurigemma	25-Jun	Caroline Kelly	17-Jul
Carolyn Mathews	25-Jun	Bill Shaffer	20-Jul
Jeff Getty	26-Jun	Kay Rudd	24-Jul
Dave Corley	28-Jun	Elena Corley	25-Jul
Julie Courtney	30-Jun	Sylvia Kellermeyer	25-Jul
Jim Gill	30-Jun	Louise Grimm	26-Jul
		Amado Torres	28-Jul
		Brennan Kellermeyer	31-Jul

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Marilyn and Phil Nelson on the birth of their fifth grandchild, Dakota Reese Loucks, in North Carolina the week of May 15th.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who sent me cards and gave me personal condolences on the recent death of my mother, Joyce Harrison. Even though as a physician one expects the death of parents, this has still been a shock to me. She was someone who was there for every event from graduations to track meets to the birth of my son, Stephen. We had a lovely memorial service at First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls, NY, officiated by Reverend John Barclay, the same person who married Tom and I almost 31 years ago. My brother, Andy, gave a touching eulogy which made us both laugh and cry.

Thank you again,
Gwyn Harrison Chappell

Thanks for all your support, prayers, and cards on the death of my mother, Phyllis Bolyard.

God Bless,
Susan Wilson

† Prayers and sympathy to Janet Hendershot and Family, on the death of Janet's brother, Harold Lee "Butch" Hendershot, on Saturday, May 6. A "Celebration of Life" service was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 6:30 P.M. at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

† Prayers and sympathy to Susan Wilson and family on the death of Susan's mother and longtime FPC member, Phyllis Bolyard, on Friday, April 28th. A Memorial Service will be held at the church on Saturday, June 17, at 2:00PM.

† Prayers and Sympathy to Sandi Rowland and family, on the death of Sandi's father, Samuel Rowland, on Sunday, May 7th.

† Prayers and sympathy to Sheri Sterne and family, on the death of Sheri's mother, Mary Alyce Grimm, on Tuesday, May 9th in Johnstown.

† Prayers and sympathy to Bill Shaffer and family on the death of Bill's brother-in-law, William Buchanan, on Tuesday, May 23rd.

Graduation

Congratulations to Christina Bonebreak Jackson, granddaughter of Thara Bonebreak and the late Bryon Bonebreak, Sr. who graduated from the University of North Carolina in May, earning her Master Degree in Orthodontics.



She received her Doctor Degree from Harvard Dental School with Summa Cum Laude honors. Her bachelor degree was obtained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Resumes: This Sunday, June 11th
Worship at 10am**

No Sunday School for the summer.

THE GREAT DAKOTA GIVEAWAY!

Thank you to all who helped with the 8th Annual Great Dakota Giveaway on April 30th! Special thanks go to Buck and Jane Belt whose good energy and smiling faces make every occasion special. We also are very grateful to our community businesses who generously donated. Judy Stern and Janet Hendershot did a fine job as cashiers and our new Learning Camp volunteers worked well together to make this a very successful and fun event!

Thanks to our church family for celebrating and supporting us as we prepare for our trip to South Dakota in July.



SUMMER LUNCH BOX PROGRAM



UPDATE ON BRIDGES TO OPPORTUNITY

Bridges to Opportunity, a community-wide effort to help people living in poverty transform their lives, is seeing the fruit of its efforts.

At a recent reunion, "Getting Ahead" graduates shared the ways their lives were being transformed through a GED class, enrollment at Allegany College, an engagement, and the purchase of home, among others.

The newest class of graduates are working together to address issues that have impeded their ability to get ahead. One group is exploring ways for people in poverty to meet current Maryland regulations and fees for getting a drivers license. Another is focused on the availability of affordable after school and summer youth programs.

Several members of our congregation are serving in this effort, either as members of the Steering Committee, facilitators of "Getting Ahead" classes or allies for Getting Ahead graduates. In addition, we provided space and funding for these classes during the spring.

ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR SUMMER LUNCHBOX 2017: Calling all sandwich makers and lunch packers....We will again be making and delivering lunches for eight Fridays this summer -- beginning Friday, June 23 and running through Friday, August 11. Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – noon for any or all Friday mornings this summer. We welcome all helpers. Please sign up on the sheets in the side hallway at church or call Cathy Levitas at [301-707-7386](tel:301-707-7386) for more information.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to believe that we are approaching the end of the choir season! The Sanctuary Choir will begin their much-deserved summer break after worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. My sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our choir members for their dedication and hard work over the past nine months. During worship on June 4, the congregation will have an opportunity to extend their thanks during a special liturgy of appreciation.

During the summer months, worship at FPC will be blessed with special music from individuals from the congregation and beyond. If you would like to share a special vocal or instrumental solo this summer, or know of someone who would, there are still spaces available in the worship schedule. Feel free to contact me at any time for details.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at FPC for your prayers and kind words of encouragement surrounding the adoption of our daughter Fatima on May 12. Special thanks to Robby May, Beau Hartman, and the young adult group for providing wonderful music leadership during worship on May 14, allowing me to be able to attend Fatima's baptism at our church in Pennsylvania. Your support has been a blessing to our family- thank you!

Yours in Christ,
Bryan Lohr

bryan@bryanlohr.com
[\(814\) 442-4168](tel:(814)442-4168)



Like us on Facebook!

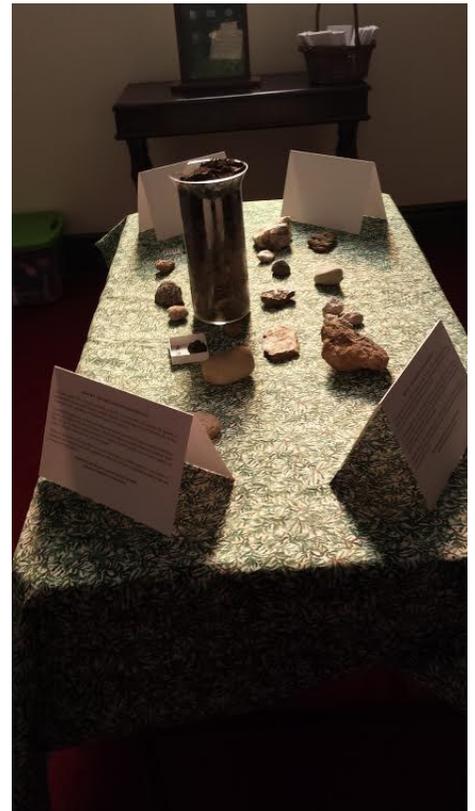
<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>



Watch us live on Livestream- Sundays at 10 a.m.
You can either sign up through your email address or
Facebook account.

new.livestream.com/accounts/4246707

EARTH DAY WORSHIP



We celebrated Earth Day this year during worship on Sunday, April 23, praising God for the goodness of creation and reflecting on our role as Christians to care for creation. The service opened with the sounds of frogs singing and moved through creation-themed liturgy and music, a sermon focused on our interdependence with all of creation and prayer stations highlighting issues related to the sustainability of clean water and air and arable land.

Presbyterian concern for the created order begins with the confessional belief that the human being's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. Part of this includes glorifying God by responsible stewardship of God's creation.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

June / July

We Thank God For:

Address Service Requested

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES: PSALMS, GALATIANS AND REVELATION

This summer, we will focus on the Narrative Lectionary readings during worship, instead of the Revised Common Lectionary, which is our usual practice. The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of Bible readings that works its way through all four gospels during the school year and then focuses on one book per month during the summer: this year, the Psalms, the Letter to the Galatians and the Revelation to John.

To prepare yourself for worship, you are invited to read the texts in advance of each Sunday:

Psalms Series

June 11: Psalm 100 (John 1:14-17)
June 18: Psalm 13 (John 6:35-40)
June 25: Psalm 23 (John 10:1-4)
July 2: Psalm 30 (John 6:67-69)
July 9: Psalm 150 (John 4:24-26)

Ephesians Series

July 16: Ephesians 1:1-14 (John 14:25-27)
July 23: Ephesians 2:11-22 (Matt. 28:16-20)
July 30: Ephesians 4:1-16 (John 15:1-4)
August 6: Ephesians 6:10-320 (Matt. 10:28-31)

Revelation Series

August 13: Rev. 4:1-11 (John 17:1-5)
August 20: Rev. 5:13 (John 1:29-31)
August 27: Rev. 6:1-8 (John 14:1-4)
September 3: Rev. 21:1-6; 22:1-5 (John 16:20-22)