



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 57, Issue 4, May 2017

A Note from the Pastor

On Monday, I will travel to Guatemala with eight other leaders from our Presbytery to further our new partnership with CEDEPCA, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America. Last year, Sandi Rowland and others took the initial trip that led to our Presbytery's alliance with them.

CEDEPCA began its biblical-theological education for clergy and lay persons in 1987, during Guatemala's Civil War. The war began with a political coup over land reform. It progressed to Mayan genocide, and culminated in the wholesale murder of Christian social reform activists. It was clear to CEDEPCA founders that life-denying theology needed to be confronted with Reformed ideas, made available to anyone who dared to explore a new theology that would prepare them for service in Jesus' name.

Today, CEDEPCA has a multi-level education program geared toward transforming faith, life and understanding. Essential programming includes its women's ministry and post-disaster spiritual and psychological care as well as pre-disaster community preparedness.

Through its ministries, CEDEPCA has successfully forged relationships with marginalized people in Central America for 30 years. We will join with our partners at CEDEPCA to seek both inspiration and tools for reaching marginalized people in our own contexts.

During our trip, we will visit a mix of urban and rural settings, spending the first half of the week in Xela (Quetzaltenango) and the second half in Guatemala City. We will have the opportunity to meet representatives of people from a variety of missions and ministries, including an Episcopal LGBT ministry, a group working with repatriated former US immigrants, a chance to sit in on a seminary class at a rural satellite of CEDEPCA, and an opportunity to dialogue with CEDEPCA's staff in Guatemala City.

Our team includes members of a ministry to Hispanic immigrants as well as leaders of our racial reconciliation movement from the Presbytery. I look forward to being part of this group and the support it offers for our engagement with people living in poverty in Cumberland as well as for strengthening our growing relationships with the Jewish and Muslim communities living in Cumberland.

Please pray for our Presbytery's team and our Guatemalan hosts as we spend the week together learning from and with one another.

Carolee



CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator.

The Session took the following actions:

- Sustained examinations of Confirmands Reagan Marrale and Tim Sterne and received them as active members of First Presbyterian Church pending their public Profession of Faith during worship on Sunday, May 14, 2017.
- Sustained the examinations of Ruling Elders-Elect Barbara Aber, Chelsea Boor, Jeff Getty, Pam Jan and Joe Weaver. Barbara, Chelsea, Jeff and Joe will proceed to be ordained and installed to active service on the Session during worship on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Pam will be installed to active service, having been previously ordained, during worship on Sunday, June 11, 2017.
- Approved the Clerk's request to remove JR Crabtree, Amanda Griffith Hierstetter, Eleanor Belt Madden, Elizabeth Getty Ritter and Alex Wodaski from the roll since they have ceased to participate actively in the work and worship of the congregation.
- Approved the year to date financials as of March 31, 2017.
- Approved the service of communion by Rev. Kelly at the officer training sessions on March 28 and April 7, 2017, nunc pro tunc.
- Concurred with Rev. Kelly's invitation to the Rev. Ann Atkins to preach on Sundays, May 7 and June 25, 2017; to Youth Ministry Coordinator Robby May to preach on Sunday, May 14, 2017; and to the Rev. Walt Peters to preach on Sunday, June 18 and August 13, 2017.
- Approved a joint recommendation from Buildings and Grounds and the Administration and Finance Committees that Session purchase a heat pump for heating and air conditioning the Chapel at a cost of \$4,185 from the Endowment Fund (Wills and Memorials).
- Elected Ruling Elder Judy Stern as Elder Commissioner to the 875th Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore on May 11, 2017, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Mt. Airy. Rev. Kelly will be elected Vice-Moderator of Baltimore Presbytery at this event.

In addition Session heard:

- A report from Bob Courtney that there will be a Spring Cleanup Day on May 6 from 9-12.
- A report from Ann Kellermeyer and Cindy Corley that the Milestones Ministry Easter Egg Hunt and Blessing was very successful with 25 people in attendance.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that she will be attending a study in Guatemala with Guatemalan clergy and eight other members of the Baltimore Presbytery during the first week in May. They will be learning about evangelism and mission with marginalized communities.

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

LEARN & GROW

A NOTE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Recently, you received my letter that went to the entire church community announcing my resignation. This decision did not come lightly, but only after much thought and prayer. I look forward to service with you over the next few months to close out my time in ministry with First Presbyterian. I will officially end my service to the church at the conclusion of the youth mission trip this July.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and the work that we have done together to grow the ministries of the church. It has been a true joy and a blessing on my life. I look forward to continue remaining in fellowship with the church after my official position ends, by joining you in worship and in participating in the young adult group.

Youth Ministry

In April, the youth met once (first Sunday of the month) for youth group. We enjoyed a meal together along with a few games. The youth also served a meal to the residents of Union Rescue Mission this month. All together, they served about 35 residents and joined with them to share the meal. Soon we will begin doing some preparation and reflection as we plan for our mission trip this summer on the eastern shore of Virginia.

Here are a few upcoming events:

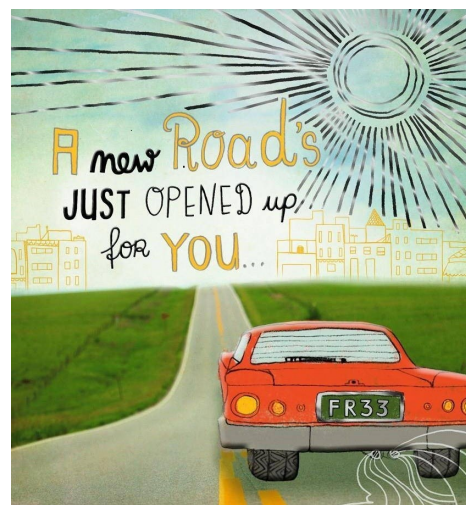
- Sunday May 7 – Youth Group
- Sunday May 21 – Youth Group
- Friday June 9 – Youth Family End of Year Picnic/Congregational New Driver's Milestone Blessing at Rocky Gap

On June 9th, we will gather for our annual end of year picnic at Rocky Gap, which this year will also include a special Milestone blessing for the new drivers in our youth group. The congregation is invited to this event, and we hope you will join as we celebrate this important event in the lives of the youth. Please look for more details to come soon. I especially want to thank Laura Fiscus, who has been doing a WONDERFUL job planning this Milestone event. Laura is a true blessing to the ministries of our congregation!

Blessings,
Robby

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 9 GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE: WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Come find out as we celebrate
our youth who are on their
way to becoming
licensed drivers.



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 at Rocky Gap State Park, White Pine Shelter, starting at 6:00 pm.

LEARN & GROW

EASTER EGG HUNT & BLESSING MILESTONES MINISTRY



Twenty-five people gathered for this event at Bill and Ann Kellermeyer's home in Flintstone at 10:00 Saturday morning, April 15, 2017. There were 11 children and 14 adults. One child and her parents came as a result of an invitation we extended to Learning Tree families.

The event consisted of blessing the food and gathering around breakfast, egg coloring, conversations and questions about the connection between the eggs and the story of Jesus' resurrection, and blessing the colored eggs. After a rowdy Easter egg hunt, folks made gifts of eggs for many homebound church friends which the children later delivered.

Jane Belt, Cindy Corley, Ann Kellermeyer and Caroline Kelly helped plan, cook and lead this wonderful get together.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SAVE THE DATE

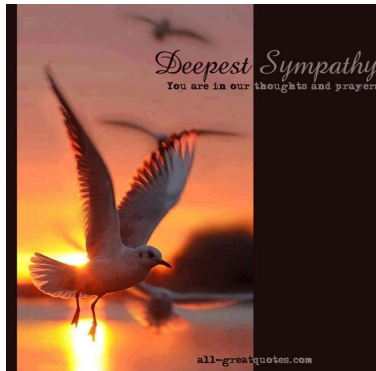
Vacation Bible School will take place the week of **June 20-24**, beginning with supper at 5:30 followed by the program from 6-8PM. The **theme is Rome: Paul and the Underground Church**. For more information and to register contact the church office.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- ☺ Congratulations to Kelsey and Chris Gallo on the birth of their baby girl, Logan Leah Gallo, on Saturday, April 22.



- † Prayers and sympathy to Cindy Corley and family on the death of Cindy's brother, William "Bill" Clark, on Wednesday, March 29. A funeral service will be held today at 1PM at Scarpelli Funeral Home.
- † Prayers and sympathy to frequent visitor Paul Thompson and his wife, Taryn, on the death of Paul's son, Joshua Thompson, on Friday, April 7. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 12, at the Wilhelm-Eakin Funeral Home in Midland, MD.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Sterlin Rebuck and Family on the death of Sterlin's father, Ernest Guy Rebuck, on Sunday, April 16, in PA. A service is scheduled for Friday, April 28.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Rich and Georgene McKenzie, on the death of their sister-in-law, Rebecca McKenzie, on Saturday, April. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 11, in Edina, PA.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Gwyn Chappell and family on the death of Gwyn's mother, Joyce Harrison, on Wednesday, April 26, in Glen Falls, NY.



Bill Kellermeyer	6-May
Paul Aber	7-May
Gary Hendrickson	7-May
Nancy Hall	8-May
Carolyn Weaver	8-May
Buck Belt	11-May
Juanita Fix	12-May
Christopher Weddle	12-May
Lauren See	14-May
Marisa Aurigemma	19-May
Ronnie Barb	28-May
Bob Lange	28-May
Susan Mills	30-May
Mary Spangler	30-May



Congratulations to Ben Levitas who will be graduating from the University of Maryland with a degree in Biochemistry. He will be furthering his studies at Boston University beginning in the fall.

Congratulations to Katie Jan who will be graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with a BS in Political Science, specializing in comparative politics. She will then report to Pensacola, FL in June for flight school.

LEARN & GROW**NURTURE****AN UPDATE
FROM THE
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY**

This month, the Young Adult Fellowship did something a little different. Instead of gathering at one of our homes, we met at Wasabi in LaVale for Hibachi and fellowship. We recently had a new young adult join us as well. Our next gathering will be at Robby's home on Friday May 12. If you know a young adult who would be interested in joining our group, please let me know and I can share locations with them.

Sunday May 14 will be a very special worship service. Not only will we be confirming two new members, but the young adult group will also be leading worship. We have a special service with some great musical selections planned. We hope you will be able to join us that Sunday!

**THANK YOU**

To the Buildings & Grounds Committee,

The members of Chapter T, P.E.O. Maryland thank you for letting us meet in the First Presbyterian Church Parlor. It is a beautiful room and it is particularly convenient for our older and our handicapped sisters.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Joe Aurigemma for opening the church for Brenda on Saturday mornings. He is always so helpful and gracious. Thanks also goes to Bob Courtney for his help throughout the year.

May God be with you.
Betty Luger
Corresponding Secretary
Chapter T, Maryland
P.E.O. Sisterhood

**STAFF VACATION &
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Please note that Rev. Kelly will be away for continuing education from May 1st– May 7th. For pastoral emergencies during her absence, please contact the church office at [301-777-3700](tel:301-777-3700) or the Rev. Hans Killius at [\(240\) 803-9933](tel:240-803-9933).

Sexton, John Brown, will be on vacation from May 22- May 26st.

Executive Administrative Assistant, Brittany Jackson, will be on vacation from May 30th - June 6st. The church office will be open from 9-12PM by office volunteers. Please note that the Church office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (June 4, 2017). It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministries benefiting these age groups in their communities. This year as in the past the Mission Committee decided to use our forty percent to help The Family Junction. This organization operates in South Cumberland. The purpose of Family Junction is to promote positive parenting to ensure nurturing family experiences for the children of Allegany County.

The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

Please consider giving generously to this special offering on June 4, 2017.

SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER LUNCH- BOX PROGRAM



Tick, tock, tick, tock...the school year is winding down and summer is approaching. Time to start thinking about the 2017 Summer Lunchbox season. 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 for any or all Friday mornings this summer. We welcome all helpers. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks, or contact Cathy Levitas at 301-707-7386 with any questions.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



YOUNG ADULTS LEAD WORSHIP

Join us on Sunday, May 14 for a special service led by our multi-talented young adult group as they help us welcome our two newest church members. Tim Sterne and Reagan Marrale have completed their confirmation studies and will be making their public professions of faith, reaffirming the baptismal covenant into which they were baptized as children.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

CZECH JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

On April 2, if the congregation didn't know it was a special service, they did when Rev. Caroline started the Welcome and Announcements with "Milost Pána Ježíše buď s vámi všemi", in passable Czech! It was our fourth shared worship with our partner church in Vsetin, Czech Republic, near the border with Slovakia.

You can see photos of the town, which has several similarities with Cumberland, and church members, on the bulletin board in the hall. Some of the faces should look familiar from their visits here- -Sara Fojtu, Dan Zarsky, Gerhard Frey-Reingard.

We shared the same hymns, prayers, scriptures and sermons, except six hours apart. During their service, they watched the video Hayden Ort-Ulm had made and sent to them about our church, and some also watched our service on LiveStream, including the video they sent to us. They saw us receiving communion in their custom of a large circle at the front of the church.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

It is my hope that each of you were in some way able to participate in the Holy Week and Easter Services offered by First Presbyterian Church, either by attending services here, attending the joint services with our neighbor churches, or connecting via LiveStream. It was an honor for me to be a part of the music ministry at FPC during this most holy season of the church year, and special thanks are extended to the members of the Sanctuary Choir, Mikayla and Zach Dodge, Phil Klickman, student members of the Easter brass ensemble, Brenda Luger, Eric Ringler, Nancy Hodges, and Gwyn Chappell, and the music leaders and choirs at Emmanuel and St. Paul's.

As we continue in the season of Easter, special worship opportunities include Sunday, May 14, when worship and music will be led by FPC's young adult group under the leadership of Robby May and Beau Hartman, and of course, our regularly scheduled Contemplative Prayer Service on May 21 at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.

As always, the music ministry at FPC would love to welcome your talents. If you have an interest in becoming a full-time or occasional member of the Sanctuary Choir or the JoyBells, or offering your voice or instrumental skills in another way, please do not hesitate to speak with me on Sunday, or throughout the week.

In Christ,
Bryan Lohr

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Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

May

Address Service Requested



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