



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 58, Issue 5, June-July 2018

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

During worship for the past month, the gospel reading has been the same each week:

In response to being asked which of God's commandments is the greatest, Jesus responds: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

I didn't choose this reading for us. That's what the Narrative Lectionary offered as a companion reading for our four-week sermon series on the Ten Commandments. Apparently, we need to hear this gospel reading again and again, especially now.

As Christians, we are commanded to love our neighbors not because of who they are but because of who God is, as seen most clearly in the sacrificial life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Love is not how we feel about our neighbor. Love is about how we relate to our neighbor, seeking their well-being as if it were our own.

That's a hard thing to do in a culture that is becoming increasingly tribal, where we are encouraged to view others with increasing suspicion, fear and hate and where it has become okay to dehumanize people with whom we disagree.

In a remarkable demonstration of love for neighbor, participants at last week's PC (U.S.A.) General Assembly in St. Louis took \$47,000 (collected during opening worship) to the St. Louis Justice Center to help bail out poor people held under bench warrants and minor offenses as they await trial.

While wealthy folks can almost always afford to bail out, the poor fill the jails, sometimes waiting more than a year before a judge or jury decides whether they are guilty. Working with local networks in St. Louis, this money will help folks who have been pre-screened for release get back to their jobs, to their communities and to their families.

Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." (I would call them faithful).

(A Note from the Pastor continues on page 3.)

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Heritage Room at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2018 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved and sustained the examinations of Laura Fiscus, Josh Gilhart, Aaron Hendrickson, Agnes Yount and Cathy Levitas for the ministry of ruling elder and agreed to ordain and install Laura Fiscus and Josh Gilhart to active service on the Session and to install Cathy Levitas and Agnes Yount, having previously been ordained, to active service during worship on Sunday, May 20, 2018.
- Approved restoring Elizabeth Getty Ritter to the active membership roll and transferring her membership and the membership of Katherine (Katie) Getty to the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County.
- Approved the Membership Records as of May 16, 2018.
- Approved the year to date financial records as of April 30, 2018.
- Approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Jonathan Dayton as a nursery care worker.
- After a lengthy and thoughtful discussion, approved our participation in National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 1 and 2 by illuminating the steeple with orange light on those nights.
- Approved the Administration and Finance Committee recommendation to designate the insurance proceeds from David Steele's life insurance for the renovation of the old library and conversion to a "Gathering Place."

In addition the Session heard:

- A report from Chelsea Boor and Joe Weaver of the Faith Formation Team that the church will participate in a multi-denomination vacation bible school at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in June.
- A report from Rev. Kelly and the Faith Formation Team on discussions with Dr. Janjua about a program to introduce us to the Islamic faith. Rev. Kelly is attempting to arrange an interfaith meal with members of Dr. Janjua's mosque during Ramadan.
- A report from Carolyn Mathews that Eric Ringler has agreed to serve as coordinator of leaders for the Time for Young Disciples portion of the worship service and is looking for volunteers to help out.
- A report from Judy Stern of the Mission Committee, about a new Community Wellness Ambassador Program at WMHS. Cheri Duncan has agreed to serve as our church's wellness coordinator to help members navigate the resources available to improve health care.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that Melissa Courtney will serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate from the Presbytery of Baltimore to the General Assembly which meets in St. Louis starting June 15, 2018.
- A report from David Stickler on efforts to review the church safety plan utilizing the Generic Safety Template for Churches and a plan to circulate it to Session members for further discussion

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

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PER CAPITA: SUPPORTING THE WORKS OF THE WIDER CHURCH

Presbyterian congregations support the ministry and mission of the wider church through the apportionment of a per member expense called “per capita”. While most of our annual budget expenses are self-explanatory, i.e. salaries, office supplies, mission support, the per capita item is not.

“Per Capita” is how we, Presbyterians, share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future; how we are trained to become better teaching and ruling elders; how we participate in the life of our connectional church; how we support the core structure which keeps us together; and how we participate in the life of the Church universal.

Thus, the meetings of the General Assembly, our Synod and our Presbytery, the committees charged with preparing, examining and supporting pastors, and other church-wide activities have church-wide funding. Per capita is what made it possible for our own Melissa Courtney to serve as the Baltimore Presbytery's young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 2018 General Assembly in St. Louis this June.

You'll find out per capita amount in our budget in the administration and finance section. Usually it is paid in the spring of the year to the Presbytery of Baltimore, which forwards portions to the Synod and General Assembly. The 2018 per capita amount is \$34.38 per member, for a total of \$7,254.18, about 2% of our budget.



Please check the lost and found box by the door to the parking lot. Any items left for more than 30 days will be donated to Goodwill.

(A Note from the Pastor continued from page 1.)

Friends, we are not called to seek the well-being of our neighbors because it's convenient or easy or even logical. We don't concern ourselves with the lives of others because we like them or because (we think) they deserve it, or because we will gain something for ourselves in doing so. We are called to love our neighbors because that's who God is and that's what God does.

I pray that we, too, can demonstrate concern and care for our neighbors and in turn, share the gospel with the broken and hurting world God so desperately loves.

Blessings,

Caroline M. Kelly

STAFF VACATIONS

Rev. Kelly will be on vacation from June 30th–July 8th. 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).

We welcomed Rev. Ann Atkins on Sunday, July 1st and will welcome Rev. Rebecca Vardiman on Sunday, July 8th as our guest preachers

The Church office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEARNING TREE CONCLUDES ANOTHER GREAT YEAR



What a wonderful year we have had!! Our enrollment was strong and our teachers amazing. We are so very thankful to have such a place to call home! Our goal is to acclimate children to a classroom setting with love and laughter giving them the sense of independence and confidence needed to move on to "big kid school."

As it has been for years, we made monthly visits to the library for story hour with Miss Stacy, Miss Carolyn (Mathews) taught us all things science and Miss Julie (Courtney) shared her love, talents and knowledge of

music. Pastor Caroline told us about the Christmas story in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. We had field trips to the Higson's Farm for a hayride, picnic and pumpkin; Gordon-Roberts house for their beautiful Christmas decorations; the Country House and Kensington to visit our "Learning Tree grandparents" and to Rocky Gap for a hike and picnic as an end of year celebration. In November, we have our Pancake with Pop breakfast with our own Mr. Bob (Courtney) as the master chef to show our dads just how important they are to us. In May, we host our Mother's Day luncheon to celebrate the moms.

Visits from a clown, turkey caller, Santa, leprechaun, Easter bunny, bear, law enforcement officers and their canine partners....as well as the assault vehicle kept us amazed and awed by our world. We are always looking for people to share their special gifts, talents and interests with us! If you would like to spend about 20 minutes with some amazing kids, PLEASE contact me. We would love to hear all about it!

After several parents expressed frustration with very limited daytime activities for the under five population, my teachers asked to do a couple learning summer camps for the families. This week, June 25-29, we hosted an Art camp to tap into the children's creative and messy sides and the week of July 16-20 we will explore the wonders of cooking. We have a wonderful response to these camp offers and are excited to have the children back in the building!

As a school family, we had to help each other work through a great tragedy this year and find a "new normal." I am so grateful to all the condolences from my church family and the support of your prayers.

As we start Learning Tree's 40th (yes, 40!!!) year, we will continue to offer a place for children to grow physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually in a loving and fun environment.

-Nadene Stroup
Director of the Learning Tree Nursery School

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION



During worship on Sunday, May 13th we recognized our high school seniors: Marisa Aurigemma, Ben Fiscus and Addison Stroup. On Wednesday, May 23rd they all graduated from Allegany High School.



JUNE

Kathy Dowell	8-Jun
Ben Fiscus	16-Jun
Judie Brown	17-Jun
Shirley Giarritta	18-Jun
Bonnie Martin	23-Jun
Sean Aurigemma	25-Jun
Carolyn Mathews	25-Jun
Jeff Getty	26-Jun
Dave Corley	28-Jun
Julie Courtney	30-Jun
Jim Gill	30-Jun

CAREGIVER MILESTONE RESCHEDULED

**Sunday, July 15th at 11:15AM
In the Fellowship Hall**



On July 15, after worship, we will be celebrating the caregivers in our midst. Whether they are or have taken care of a loved one, at home or at a long term residence, their lives are greatly changed.

If you are a caregiver or you have been, please plan to join with others at a potluck meal, caring conversations and blessings. We will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

If there are others of you who carry these caregivers near and dear to your heart, consider helping with the set up or clean-up of this celebration.

Let Brittany (firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com), Cindy Corley (ccorley24@msn.com) or Ann Kellermeyer (akellermeyer@me.com) know if you are planning to attend by Wednesday, July 11.

JULY

Garrett Corley	4-Jul
Polly Eyler	4-Jul
Bill McElvie	4-Jul
Margaret Hartsock	14-Jul
Bob Martin	14-Jul
Caroline Kelly	17-Jul
Bill Shaffer	20-Jul
Kay Rudd	24-Jul
Elena Corley	25-Jul
Sylvia Kellermeyer	25-Jul
Amado Torres	28-Jul
Brennan Kellermeyer	31-Jul



Our Deepest Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy to Zach Dodge and family on the death of Zach's grandmother, Barbara Listman, on Wednesday, May 23rd.

Prayers and sympathy to Charlie Orlick and family on the death of his wife (and long-time member), Mae Orlick, on Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

THANK YOU

I would first like to thank the church for the beautiful recognition they had for me and the other seniors of 2018. It was a wonderful experience being there with all of the people I grew up seeing and all of the new faces I have yet to meet. It warms my heart to know that I will always have the support of the First Presbyterian church in little Cumberland, Maryland. I would also love to thank everybody in the church and everybody who has ever been involved in the church for everything that you guys have done for me. I grew up in the church, quite literally I was known as 'the church baby.' I have so many fond memories involving the church that I will cherish always. Thank you, you all mean so much to me. Go Hokies!!

Much love,

Addison

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School was the combined effort of seven churches and held at St Paul's Lutheran Church under the leadership of Debbie Streicher. There was an average of 55-60 students attending and about 25 volunteers who fed and "shepherded their flocks" each evening. Our Faith Formation Team thanks the cookie providers who generously donated cookies for the Vacation Bible School reception after the final program Friday evening, June 22. Also thanks to Alex Kellermeyer for volunteering during the week to plan and make the theme snack. We hope that more of our church family will participate next year. One of the adult volunteers suggested we have VBS for adults. Not a Baaa-d idea. What do you think?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP COMMISSIONING



On Sunday, June 24th during worship we commissioned the South Dakota Learning Camp participants for their mission trip to Marty, South Dakota from July 7th-15th.

SOUTH DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP TRANSPORTATION HELP NEEDED!!

South Dakota Learning Camp participants are in need of one driver and a minivan to transport six volunteers to Reagan Airport on Saturday July 7th, to leave the church parking lot at 10:30AM at 11 Washington St Cumberland.

They are also in need of two drivers and two minivans to drive 12 volunteers back from DC Reagan Airport at 4:00PM on Sunday July 15th, returning to the church parking lot around 7:30PM.

If you have a minivan that you can loan, but can't drive, please let us know. We can also rent the minivans, so if you're willing to drive please let us know. You'll meet some wonderful and grateful people! Contact BJ Wrights at 301-876-0262 or Robin Bissell at 240-444-4219 as soon as possible.

ECCB STAFF VISITS CUMBERLAND

On June 12th, we had a special visitor all the way from Czech Republic. Oliver Engelhard, the new Director of Ecumenical Relations for the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB), was in the States for a short time. He visited Chicago, New York City, Annapolis, Cumberland, and Frostburg. His work in Prague includes the partnerships between PC(USA) and ECCB churches.

Pastor Caroline and Linda Smith got to know Oliver during lunch with him, and his uncle Herman who lives in Frostburg. *Small world!* After a tour of our building, we shared about our partnership with Vsetin, Czech Republic. We talked about the next Czech Partnership Conference to be held near Atlanta, GA in April 2019. Oliver hopes that several members of First Presbyterian will attend (*perhaps you?*). We also hope that some Vsetin church members could come for the Conference, possibly for an extra week before or afterward to get to know us better, like Sara and Lucie did.

We'd like to grow our Partnership Committee. If you're interested or have questions or suggestions, please contact Linda Smith at lrsmith17@verizon.net or anyone on the Mission Committee.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: PAKISTAN PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Presbyterians started work in the Indian sub-continent during the 1850s. When the first missionaries arrived, they traveled on palaki (a square wooden covered platform hanging from a bamboo pole, carried by at least two men) to ultimately reach their destination.

Over the next several years, the missionaries established girls' schools and boarding houses as well as primary schools in poor villages.

Pakistan became a nation in 1947 and the schools continued under the same leadership until 1971 when the government of Pakistan took possession. This continued for 27 years and then they were denationalized in 1998. The buildings and furniture were in ruin and student population had declined.

Our church has been supporting the Pakistan Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) since its denationalization in 1998. In June 2003, at a National Presbyterian Women's Gaithering, we had the pleasure of meeting Veda Javaid Gill, Executive PEB Director.

Veda visited Cumberland in June 2004. Later that year the mission committee had a campaign to help build Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. In April 2006, Linda Smith and Georgene McKenzie attended the dedication of that school.

Student population has increased from a few hundred students in 1998 with seven schools to nearly 6000 in 24 schools. The only way many of the children can attend is by having a scholarship. Through Reason for the Season, for several years, we have provided six to seven scholarships per year with two graduations.

Boys & girls study together through grade 5. Pakistan law mandates separate education beginning in grade 6. Muslims and Christians study side by side. Several of the schools teach English.

Plan to be with us on Sunday, October 7, 2018 when we will welcome Veda Gill back to share with us the happenings of PEB as they celebrate 20 years of joys.

We are making a difference throughout the world through our mission giving. We are 2018 missionaries right here in Cumberland!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



OUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The Union Rescue Mission provides a safe shelter, three hot meals per day, clothing, hygiene items, diapers, formula and other necessities to those in need in our community.

They are currently in dire need of:

Tampons
Baby wipes
Diapers, size 4 – 6
Soap bars, bath size
Shampoo, regular size
Conditioner, regular size
Deodorant, women's & men's



Goal: 100 Packs
When: July through September
What: Donations of individual items
Where: Please place items in the marked donation box located in the foyer.



ALL HAND ON DECK FOR SUMMER LUNCHBOX 2018

Calling all sandwich makers and lunch packers!!! We have begun making and delivering lunches on Fridays this summer and will continue through Friday, August

10. Please plan to join us in the Fellowship 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.

WORSHIP WITH US

SANCTUARY CHOIR RECOGNITION

On June 3rd we recognized the members of the Sanctuary Choir during worship.

Singing is a ministry that belongs to all the people of God. The art form most suited to expressing the church's unity in the body of Christ is singing. Different voices, different instruments, different parts are blended to offer a single, living, and unified work of beauty. This past year our choir sang a wide variety of music including some composed by or arranged by our own Director of Music Ministries, Bryan Lohr. Choir rehearsals included various vocal warm ups, rehearsing the anthems, hymns and introits for upcoming weeks, and often ended with a story from Bryan about the history of a piece or a personal connection he has with a composer or lyricist.

Members of the choir this year were: Gary Hendrickson, Bob Courtney, Hans Killius, Zach Dodge, Romy Villanueva, Eric Ringler, Nancy Hodges, Betty Richtmeyer, Sheri Corley, Carolyn Mathews, Julie Courtney, Susan Mills, Mikayla Dodge, Gail Foster, Gail Plitnik, Debi Mullan, and Beau Hartman. Many in the congregation have commented this year that the worship music really adds to each service in very meaningful ways. We are blessed to have such a gifted and talented director and vocalists who come each week to practice and contribute their voices to our music ministry. We welcome anyone who would like to join their voice with

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

June-July

Address Service Requested

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

WESLEY MASON VIOLIN CONCERT

Wesley Mason, a recent Frostburg State graduate and frequent guest artist at FPC, will be offering a free recital at 3:00 p.m. on July 15 at Christ Lutheran Church in LaVale. The program will feature Wesley and other area musicians playing a wide array of repertoire, including classical, jazz, gospel, and pop. A free-will offering will be taken to help Wesley raise funds for a new violin, after his current instrument suffered severe damage from woodworm. Please consider attending this concert and generously supporting Wesley's music ministry in our community! The church's address is [1222 Vocke Rd, Cumberland, MD 21502](https://www.fpc-cumberland.org). For more information, please speak with Bryan Lohr.