

the gateway

Christ our Center
CHILDREN OUR BLESSING
Justice our Passion

April 2012

**“Christ is a God of joy.
It is pleasing to the dear God
whenever thou rejoicest or laughest
from the bottom of thy heart.”**

- Martin Luther

We dye eggs, hide and hunt them. We eat lamb or glazed ham. We celebrate with trumpets, lilies, and hallelujahs! In Sweden, Easter sounds more like Halloween. Witches were thought to fly their broomsticks to church bell towers on Easter Eve. The Swedish children dress up as witches and visit neighbors with an Easter card, hoping to receive a coin or candy. In Ireland they do a dawn dance on Easter morning. In Switzerland, an Easter cuckoo delivers the eggs. We all have traditions to celebrate the holy day.

One of my favorites is an ancient tradition of honoring the resurrection of Jesus Christ with our joy and laughter. During the Middle Ages, churches held a service of laughter. The Sunday following Easter, people gathering for worship would come to hear funny stories, humorous anecdotes and to laugh and laugh and laugh. Churches were filled with the sound of *risus paschalis* or “Easter laughter.” For centuries, Christians throughout Europe celebrated “Bright Sunday.” Then the church hierarchy decided that good church goers needed to be more serious. Laughing in church became frowned upon. Church leadership discouraged celebrations of Bright Sunday and by the eighteenth century, they were prohibited all together.

What’s so funny about Easter? Why laugh to celebrate the resurrection? Easter morning seems any thing but humorous. The disciples are still in hiding. The women are visiting Jesus’ tomb and seeking to anoint his body with spices. Death weighs heaven upon the morning and sadness fills the air until the women find the grave open and the tomb empty. But even then, laughter doesn’t fill their lungs, they are even more alarmed. Tragedy seems to have been heaped upon tragedy as now the body of their loved one has been taken away. Heaven has to intervene and explain the shockingly wonderful reality that Jesus is not dead. That God has raised Christ from the grave. That although he was dead and buried, Christ is alive.

It is such a spectacular turn of events that the reality of the resurrection still eludes rational thought. It is God’s great surprise. So unexpected. So outrageously gracious. So wonderfully powerful. Early Christian theologians likened it to a trick. God tricked the devil. The devil thought that the forces of evil had succeeded when Jesus was crucified. It certainly appeared that hatred and violence had won. But God stunned all creation with a surprise ending that shattered death and turned the tables. God really is greater than death and sin and all that is evil.

May holy laughter fill you with joy, gladden your heart, and strengthen your faith in our God of wonderful surprises.

~ God’s Blessings, Molly

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

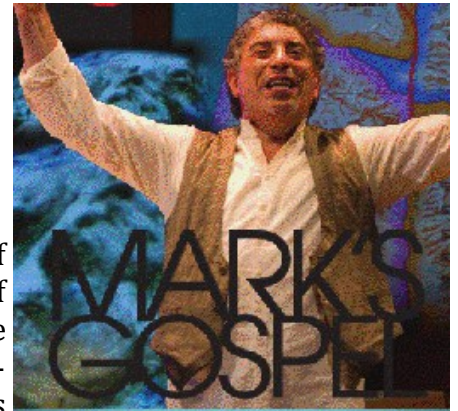
<p>April 1</p>	<p>Palm Sunday Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. <i>The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching</i> The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated MUSIC: 9:30—First Service Singers and Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers 11:00—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>April 15</p>	<p>Legacy Sunday Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. <i>Karl Mattison will be preaching</i> Hunger Offering MUSIC: 9:30—Revelations 11:00—Chancel Choir</p>
<p>April 5</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Seder Service at 7:00 followed by communion service at 7:45 <i>The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching</i></p>	<p>April 22</p>	<p>Earth Day Sunday Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. <i>The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching</i> MUSIC: 9:30—First Service Singers 11:00—Chancel Choir</p>
<p>April 6</p>	<p>Good Friday Service at 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m. beginning at All Saint's Church <i>The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching</i></p>	<p>April 29</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday of Easter Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. <i>The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching at 11:00 a.m.</i> MUSIC: 9:30—Children's Musical 11:00—Chancel Choir</p>
<p>April 8</p>	<p>Easter Sunday Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. <i>The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching</i> MUSIC: 9:00—Chancel Choir 11:00—Chancel Choir</p>		

Join us for a screening of

*Mark's Gospel
 as told by Max McLean*

*On Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012
 12:20 p.m. in Geneva Hall at CCPC*

Two thousand years ago, a drama unfolded that would change the course of history. Many have called it the "greatest story ever told." Prepare yourself for the journey through Holy Week by viewing a one-person performance the Gospel of Mark. Max McLean's powerful stage performance takes us inside the story of Jesus so that we can experience the events and characters that have inspired and challenged people all over the world. Based on the New International Version of the Bible, this word-for-word presentation of the Gospel of Mark was recorded live, and invites you into the story of Jesus Christ in a compelling way. (90 minute running time.)



MARK'S GOSPEL

Are you Following us on Twitter yet?

Have you joined us on Twitter yet? We've been tweeting our way through Lent with daily thoughts, verses, and prayers. We hope to provide a moment to pause and re-center during our busy days. This is one of the ways to focus on making Christ our center. Follow us @ChevyChasePC! (We promise, we won't overwhelm your feeds with constant updates!) We're tweeting at 8:00 a.m. noon, and 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.

There are a couple of different ways to get our tweets, even if you don't always remember to check Twitter.

If you want to get notifications on your smartphone every time we tweet, you can set it up through a free app called Boxcar. Boxcar allows you to set up specific notifications. Once you download the app, you can select to receive updates from @ChevyChasePC.

If you don't have a smartphone, you can select to get updates from @ChevyChasePC sent to your cellphone as a text message. To set up mobile alerts, go to "mobile" under "edit profile." You can select to receive mobile updates from select accounts.

If you already use Twitter, what are you waiting for? Join us!

Contact our Communications Coordinator, Megan, at megan@chevychasepc.org if you have any questions or comments. And if you stop by during the week, she'll be happy to help you get your account or notifications set up!

A sample of some of our recent tweets

- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 16 Feb

"Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!" -Ann Weems
#ChristOurCenter
- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 22 Feb

Creator, reshape my heart, God, steady my spirit. Do not cast me aside stripped of your holy spirit #psalm51 #ashwednesday
- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 26 Feb

Guide us on paths of righteousness and lead us in the ways of justice and love #ChristOurCenter
- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 26 Feb

For you are the God of our healing and wholeness; you are our heart's true home. #ChristOurCenter
- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 25 Feb

Gracious God, as you walk with us through the days of Lent, surround us with the beauty of your rainbow and the magnitude of your love #lent
- 

CCPC @ChevyChasePC 13 Mar

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety #psalm4 #eveningprayer

What's Twitter?

Twitter is a social networking website that connects you to stories, idea, opinions and news from around the world. In recent years, it has played a role in revolutions and helped people get connected following natural disasters, as well as served as way to keep up with all the freshest ideas.

What's a Tweet, anyway?

Twitter is based on short "bursts" of information that are called Tweets. Each Tweet is 140 characters long, but those short 140 characters can be packed with thoughtful information. CCPC is sharing Bible verses, prayers, thoughts and devotions as focus on making Christ our Center.

Ok, so what's the point?

Twitter isn't just a forum to let the world know what you had for breakfast. It's a community, and a way to connect to people. For our community, it's a way to keep spirituality in our every day lives.



Adult Education and Nurture at CCPC: Sunday Mornings and Beyond

Continuing April 15, 22 & 29, 2012

[Note: All adult classes will take a break on Easter Sunday, April 8.]

The Bible in Context Class (Meets from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in Room 350-B, third floor, Education Building) – Continuing April 1, 15, 22, 29, 2012)

The Gospel of Mark. Participants are invited to study the Gospel of Mark with teachers Dottie Boerner, Beth Nyhus and John Weicher. Anyone who is interested is always welcome.

Faith Trek (Meets from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Library, first floor, center building, alley side) – Continuing April 1, 15, 22, 29, 2012)

Faith Trek is a small group of CCPC adults who are curious about their faith and the world and who want to explore in the company of a circle of friends. The circle expands easily, and we would be delighted to have you join us. The class is reading *The Misunderstood Jew: The Scandal in the Church of the Jewish Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. Check with Margaret Chan (301/656-5034) if you have questions or to secure a copy of the book. Please feel free to drop by any Sunday.

Open Forum (Meets from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in Geneva Hall, second floor, Education Building, street side)
The Open Forum offers a forum for the discussion of a variety of topics on the intersection of faith and life. Join us in January for a discussion of these topics:

April 1 & 15 – NO Class

April 15 – Classes continue at 9:45 with Wills Emphasis. Bequest gifts have the power to impact the church for future generations. A speaker from the Presbytery will be on-hand to discuss estate planning and how easy it is to include a charitable bequest in a will while still providing for loved ones. This is important information because six out of 10 Americans do not have a will, and only 20% of those who do include charitable bequests.

April 22 and May 6– Same-Sex Marriage- The Marriage Task Force, formed in June 2011 to study the topic of same-sex marriage and develop recommendations for CCPC, will provide information and obtain feedback from members about the various dimensions of this issue. Please add your voice to this important discussion.

Wednesday Mornings (Bi-Monthly)

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group invites you to join them **twice a month** in Geneva Hall on **the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:30 – 12:30 noon**. The group is also studying the Gospel of Mark (the lectionary Gospel for this year) and welcomes new members anytime. We will conclude our study in May. Contact Grace Hyslop or study leader, Lynn Jostes, for more details and a book. Come join us!

Wednesday Evenings (Monthly)

The Young Women's Bible Study invites all young women of the congregation to join their study and fellowship! Mark your calendars for the **third Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. in Room 350-B** (third floor, Education Building, street side.) Bring your Bibles and join us and teacher, Lynn Jostes, for some great discussion of the Gospel of John!

Next Inquirers' Seminar Scheduled for April 29, 2012

The next Inquirers' Seminar of the program year will be offered on **Sunday morning, April 29, 2012 from 12:15 to 4:00 p.m. in Geneva Hall at CCPC.** This session is open not only to those persons who may have decided to become members, but also to persons who exploring their call to Christian discipleship as members of this congregation. The format for the afternoon following lunch includes a brief overview of the basic history, beliefs, and traditions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as an outline of specific opportunities for using your gifts with others in ministry at CCPC. Those choosing to join will do so on May 6. If you are interested in participating in the seminar on April 29 (or know someone who may be interested), please contact Associate Pastor Lynn Jostes at 202-363-2202 or lynn@chevychasepc.org for more information or to sign up. Come join with the disciples of The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church as we discover our gifts and answer our calling, and together serve our Lord.

Marriage Task Force

The CCPC Marriage Task Force (MTF) was formed in June 2011 to study the topic of same-sex marriage and develop recommendations for our Church. On April 22nd and May 6th, the MTF will lead Open Forum sessions to brief and obtain feedback from members of the congregation about the various dimensions of the issue. Attendees of these meetings will have the opportunity to learn more about:

- The role and objectives of the MTF
- Background information on Presbyterian Church polity
- The history of Christian marriage in the Reformed Christian tradition
- Perspectives on scriptural interpretations regarding marriage

Please add your voice to these discussions and join the MTF at the Open Forum sessions at 9:45am on April 22 and May 6!



2012 Confirmation Retreat At Rolling Ridge Retreat Center near Harper's Ferry, West Virginia

fellowship stink bugs friends study
fun great time silence



A sample of the students' artwork depicting following Christ, not just believing in Jesus.



Transition Assistance Program *up close*

Longtime Transition Assistance Program volunteer Carol Lieberman could barely see out the back of her car on her drive back from Pennsylvania last fall. It was stuffed to the roof with donated men's clothes for TAP clients. The bounty was thanks to her son

Seth Hall, 37, an executive with Philadelphia Insurance Companies. Hearing his mother's stories about the many needs of TAP clients, he began bringing her a few items of gently worn clothing whenever he came to visit. He spread the word among his work friends and they donated, too. With winter coming on, Seth's buddy Dennis offered to sponsor a golf tournament at his country club with the price of admission being a coat or jacket for TAP. The bounty, much of it new, "filled half of Seth's garage!" Carol said. "I wish he could have been a fly on the wall and seen the reaction of all the clients. It's so touching when people who have so little receive something warm and new. They were so happy. And doing this makes my son happy, too."



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Exciting Progress in Shikokho Mission

Thanks to all who helped to make the celebration of CCPC's new micro-loan program in our mission in Shikokho, Kenya a huge success! It was a packed house! The Revelations guitar group set the tone performing great songs appropriately themed for the event: when we help one another, we make the world a better place. Talented cooks provided a delicious buffet. Guest speaker, Robyn Neitert, president the Women's Microfinance Initiative, helped us understand how this program works. There are many ways that small loans to women coupled with financial training improve family and village life, making the WMI model uniquely effective and sustainable. The evening was capped by an inspirational "premier" showing of a film bringing us face to face with women borrowers of WMI. (Created by Erin Kelly who grew up at CCPC!)

Those who attended were generous with their donations which will be matched by WMI to enable CCPC to continue to expand the program. If you were unable to attend, you can learn about WMI at www.wmionline.org. Contact Sally Kelly, CCPC liaison to WMI Shikokho, if you have questions or ideas to share: salkelly@earthlink.net.

The Shikokho committee seeks volunteers to help us sustain this and all our other mission initiatives. Join us!



Photography Exhibit

All Things Bright and Beautiful is the title our Church Administrator, Ian Richardson, chose for the collection of some 30 of his photographs currently on display in Geneva Hall. Given his background before coming to CCPC 16 years ago, it is perhaps not surprising that many of the pictures involve creatures with wings, ranging from tiny insects to birds with six-foot wingspans! Several visitors to the display have already taken advantage of the order form included with the display catalog to purchase prints of their favorite images. The majority of the proceeds go directly to CCPC as a tax-deductible contribution to be used specifically to help retire the remaining debt from the Centennial Celebration activities four years ago.



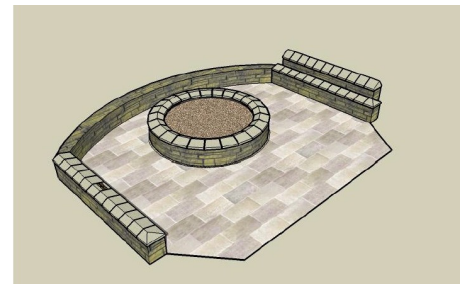
Bibles Needed

Do you have an extra Bible at home that you aren't using? Or do you know of used book drives that might have leftovers? The Transition Assistance Program is seeking donations of Bibles to have on hand when we get requests from our clients. Check your bookshelves and drop off donations of gently used Bibles—either hard or softcover—in the designated box on the stage in Chadsey Hall. You may also leave them at the TAP office (ground floor), during open hours—Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thank you.

Columbarium Expansion

The Session has approved the Columbarium Committee's recommendation to add 11 niches at four spaces each bringing the total space for urns to 236 from the current 192. Now ten years old, the columbarium has been well received by the CCPC congregation. Of the current 192 spaces, 180 are sold, ten have been spoken for, and only 2 spaces are left available for sale.

The Committee considered several expansion alternatives. One was to follow the original design concept by replacing the curved stone wall with a straight wall which would contain a large number of niches. A more modest expansion alternative was selected for this first addition, leaving open many possibilities for future and larger expansions. The decision is to add a short wall immediately behind the existing northern straight wall. The



Columbarium with Proposed Expansion

The new wall will be raised above the top of the existing cap stones. Also, the front face of the cap stone will have a slightly steeper angle so that the bronze name plaques are easier to read from a standing position. The Committee took its task seriously, alternative mock-ups were placed at the site before a final decision was reached. The photo depicts the location and design in an easy to visualize way (thanks to Ian Richardson).

Three bids were obtained. The two low bids were very close. After checking references and meeting with representatives of the firms, the Pereira Construction Company was selected, and a contract will be executed shortly. The Session has approved the expenditure of up to \$20,000. This expenditure will be fully covered by the Columbarium Reserve Account with no additional funds required. The low bid is for \$11,000. There will be additional costs if limestone cap stones are chosen in lieu of sand castings, also for plastic niche dividers, and the necessary landscaping. Work should get underway this spring and be completed in a few weeks, subject to weather conditions and supply of the cap stones.

Members of the Columbarium Committee are Roy Cashion, Hugh Eagleton, Campbell Graeub, Derek Hawver, Ellen Lee, Dick Riegel and Ian Richardson.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Friday, April 6, 2012

At each of the 14 stations,
we remember Jesus' final walk to Calvary

Journey to Easter with the Circle Churches

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Chevy Chase Baptist Church
Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

We'll begin at 1:10 p.m. in the sanctuary at
All Saints' Episcopal Church
and conclude with refreshments around
2:30 in Chadsey Hall at CCPC

Three of the stations will be at CCPC and we will host the gathering which follows. Contact Lynn Jostes if you would like to participate as a reader, assistant, usher, or cross-bearer in this annual tradition, or contact Dale Kasab if you will provide some cookies for the reception.

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

"Christ our Center. Children our Blessing. Justice our Passion."

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