



the gateway

Christ our Center
CHILDREN OUR BLESSING
Justice our Passion

February 2012

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art- Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

I have sung these words ever since I was a child. This beloved hymn speaks to the desire for a light from God to guide our way. We ask God to help us see the world through eyes of hope, trust and love. We ask that our lives may be aligned with God's greatest hopes and dreams for who we are and who God would have us be.

Over the past year we have been asking God to grant us a vision of God's hopes and dreams for the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. We have sought a light from God to guide our church in a time of changing cultural values. We have sought to align our ministry with God's greatest hopes and dreams for who we are as a church and who God would have us become.

What do we mean by "vision"?

During the Civil Rights Movement people kept their "eyes on the prize." Their vision was freedom and equality for all people. A vision paints a picture of the future for which we long and apply our efforts. It names our unique gifts as a congregation and clarifies the purpose of our ministry.

Why do we need one?

A vision unites the church around a common focus and moves us in the same direction. The vision inspires our ministry, stretches our imaginations, helps us focus our efforts and align our resources to our ministry goals.

What is the visioning process?

In the spring of 2010, the session authorized the formation of a Vision Task Force to begin a process of seeking God's purpose for CCPC at this time in history. Over the course of a year, the Task Force met with small groups, collected data, researched contemporary literature, CCPC history, conducted classes, interviews and much more. The Session approved *Dreaming a New Day: Visioning Report* in June of 2011. As we move forward, we seek to communicate the findings of the report and the vision even as we seek further input on the implementation of a visioning plan.



What vision emerged?

Quoting from the Visioning Report: "As busy people pulled by the competing demands of contemporary life, we are called to make Jesus Christ the center of our lives. As a church blessed with the vitality of children, youth, and young families, we are called to receive the riches of this blessing and to nurture and

continued on page 11

INSIDE THE GATEWAY

Worship and Music

Worship Schedule.....	2
Singing Opportunities	3

Education

FOCUS in March 2012.....	4
Adult Education and Nurture	5
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.....	7

Mission

Community Based Shelter Week	7
TAP Up Close	8
Montgomery County's New Bag Law.....	10
Shikoho Microloan Initiative.....	11

Community

Study Guide for the 2011 Visioning Report.....	9
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- February 5 Justice Sunday**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. David Beckman from Bread for the World will be preaching
 The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated
MUSIC:
 9:30—Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers
 11:00—Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers and Chancel Choir
- February 12 6th Sunday after Epiphany**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
MUSIC:
 9:30—Chancel Choir
 11:00—First Service Singers

- February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
 Hunger Offering
MUSIC:
 9:30—Chancel Choir
 11:00—First Service Singers
- February 22 Ash Wednesday**
The Rev. Lynn Jostes will be preaching
Services at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- February 26 1st Sunday of Lent**
Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
 Congregational Meeting
MUSIC:
 10:00—Chancel, Carol and Junior choirs

Annual Congregation Meeting And Fellowship Brunch

Sunday, February 26th

Join us for the SINGLE worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 26th and remain through the morning for our Annual Congregational Meeting and a Fellowship Brunch! Sunday School for children will be available during the worship service and extended care will be offered during the meeting.

Special activities for younger children and childcare for infants and toddlers will be offered during the meeting. A donation of \$7.00 per adult (age 12 and up), \$3.00 per child (age 3-11), with a maximum of \$25.00 per family will be requested for brunch.

Save the Date!

Can you name five symbols of Lent/Easter? Where and when did the tradition of Easter Eggs begin? How many different crosses can you draw? Children, youth and adults are invited to come join us at our fifth annual **Easter Festival, Saturday morning, March 24, 2012** to explore these and other traditions of our most sacred season of the church year. Watch for complete details in next month's *Gateway*!

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.

In ancient Israel ashes were understood to be a forceful reminder of the pervasiveness of human sin and of the inevitability of death. Ashes represented that which was burned out and wasted...that which once was, but is no more. This traditional emblem of grief and mourning has been adopted by the Christian church as a signal of our own sinful mortality, as well as to remind us of the dark days in Jesus' life in his passion and death. During the days of Lent which follow, we think about who we are and who Jesus Christ is...for us...and the journey begins.

This year, we invite you to begin your contemplative Lenten journey with worship. We will gather for a simple service of scripture/reflection, singing, ashes and communion at **7:30 a.m.** (for early morning risers or those on the way to work) **9:15 a.m.** (for those dropping off at Nursery School and others), and **7:30 p.m.** (for those who wish to conclude their day with worship) in the sanctuary. Please join us for this sacred time.

Choir News for All Ages

Singing Opportunity for Grades 6-12

We are excited to offer folks in grades 6-12 the opportunity to be in the Youth Chorus for Youth Sunday on March 18. In preparation, Julie Evans will hold rehearsals on the following days:

Before Youth Group on Sunday, March 4 and 11 at 5:00 p.m. in room 300.

A third and final rehearsal will be Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m.. Pizza will be served and music will be sung! A commitment to at least 2 rehearsals is necessary. Please contact julie@chevyCHASEPC.org

Singing Opportunity for the men of the church, including grades 9-12

A Men's Chorus is forming to sing at both services on Sunday, March 11. Rehearsals are as follows:

Wednesday, February 29, 7:00-8:00p.m. in room 300

Wednesday, March 7, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in room 300

Saturday, March 10, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A commitment to at least 2 rehearsals is necessary.

Please contact julie@chevyCHASEPC.org

Congratulations to Pastor Jane Duffield on her Ordination!



Jane is now officially a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She remains our Interim Associate Pastor. Jane came to us when she was shortly out of seminary and certified for ministry, but not yet ordained. This service changed her status in the denomination, but not in our congregation.



Chevy Chase Concert Series



Classical Guitarist Andrew York Sunday, February 19—4 p.m.

Chevy Chase Concerts is excited to present Andrew York, a Grammy award-winning guitarist and composer. York's musicianship is influenced by a wide range of styles, from jazz to folk to classical and beyond. Now an internationally renowned solo artist, for ten years Andrew performed with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. He has recorded extensively, and his compositions are regularly performed and recorded by such luminaries as John Williams and Christopher Parkening. You are encouraged to visit Andrew's website: <http://www.andrewyork.net/>

35th Annual Bach Marathon Sunday, March 18—2 p.m.

This Washington institution again presents the music of J.S. Bach in half-hour programs on our wonderful 3-manual, 50-rank, 2,500-pipe Rieger tracker organ. Come when you can, leave when you must and refresh your soul. This season's theme is "Bach to Basics: Fantasies and Fugues."

FOCUS in March 2012

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

What's FOCUS?

FOCUS is our adult education series at CCPC highlighting various aspects of the adult journey: Faith...Outreach...Community...Understanding...Spirituality

When is it?

FOCUS courses run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evening during Lent.

What About Dinner?

Dinner and fellowship is available for everyone from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in Chadsey Hall (\$8.00/adult; \$3.00/children 3-10; children under 2 eat free. Reservations are required by Tuesday at noon). Come enjoy a meal with your church family even if you can't stay for a class! You don't have to cook, and you can't beat the price!

What if I can't get a babysitter?

Children are welcome for dinner, and childcare will be available during the classes as requested.

Our next series of classes will feature options exploring faith in art, Holy Week, climate change, and yoga. Check out the class descriptions and watch for a brochure with all of the details and registration information coming to your home in February!

Faith and the Visual Arts – Throughout the centuries, the visual arts have brought life and joy and sometimes intrigue to faith as artists form images into profound expressions of prayer and praise. The visual arts help the Church rehearse and remember the biblical story, inspire congregations to worship more deeply, and deepen times of personal devotion and prayer for individuals. Works of art help us to understand more fully God's presence, the scriptures, ourselves and the world God loves, and thus strengthen our connection with the Divine. In these weeks you are invited to explore various aspects of Faith and the Visual Arts, and to be inspired and challenged to celebrate and practice God's gift of creativity. Meets in Geneva Hall on the second floor of the Education Building.

March 1 – *Art and the Holy*. As the series begins, guest presenter, Catherine Kapikian, Founder and Director Emerita of the Henry Luce III Center for Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary, will offer an overview of the relationship of Faith and the Visual Arts, and then share her work as a site-specific, visual artist who works with the members of congregations to create visual art for their religious spaces.

March 8 – *Contemporary Art: How Spiritual?* CCPC members Jean Cohen and Allison Marvin will help participants consider 20th- and 21st-century art, its spiritual implications (whether intentional or not) and its capacity to nurture people of faith. Join us as we consider issues including expressions of faith (some controversial), the shared nature of art and religious belief, liberating encounters with abstraction (beyond "graven images") and inspirational works in secular venues like the National Gallery of Art (Barnett Newman's "Stations of the Cross") and at ecumenical sites like the Menil Collection's Rothko Chapel.

March 15 – *SoulCollage® and the Spirit*. Leader Theresa Walker invites you to consider, "What is the still, small voice within telling you? What do you need to know right now for your life's journey?" In this session, we will choose images, compose small collages, and engage in a brief writing exercise to clarify the meaning of our work. We will find joy and wisdom in the guidance we receive from our creations. Absolutely no artistic experience needed. All art materials included. Bring a pen and notebook.

March 22 – *Iconography through the Ages*. Come explore various signs and symbols (iconography) in Christian art throughout history. CCPC member Bethany Velasco will lead the class in discussing the immense power of the icon, and the Presbyterian Church USA's use of images today.

March 29 – *Artful Meditation*. Join practicing artist and CCPC member Carol Rubin in a hands-on class and create artwork in a meditative spirit. The goal will not be a final product, but an experience of the

process of using some "contemporary icons" and careful observation to enhance spiritual meditation. NO prior artistic experience is needed.

Journey Through Holy Week – You are invited to journey with CCPC staff leaders through Holy Week, the last week of Lent, when we follow Jesus from Palm Sunday to his death on Good Friday in preparation for his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. Too often we would prefer to avoid the intensity of the emotions and events of this important week, but through honest Bible Study and reflection we can more genuinely understand and participate in the passion of our Savior. Meets in the Library on the first floor of the center building.

March 1 – PALM SUNDAY with the Rev. Jane Duffield, Interim Associate Pastor at CCPC.

March 8 – THE IN-BETWEEN DAYS with the Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert, Senior Pastor at CCPC.

March 15 – MAUNDY THURSDAY with the Rev. Dr. Robert Angus, Parish Associate at CCPC.

March 22 – GOOD FRIDAY with the Rev. Lynn Jostes, Associate Pastor for Christian Nurture at CCPC.

March 29 – RESURRECTION SUNDAY with the Rev. Dr. Ed White, Parish Associate at CCPC.

Global Climate Change: Hot Air or the Cold Truth? CCPC members and Earth Stewards Dennis Leister and Rosemary Killen invite you to attend this 5-week class to examine the current status of evidence and attitudes toward global climate change focused in two films and the executive summary of the assessment of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC.) Meets in Firesides on the second floor of the Education Building.

March 1 – Our first class will view and discuss "Earth: The Operators' Manual" hosted by Penn State geologist Richard Allenby (part of the PBS TV series that premiered in April 2011.) This film addresses how we know that global heating is happening and how we can address this with changes to our energy generation and consumption practices.

March 8 – We will begin reviewing and discussing the IPCC 4th Assessment Report (AR4) on Global Climate Change issued in 2007, using the Summary Report with its many charts and graphs to understand the conclusions of this UN panel.

March 15 – Continue reviewing the IPCC 4th Assessment Report

March 22 – CCPC is once again hosting a film for the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. This year, we are pleased to offer the world premiere of the film "Shattered Sky" which explores parallels between how the world reacted to the ozone hole in the Arctic caused by CFCs and how the world is reacting to increasing evidence supporting global warming. The film will be shown in the Sanctuary and the filmmakers plan to attend to answer questions at the end of the screening.

March 29 – The conclusion of our study of the IPCC 4th Assessment Report.

What's the Big Deal about Yoga? Have you wondered about yoga – why is it so popular? Is it a religion? Is it an exercise program? If you have never practiced yoga and want a primer on what it is and what it can do for you and your spiritual journey, this is the class for you. Leader Meg Artley will encourage the class to read about, discuss and experience each one of the eight limbs of yoga through the practice of asanas (poses). After this class, participants will have a good foundation on which to build in any beginning to intermediate level class if they wish to continue with yoga. Wear comfortable clothing that you can bend and stretch in and bring a yoga mat. Meets in Room 350A-B on the third floor of the Education Building.

Special Pre-FOCUS Opportunity!! Bell Ringing for Beginners

6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 in Room 300

Join Joann Moorner for one week or any or all of the five to learn the basics of bell ringing. We'll talk about the history of handbell ringing, learn some basic techniques, read some simple music together

and work together to make music. There will also be an optional opportunity to ring at the 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday service April 1, 2012.

No prior handbell experience or even music-reading is required!!

Come share in the festive joy of making music in a low pressure, fun environment.

Adult Education and Nurture at CCPC: Sunday Mornings and Beyond

Continuing February 5, 12, & 19 2012

All Sunday morning classes take a break on Sunday, February 26 for worship and the Annual Meeting

The Bible in Context Class (Meets from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in Room 350-B, third floor, Education Building)
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)
 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:

February 5 – *Our Justice in Action Series* continues with Marco Grimaldo, Regional Organizer from Bread for the World, discussing some specific initiatives aimed at reducing hunger in this country. Mr. Grimaldo's *Open Forum* discussion will take place on Justice Sunday when the Rev. David Beckman, President of Bread for the World, will be preaching and leading the CCPC congregation in worship.

February 12 – *Justice in Action: The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)* has launched a new campaign to link the revenue generated through downtown development and prosperity to affordable housing and job creation. Community organizers Jahi Wise and Any Vruno will discuss this new initiative that already has the support of many DC City Council members.

February 19 – *Justice in Action: Inside CCPC's Transition Assistance Program.* A lot has changed in the 30 years our church has been helping our area's homeless and working poor become self-sufficient. Come hear an update—and some touching stories—from a panel of Transition Assistance Program volunteers about who we are serving, what they need, how we help, and what the latest trends are.

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!

Church School Classes for Everyone! We've Saved a Place for You!

Church School classes for all ages continue through May each Sunday. Church school is held from 9:45 – 10:45. Children and youth are encouraged to attend worship with their family or with friends and then go to their classes (usually after the Time with Children each week). Children in grades K-3 enjoy music with Joann Moor-er on most Sundays before going to classes. Watch the announcements for details. If you haven't already done so, we ask that parents please complete a registration form for their child(ren) for the rest of this year's session. Forms are available from the teachers or in the church office. Check out the Adult Education classes outlined in this month's *Gateway* and plan to join one when you can. We'll be looking for you!!

Next Inquirers' Seminar Scheduled for February 12, 2012

The next Inquirers' Seminar of the program year will be offered on **Sunday, February 12, 2012 from 12:15 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 250** (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 February 26. If you are interested in participating in the seminar on February 12 (or know someone who may be interested), please contact Associate Pastor Lynn Jostes at 202-363-2202 or lynn@chevyCHASE.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.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday February 21

Thanks to the Graeub family, we will continue our annual tradition of a family-style Pancake Supper on the Tuesday night before Lent begins. Pancakes and all the fixings will be served at the church between 5:30 and 7:30 PM in Chadsey Hall, so come when you can and leave when you must. A donation of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child to age 10, with a \$25 maximum per family will be requested. No reservations are needed.

The serving of pancakes on the Tuesday before the church season of Lent originally began as households sought to clean out all the eggs, milk and fat that would otherwise spoil before the 40 days of Lent were over and were allowed by church tradition to be consumed again. Reformed Christians no longer prohibit eating these foods during Lent. However, we still observe the Shrove Tuesday traditions of food and fellowship!



Community Based Shelter Week for CCPC

Each year our church provides food for a week at the CBS shelter in Rockville. CCPC is one of the founders of what is now Interfaith Works, a group of over 100 congregations in Montgomery County whose members support several shelters and other worthwhile programs.

Our week starts on Sunday, February 26 and ends on Saturday, March 3. Keep an eye out for the sign-up chart in Chadsey Hall, and think about making lunches and dinners for 35 women. Often two people or groups volunteer to work together. We will need servers, who take meals out to the shelter and serve the dinners. We will have shoppers who go to Costco to buy paper goods and staples for breakfasts.

Some members have volunteered for years and we would like to have some new people who are interested in what is happening in the lives of the homeless, who live in our area. The problems in the economy have meant that there are far more homeless

people in our area, and Interfaith Works has effective ways to handle the situation. The women in CBS have committed themselves to changing their situations and getting help from professional care givers, career counselors and medical people.

If you are not able to help with meals, we welcome and need donations. Please mark your checks, "to CBS".

Each year, our members have cooked delicious meals and some who serve the food have met and eaten with the guests. Some families have gone to the shelter with their children, who have learned what it means to be homeless by sharing their time.

If you have any questions, please email or call Bobbi Brown at diverbobbi@gmail.com or 301-656-6991.



Transition Assistance Program *up close*

Most people in the CCPC congregation are familiar with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), our church's 30-year-old ministry to help the homeless and working poor of our city become self-sufficient. But do you know what really goes on there? Here's the first in a series of stories—this one from long-time volunteer Carol Lieberman—which we will be sharing in the Gateway this year:

"The client is a big burly 48-year-old living in Hope Village, a half-way house. He has been incarcerated for the past 26 years! He was referred to TAP for a birth certificate and Metro fare [essentials for securing a job]. I gave him a SmarTrip Card with instructions on how to use it, and then asked him to wait while I got what he needed for the birth certificate. He took a seat on the couch outside my office. When I returned, I noticed that his eyes were filling up with tears, and I asked if he was okay. He started crying and said that everything was so new and he didn't know how to do *anything*. Using the SmarTrip card was overwhelming to him. He kept saying how different everything is and how unprepared he feels. I was able to get another client who was returning to Hope Village to go back with him on the bus and help him use the card. Meanwhile, we had two women clients in the waiting room who also rallied around him and offered support. It was so touching. It reminded me how ill prepared people are when they leave prison....in all ways....particularly after such a long stay."

Montgomery County's New Bag Law and Reusable Bag Program

Studies have found that plastic bags comprise a shocking proportion of trash in our community's waterways. In addition to being unsightly, plastic bags harm wildlife by trapping or entangling them, or by becoming lodged in their stomachs. Litter of this kind poses a threat to our local habitats.

On January 1, 2012, Montgomery County will begin charging \$0.05 per plastic or paper bag used at most merchants. The funds raised from these fees will go toward improving the health of local waterways, as well as to purchase reusable bags for residents who cannot afford to buy their own. A similar law in the District, which went into effect in January 2010, has reduced disposable bag use by more than 60 percent, while generating much needed funds for Anacostia River clean-up efforts.

Officials anticipate that the new Montgomery County law will be similarly effective in cutting down on trash in our waterways. Revenues collected through the new law will go to the Water Quality Protection Fund. In addition, the new law will reduce the amount of litter in the community, which will help save taxpayer dollars. (Montgomery County spends \$3 million each year on litter clean-up efforts.)

Visit http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/pio/bag/faqs_residents.asp for more information on the new law and answers to frequently asked questions!

Some helpful tips regarding the new bag law:

- Remember that many grocery stores and other retailers will give you an additional discount beyond just avoiding the bag fee if you bring your own reusable bags.
- Collect reusable bags for groceries and other purchases, and keep them in your car trunk so they're always ready when you need them. Small plastic bags for meat and produce are exempt from the new law (along with some other bags), so you can continue to use those to keep your reusable bags clean.
- Toss your reusable bags in the washing machine or wipe them down with antibacterial wipes periodically to keep them clean.
- Keep a compact reusable bag in your pocket or purse in case of unexpected purchases. You can pick one up at many retailers around town or online, and can even get one for \$5 (or for free with a \$20 book purchase) down the street at the Chevy Chase Library's FOLio used bookstore.
- If you discover that a retailer is not charging the new bag fee properly, you can call 311 to report it.
- If you do end up using a disposable bag, remember to reuse or recycle it to keep it out of our waterways.

Dreaming a New Day

Study Guide for the 2011 Visioning Report (January 2012)

Full Report available online at chevychasepc.org/who-we-are/our-beliefs

God's call for all Christians is to love God with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The church is God's agent of transformation for each of us. We are called as individuals to be in community, to worship, learn, and belong so that we can be transformed by God's love for us in Jesus Christ. As loved and equipped people, we go forth to transform the world.

Beyond this call, God calls a community at a particular moment in time to use its particular gifts to demonstrate God's astonishing love for the world. Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church's gifts and strengths and the context in which we live led us to our vision:

God is calling CCPC to make Christ the center of our lives, to celebrate and equip the youngest generation of our church to do the work to which Christ has called us all; and to work in the world for justice.

Christ our Center

As busy people pulled by the competing demands of contemporary life, we are called to make Jesus Christ the center of our lives.

Pulled by the often conflicting stresses of daily living, we seek to center our lives in the Spirit of God and the ways of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, prayer, community life, and pastoral care we seek to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Centered in the love of God we welcome a broad spectrum of political perspectives, ministry interests, and strengthen our bonds of faith and friendship. We support each other as we grapple with the everyday choices we must make to keep Christ at the center of our lives.

Strongest themes:

- Greater sense of connection in the church community to one another and to Jesus Christ.
- Need for personal spiritual/faith formation.

Objectives:

- People will grow spiritually as individuals – have a deeper faith – and the tools to nurture faith both intellectually and spiritually.
- People will have a stronger connection to the church, both in terms of the shared expectations (including spiritual practices of prayer, study, worship, giving, serving) of a life of faith, and through deeper relationships with one another and with Jesus Christ.

Strategies:

Evaluate/change the order of Sunday morning:

- to allow for more fellowship for the congregation as a whole,
- to provide more time for adult spiritual formation/education opportunities on Sunday morning
- to eliminate some of the overlap of the timing of programming

Children our Blessing

As a church blessed with the vitality of children, youth, and young families, we are called to receive the riches of this blessing and to nurture and equip the next generation of the faith.

We have a special calling to nurture the faith of children and youth. We are called to include children and youth in every aspect of our church life. We envision opportunities for people of every age to participate in acts of service and mission, and to focus on opportunities to work across the generations. We are called to reach out and invite the young families in our neighborhood who have no faith affiliation to come to CCPC. We envision equipping and supporting parents, grandparents and mentors in raising spiritually healthy children and youth.



Themes:

- Passing the Christian faith to our children.
- Equipping children for a life of faith.

Objectives:

- Children and youth will experience church as a safe and joyous place in which they experience the love of God in the community.
- Children and youth will have solid foundation of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. That is they know the stories of the faith, the songs of the faith, how to worship in community, and other spiritual practices such as prayer, giving, and service.
- Parents will have the tools to help their children and youth grow in faith.
- Our youth will be equipped to apply their faith to their daily living.

Strategies:

- Encourage each committee to explore specific ways to involve children and youth in all the aspects of church life.

Justice our Passion

As people blessed with education, access to power, and financial resources we are called to work for justice.

We hear and respond to Jesus' call to serve "the least of these" in our neighborhoods and in the wider world. Through many and various outreach projects in the church, all people, young and old, busy and not, have the opportunity to engage in advocacy and hands-on mission work in addition to practicing the discipline of charity. In our neighborhood, city, nation and world, we work with partners in mission and service to multiply our efforts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give voice to those who are oppressed, practice peace, and restore the health of creation.

Themes:

- Hands-on mission and financial giving
- Need to see the impact of our work
- Need to clarify what we mean by justice –
 - Advocacy?
 - Service?
 - Financial support?
 - Do we want to focus?
 - What are we being called to do at this time?

Objectives:

- CCPC has an impact in building up the Kingdom of God.
- Many people are involved.
- People in the congregation hear the stories and know the impact of our justice ministries.

A vision for the church describes our current situation and our aspirations. It is grounded in who we are but also reflects our hopes and dreams for humanity. A vision answers "What is CCPC's piece of God's imagination?" A vision is not static. It is a journey through which we strive for constant betterment of ourselves our community and the world. For churches in the reformed tradition, the vision for a community captures the "reformed and always being reformed according to the will of God" theology we embrace.

For reflection: What surprises you? What rings true? What would you strategies would you add? What would you take out?



Pastor Molly's letter from on page 1

equip the next generation of the faith. As people blessed with education, access to power, and financial resources we are called to work for justice." Christ our center, children our blessing, justice our passion.

What does this mean for our current ministries?

No decisions have been made as to how we will live into our vision. The current task is to communicate the results of the Visioning Report and to gather more input from the congregation. It is the purpose of all churches to practice hospitality, teach the faith, provide transformative experiences of worship including music, care for the sick and elderly, serve the poor, and practice generosity. Our vision will help us focus these ministries and shape the emphases of our programs.

Where can I see the complete Visioning Report?

The full Visioning Report is available on the CCPC website chevyCHASEPC.org. Go to "Our Beliefs" to find a link to the Report. You may also obtain a complete report from the church office.

How can I contribute to the visioning process as we go forward?

Read the Visioning Report. Participate in a small group discussion using the Study Guide included with this newsletter on page 9. Speak to a member of the Session or ask a member of Session to come and speak with your group. Attend the February 26th Congregational Meeting. Send an email to me with "visioning" in the subject line.

(molly@chevyCHASEPC.org) I will save all the comments and share them with the Session. Pray for God's continued guidance for our church.

*~God's Blessings,
Molly*

Celebrate CCPC's New Microloan Initiative in Shikokho, Kenya **Friday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.**

A rephrasing of a familiar proverb: ***teach a woman to fish*** and you feed her entire family for a ***lifetime***.

Last fall the Shikokho Women's Group and CCPC teamed up with a local non-profit, the Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI), which not only loans money, but also provides training and support to impoverished women in East Africa as they create and run their own businesses, enabling the women and their families to thrive in a sustainable way. WMI has a sterling reputation in microlending, achieving a 100% repayment rate for over 4,000 loans in Uganda and Kenya. The new Shikokho WMI program launched in December with a group of 20 "borrowers" taking small loans offered by CCPC and WMI through matching funding. Another group of 20 is expected to start in April, with more in the future.

The CCPC Mission Committee and Shikokho Mission Team invite you to celebrate this new beginning on March 2.

- Bring the family for a casual Friday night supper.
- Enjoy the music of our fabulous guitarists, The Revelations.
- Learn more about WMI and how you can support this exciting program, in partnership with CCPC, in

Shikokho. WMI President Robyn Nietert will be there to explain how WMI's microfinance program "builds assets to better lives" through local enterprise—improving education, nutrition, and health for families and stability for communities.

- You'll also see moving and hopeful short films on the borrowers' successes by CCPC's own Erin Kelly (Univ. of Michigan '10) who completed an internship with WMI last summer in Uganda.
- High school and college students will learn about internship and service project opportunities both here and in East Africa

Bring friends and family and join us in Geneva Hall on March 2 at 7:00pm.

RSVP online or by calling the church office.

Want to help? Contact Sally Kelly, salkelly@earthlink.net or 301-656-6634.



SWG Chair Suzy Gusinjiru and WMI Head Coordinator Jennifer Meheso

Join us

On February 26



for one worship service at 10:00 am

followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting
and Fellowship Brunch

See page 2 for details

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington DC, is hereby called for Sunday, February 26, 2012, at 11 AM in the church sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect Elders, Deacons, Auditor, and the Congregational Nominating Committee; consider changes in the Terms of Call for the Pastors; and consider any other business that may rightly come before it.

By Order of Session
Norman L. Stant, Clerk
December 13, 2011

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

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

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