

Just what is Liberation Theology?

As we enter into the political fray of the upcoming election, it may be that we hear again about Liberation Theology, and especially Black Liberation Theology. As Christian people, we need to know what Liberation Theology is and each of us must decide what we think about it. I write to offer some facts.

Liberation Theology is based in the firm conviction that God cares for the poor and oppressed. God sets people free from powers that enslave and diminish life. Liberation Theology rises out of people's experiences of suffering. It is a way of doing theology from a particular perspective outside of the dominant power structures. Scripture, tradition, faith, doctrine, and church history are all in dialogue with the context of dehumanization, poverty, oppression, and inequality.

Up until the 1950's and 60's, most theology studied in seminaries in North America was based in Western European scholarship. At that time in history, academic theologians were addressing the problem of belief in God. Many people were questioning the existence of God, and whether or not God was dead.

At this same time, in the Civil Rights and Black Power movements black clergy were asking what the gospel of Jesus Christ meant in the context of segregation, inequality, and racism. While the problem discussed in seminaries was belief in God, the problem faced by black clergy was: "What does the gospel of Jesus

Christ mean to children living in rat-infested apartments, in the face of Jim Crow laws and segregation?"

Out of the struggle to end segregation and racism arose a theology based in God's activity to set people free. The black clergy turned to the story of the Exodus. It was the activity of God hearing the cries of the Hebrew slaves and bringing them out of Egypt that inspired theological reflection. The clergy also looked to Jesus and his stated mission: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Liberation Theology describes not only a theology with concern for suffering, but a way of doing theology. Two contributions stand out: 1) Liberation theology recognizes that one's world view influences one's theology. That is, a poor farmer in Latin America will read scripture differently than a highly educated professor of theology in Australia. Context and world view matter. 2) Liberation theology rises out of direct experience of suffering. Liberation theology is not only *about* suffering, it is done by the people who *are* suffering.

At the same time black clergy in the Civil Rights Movement were hearing God's call for freedom, women were entering the seminary in significant

continued on page 4

INSIDE THE GATEWAY

Worship and Music

Worship Schedule.....	2
Congratulation to our Confirmands	3

Education

The Sound of Your Own Silence.....	3
Summertime Movies	5
Summer Church School Plans	5

Mission

A Miriam's Kitchen Success Story	6
--	---

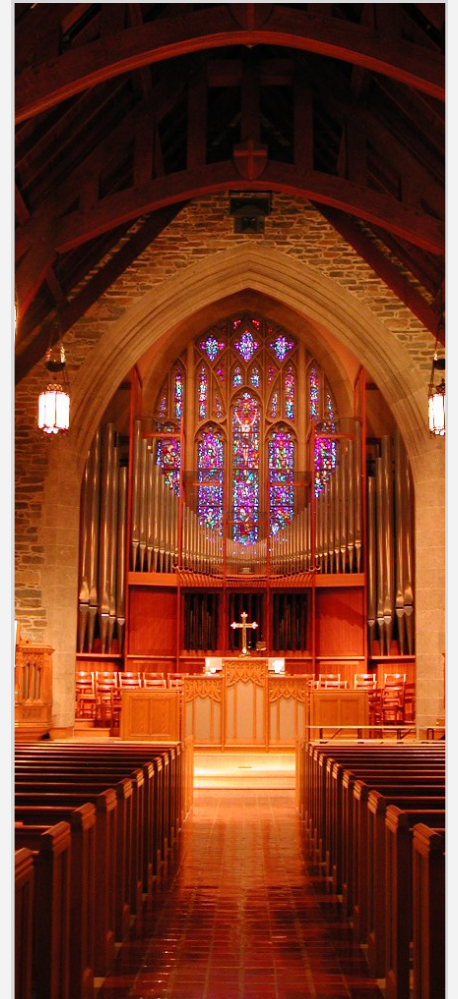
Community

Nominations for CCPC Leadership.....	7
Men's Steak Cookout.....	8

Have an article for the September Gateway? The deadline is August 8.

Summer Worship Schedule

- July 1** **5th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Clark Lobenstine, the Executive Director of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, will be preaching
 The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated
Music: *Summer Choir*
- July 8** **6th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Lynn Jostes will be preaching
Music: *Summer Choir*
- July 15** **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Lynn Jostes will be preaching
 Hunger Offering
 Baptism of Amelia and Finn Gorman
Music: *Summer Choir*
- July 22** **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
Music: *Summer Choir*
- July 29** **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Music: *Summer Choir*
- August 5** **10th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
 The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated
Music: *Summer Choir*
- August 12** **11th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
Music: *Summer Choir*
- August 19** **12th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
 Hunger Offering
Music: *Summer Choir*
- August 26** **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Music: *Summer Choir*



Congratulations to our Confirmands!

On Confirmation Sunday, June 4, 2012, in response to God's gracious call, these young people publicly professed their faith and devoted themselves to the church's teaching and fellowship.

Front row: Matthew Huerta, Nicholas Kettler

Top row: Blair Reynolds, Audrey Hersman, Alison Cantwell, Emma Anderson, Carolyn McGill

Not pictured: Sam Alston



It's not too late to participate in "The Sound of Your Own Silence" A 30 Day Retreat in the Midst of Life's Busyness Summer 2012

Wouldn't it be nice to slip away from your busy life and take a 30 day silent retreat? Absolutely, but few of us can carve out that kind of time to be away. Instead, consider taking a 30 day "retreat" right in the midst of life's business. The Connections Committee is offering CCPC members a special resource for use this summer to do just this. This resource from *Scripture Echo* offers a 30 day spiritual formation workbook/journal that will help you to claim silence everyday, in different kinds of ways. Journaling exercises, questions for reflection, prayer ideas, and many suggestions for practicing silence are given.

Explore your relationship with silence. Find out what makes you anxious about silent space and what makes you more peaceful. Explore the gifts that can come as you are silent while those around you are speaking. Discover how unnecessary some of our speaking can be, and how we can "retreat" back into a blessed place of silence, as we do errands, attend meetings, and even eat a meal. You can choose any level of silence that fits your life and your needs; full silence or just few precious minutes a day, or anything in between.

Throughout the 30 days, you will be encouraged in three different areas:

Praying in Silence: Start with just five minutes twice a day, and work your way up to twenty minutes of sheer silence as prayer. Use other prayer methods to enter into silent prayer, where you rest in God's presence with no words at all.

Keeping Silence: In ways that are right for your unique life circumstances, explore different ways of "keeping silence," by refraining from speaking and diminishing the background noise around you.

Reflecting about Silence: Take time to think about and articulate what is happening for you throughout the 30 days.

How to participate...

Choose any 30 days of the up-coming summer to take part— in a row, or as you can find them.

Email Lynn Jostes (lynn@chevyCHASEPC.org) to register. She will contact you with secure webpage information for use between May 26 and September 3.

The rest is up to you...

We hope that this resource will help you shape a balanced summer of recreation, rest, and spiritual renewal that will encourage your journey. Please let us know how it works out!

Pastor Molly's letter from page 1

numbers. As women began to do theology, they too, recognized that women bring a different perspective to theological discourse. Women began to lift up the stories of Sarah as well as Abraham, Miriam as well as Moses, and the women in Jesus' movement in addition to the male disciples. Women scholars challenged the—at the time normative—assumption that scripture prohibits women from church leadership. They found too many stories of women taking leadership in the church (Lydia, Dorcas, Euodia and Syntyche, Phoebe, Prisca, and many others). Theology of this nature became known as Feminist Theology.

Liberation Theology took root most decisively in Latin America. Mostly Catholic Latin American theologians took the methodology to the poor people of Latin America. Here "Christian base communities" were developed in which the poor did their own theological reflection. Professional theologians brought academic insights. Out of this Latin American Liberation Theology came the concept of "God's preference for the poor." In this understanding, God loves all people equally, but God has a special concern for those who suffer poverty and oppression. Liberation Theology challenges the economic and political structures that keep people poor.

The term "Liberation Theology" is an umbrella term. Again, it refers to *a way of doing theology from a particular perspective outside of the dominant power structures*. The insights first developed in the Black Liberation Theology in the United States became

important for theological reflection by black South Africans in the age of Apartheid, gay and lesbian persons, women of color, Chinese Christians, and others.

While Liberation Theology challenged theological assumptions of the day, many of the insights now are simply part of mainstream academic discourse. The voices of black clergy in the U.S. and South Africa, women, gay and lesbian persons, and the poor and oppressed around the world are now part of the conversation on the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of Liberation Theology we are able to see Jesus through another's eyes very different from our own.

An image that sticks in my mind from a study tour of South Africa in 1983 is a statue of Jesus' mother Mary. The figure was in the courtyard of a seminary where white and black students studied together. She was made with the features of a white person, but the students had painted her skin brown. I was greatly impressed by what I saw as an act of resistance to the white churches that turned their heads and ignored the suffering causes by Apartheid. Later, at a cathedral in Cape Town where Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu had once presided, I saw a sculpture of a Black Madonna. She was African through and through. She was carved out of dark wood. Polished to a bright shine, she rose up in joy and laughter. She was free. For me, she is an image of Black Liberation Theology.

~ God's Blessings, Molly

Gospel Choir to perform at CCPC
Sunday, July 15 at 4 p.m.

This Worshippers In Life Community Choir (also known as "His W.I.L.") is a community choir founded and directed by Joshua Somerville. His W.I.L.'s current/active roster includes about 40 singers of various religious denominations and ages, as well as piano, bass and drums. Though gospel music is the genre for which the group is most renowned, His W.I.L. also ministers through hymns, Christian Rock, and other types of praise music. Grab a friend and come for an inspirational and lively event! Donations are appreciated.

Jack Ihrie has notecards of a pastel painting of CCPC that are available for sale. A set of 10 notecards with envelopes is \$12.00, and individual cards are \$2.00. Contact Jack at Ingleside at 202-244-6052 for more information or to place an order.

Summertime offers a different rhythm to our lives and learning and the CE Committee invites you to attend one of these film screening and discussion options (on the lighter side) at CCPC this summer:

Sunday, July 8, 2012
11:30 a.m. in Geneva Hall

Toy Story 3

(Rated G) The movie begins with Andy leaving for college and donating his beloved toys—including Woody (Tom Hanks) and Buzz (Tim Allen)—to a daycare. While the crew meets new friends, including Ken (Michael Keaton), they soon grow to hate their new surroundings and plan an escape. It is up to Woody to convince the other toys that they weren't abandoned, to help them return home, and to find a new home and purpose.

Sunday, July 15, 2012
11:30 a.m. in Geneva Hall

Hugo

(Rated PG) Martin Scorsese directed this thrilling journey to a magical world with his first-ever 3-D film, based on Brian Selznick's award-winning, imaginative New York Times best-seller, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." Set in 1930s Paris, *Hugo* is the astonishing adventure of a wily and resourceful boy whose quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father will transform Hugo and all those around him, and reveal a safe and loving place he can call home.

Sunday, August 19, 2012

11:30 a.m. in Geneva Hall

Joyful Noise

(Rated PG-13) The small town of Pacashau, Georgia, has fallen on hard times, but the people are counting on the Divinity Church Choir to lift their spirits by winning the National Joyful Noise Competition. The choir has always known how to sing in harmony, but the discord between its two leading ladies now threatens to tear them apart. Their newly appointed director, Vi Rose Hill (Queen Latifah), stubbornly wants to stick with their tried-and-true traditional style, while the fiery G.G. Sparrow (Dolly Parton) thinks tried-and-true translates to tired-and-old. Shaking things up even more is the arrival of G.G.'s rebellious grandson, Randy (Jeremy Jordan). Randy has an ear for music, but he also has an eye for Vi Rose's beautiful and talented daughter, Olivia (Keke Palmer), and the sparks between the two teenagers are causing even more heat between G.G. and Vi Rose. Come for a lively, musical time!

Summer Church School Plans at CCPC

Summer schedules bring opportunities for new patterns of life together, and this is part of our Sunday morning life together as well! As we worship as one church family at 10:00 a.m. throughout the summer, we will welcome children (completed Grade 3 and up) to remain in the sanctuary following the Time with Children to experience the rhythm and wonder of worship. There are no church school classes on the holiday weekends (July 1 and September 2); childcare is available during worship for preschoolers and younger. July 8 through September 9, younger children (Age 3 through completed Grade 2) are invited (but not required) to go to special church school classes for the rest of the hour. In July and August, Ages 3-5 will meet in Room 180 and Kindergarten through Grade 2 (completed) will meet in Room 170 all on the first floor in the Education Building. Childcare for in-

fants is available in Room 108.

SPECIAL NOTE: We still need a few more teachers in August in order to offer all of our classes this summer. Please look for the chart during coffee time and sign up to teach one of our children's classes. It's a wonderful way to get to know some of the youngest members of our church family!

FOR ADULTS: Faith Trek is planning to meet during the summer (except on holiday weekends) to discuss *The Longing for Home* by Frederick Buechner. All adults are invited to join our summer discussions in the Library (on the first floor of the center building, alley side) from 11:00 - 12:00 noon each Sunday. Questions? Contact Margaret Chan (301/656-5034.) Please Join Us.

A Miriam's Kitchen Success Story

reprinted courtesy of Miriam's Kitchen

A few weeks ago, we posted a message on our Facebook page:

One of our guests has just been offered a nursing job, but can't start until he has a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, and glucometer with test strips for the home visits he'll be doing. Do you have any of these items that you'd be willing to part with to help our guest get back on his feet?

CCPC at MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

What We Do. On the first Tuesday of every month, CCPC fields a team of 8 to 10 volunteers to prepare breakfast for 140 to 170 guests at Miriam's Kitchen, located at 24th and Virginia Ave., NW. We arrive at 6 a.m., wearing caps and smiles. The caps are for sanitation reasons; the smiles, because we love what we do! Breakfast starts with cereal, milk, coffee, and juice. Next we serve a nutritious hot breakfast prepared under the direction of a professional chef. Afterward, we clean up, leaving between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. We also have volunteers who prepare and serve dinner or assist with the Miriam's Café lunchtime on Wednesdays.

Volunteers Needed. We need additional breakfast team volunteers, especially on July 3 and August 7. Contact Dale Kasab at dkasab@comcast.net or 301-229-4868 for more information.

Donations Appreciated. Miriam's always needs healthful cereals, ground coffee (flavored if possible), and large cans of tuna in water. These can be left in the Miriam's Kitchen box on the Chadsey Hall stage.

Within 30 minutes of posting that message, we had received a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, glucometer with test strips, and enough money to purchase some nursing uniforms for our guest. (A special thank you to the generous donors!)

Two weeks ago, we sat down with Mohammed, the guest who received these wonderful gifts, and told him about the generosity of the community that's supporting him.

As Mohammed sat listening, tears began to pool in his eyes and eventually started to overflow. "I don't know anyone here [in DC], and for people to reach out and help someone they don't know is very overwhelming for me. I almost collapsed when the case managers gave me the supplies. I cannot believe how kind people are."

Mohammed's Story

Mohammed is 58 years old and an immigrant from Sierra Leone. He's well-educated (with a Master's degree and nursing license to his name) and hard-working (he's had careers in teaching, the US Army and nursing).

As we sat down to chat, Mohammed received a call on his cell phone. One of his new co-workers was calling to update him on a patient Mohammed had visited the day before.

With the donated blood pressure cuff he received from a Miriam's Kitchen supporter, Mohammed diagnosed his 84-year old client with dangerously high blood pressure and started him on life-saving medication. His co-worker was calling to tell him that the patient's blood pressure was now stable and he was feeling better.

It's a story not unlike Mohammed's—a man struggling to survive but with the help of others, finds hope.

Mohammed first came to Miriam's Kitchen a year ago. He had recently been laid off from his job at a nursing home and was homeless.

Our case managers worked with Mohammed to refine his resume, renew his nursing license and look for jobs. He was becoming discouraged in his job search until one day a chance encounter with a sympathetic woman in McPherson Square led to a job offer. He just needed to find a blood pressure cuff, stethoscope and glucometer with test strips...

From Facebook on March 28, 2012:

I have an extra BP cuff!

I have a glucometer and strips!

continued on page 7

Miriam's Kitchen from page 6

If you don't have any folks with items to be reused I'd be happy to purchase one or more of the items (amazon has some good prices and can ship quickly).

Mohammed was given the items he needed two days after our message was posted on Facebook, and has been at his new job as a home health aide for nearly a month now.

What's Next

He's still living in a homeless shelter, but is building up his savings to hopefully make it back to Sierra Leone at the end of the year to see his parents for the first time since 1980. He's also sending much of his earnings back home to help his family rebuild their war-torn lives. Once he's helped his family build a home of their own, he said he'll turn to finding a home for himself.

When asked what he wanted to say to the generous donors who came forward to jump-start his nursing career, Mohammed responded:

"You really helped someone who needed you. I will be forever grateful."



Nominations for CCPC Leadership

The Nominating Committee for 2012-2013 would like to request your assistance in identifying potential nominees for elders, deacons and one auditor. As we cannot know every individual in the congregation, we will be relying on you to bring talented, faithful and caring nominees to our attention. A copy of the nominating form is included here, and the complete nominations flyer may be found in the friendship folders in the pews or on the tables in the narthex. Self-nominations are welcomed. Suggestions may also be e-mailed to Catherine Triantis at catherinetriantis@gmail.com, placed in the offering basket, or mailed to the church c/o the Nominating Committee.

Nomination for CCPC Officer

I suggest the following nomination:

Name _____

Office _____

Please tell us about the nominee and why you think he/she would be an effective officer.

Do you know how the person is currently involved at CCPC (officer, committee, teacher, activities, etc.)

Is there anything else you would like us to know about the nominee?

Signed (optional) _____

Please attach another sheet of paper if you need more space

MEN'S STEAK COOKOUT

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15
AT 3-30 PM**

WHO: CCPC MEN 21 AND OVER.

BRING ALONG YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, OR COLLEAGUES

**WHAT: FELLOWSHIP WITH NEW AND OLD FRIENDS WHILE YOU
GRILL YOUR OWN STEAK**

WHERE: SENECA STATE PARK, BUCK PAVILION

COST: \$22/PERSON

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 9 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

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

gateway

(USPS 961 - 740)

Published monthly except August

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church
One Chevy Chase Circle NW,
Washington, D.C. 20015

Periodicals
Postage Paid
Washington, DC
20015