



God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

Be nice! My mother commanded. My sister and I were fighting. Knowing each other's most vulnerable weaknesses, we could, if we wanted, draw blood with our words. All my mother wanted was for us to be kind to each other. *Be nice!* I command my daughters. All I want is for them to be kind to each other. I want them to be kind to themselves and to practice kindness toward others. Be kind!

Kindness is a humble word. Courage, creativity, wisdom, wit, beauty, and boldness are all more flashy and exciting. Jesus commands us to love each other as he loved us. Love is bold and daring. Kindness is soft and quiet. Kindness seems flimsy compared to love. We often see kindness as unsophisticated and too weak to make a true difference in anyone's life.

Yet, kindness is underrated. The Hebrew word *hesed*, used most often to describe God's love, also means mercy, goodness, and kindness. The King James Version often translates *hesed* as "kindness." It is a strong, fierce and loyal love with which God loves us. Kindness is a powerful attribute of God. In the New Testament kindness is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Kindness is a gift of God, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and it is a mark of Christian discipleship.

It seems a little easier to ask someone to be kind to another than to ask that they love another. It may simply be the cultural meanings attached to the words themselves, but somehow being kind sounds more doable. If we cannot truly and genuinely love someone, we can at least be kind to them.

*My religion
 is kindness.
 - the Dali Lama*

In the Buddhist tradition, kindness is considered a great force for healing. Kindness connects us to one another as we relate to each other's sufferings and joys, hopes and dreams. When we do not connect to one another in kindness and compassion, it is all too easy to fall into competition, exploitation, fear and abuse of the other. The Dali Lama has been quoted as saying, "My religion is kindness."

In our nation today, we have set our sights as low as simply trying to be civil to one another. We advocate tolerance and forbearance. What about kindness? Can we practice being kind to one another? Practicing simple kindness will put us in the path of love, the path of life that leads to the kingdom of God.

~ God's Blessings, Molly

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Have an article for the June Gateway? The deadline is May 8.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- May 6** **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
 Celebration of the Lord's Supper
9:30- *New members will be received during worship*
- May 13** **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
 Mother's Day
9:30- *Recognition of the Children's Choirs*
11:00- *Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism for Abigail Foster*
- May 20** **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
 Hunger Offering
9:30- *Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism for Abigail Stukes*
- May 27** **Pentecost**
Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism for Nathaniel Groeschel



Stations of the Cross with the Circle Churches Good Friday, April 6



Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers' Performance



The Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers performed at the Baltimore Area Handbell Festival on March 18. Congratulations to the Bell Choir on a spectacular performance!



Chevy Chase Concert Series



CCPC Chancel Choir and Orchestra Sunday, May 20—4 p.m.

The final concert of the Chevy Chase Concert Series will be on May 20 at 4:00 p.m. featuring the well-known “Chichester Psalms” by Leonard Bernstein. Commissioned by the Dean of Chichester Cathedral, Sussex for its 1965 festival, the work is a setting, in Hebrew, of parts of Psalms 108, 100, 23, 2, 131, and 133.

This monumental work of the contemporary sacred choral literature will be sung by the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, **with guest soloist Justin Frazier, treble.**

The Psalms are accompanied by organ, harp, **lots of percussion(!)** and will be conducted by Julie Vidrick Evans. Also on the program will be anthems by Aaron Copland (a great mentor of Bernstein) and other American composers, including settings of spirituals, gospel and early American anthems by White, Fleming, Dawson and Hogan.

Your presence at this final concert is essential in the music making process and so we look forward to seeing you on May 20 at 4:00 p.m. As always, a donation will be taken to defray expenses and a reception will follow in Chadsey Hall.



Adult Education and Nurture at CCPC: Sunday Mornings and Beyond

Continuing in May 2012

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 May for a discussion of these topics:

May 6— Same-Sex Marriage (part 2)- Members of the Marriage Task Force will provide information and obtain feedback from members about the various dimensions of this issue. The Same-Sex Marriage Task Force was formed to study the topic of same-sex marriage and make recommendations for CCPC.

May 13—PCUSA Divestiture Proposal- The 2012 General Assembly is being asked to consider a controversial recommendation that the Presbyterian Church (USA) divest its holdings in three companies doing business in Israel, because products made by those companies are used in nonpeaceful ways in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Rev. Bob Angus and Lorraine Nagy from Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church will discuss the history of this issue and the rationale behind the denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) committee's endorsement of divestiture.

May 20—Inside South Sudan (part 2) - Back by popular demand, Joe Anderson will continue his discussion about this newly-independent country. Joe lived in South Sudan over the past year and will review the current situation there including the peace process and the problem of violence due to inter-tribal rivalry.

Planning and Feedback on Open Forum

Interim Associate Pastor Jane Duffield invites you to join her for cookies and coffee in Geneva Hall following the 11:00 worship service on May 20 to talk about topics you would like to explore in next year's Open Forum, and to evaluate this spring's programming. Open Forum is an adult education class that explores a variety of issues on the intersection of faith and life. It meets most Sundays, September through May, at 9:45 in Geneva Hall.

Summer Sunday School Teachers Sought!!

Summer Sunday School begins on June 3 and continues through Homecoming Sunday, September 9 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Two to three classes for young children through second grade (completed) will be available, but only with your help. Teams of teachers are needed for each age group and a simple curriculum is provided to facilitate your teaching. Please check your calendar and see which Sunday you might be able to help! Sign up sheets will be posted in Chadsey Hall in April-May during Sunday Brunch and Coffee Time for your convenience. You may also contact Kristen Riley (202-237-8336 or kriley8@msn.com) or Lynn Jostes at the church (202-363-2202 x 22 or lynn@chevyCHASEPC.org) for more information or to sign up for this special opportunity to teach our youngest children. Thank you for your help!!



Volunteers Needed to Cook for the Homeless

CCPC is calling for church groups or groups of families to volunteer for a family-friendly mission activity that feeds the hungry in our own neighborhood. Six times a year, through the Mission Committee, CCPC provides Sunday evening meals for the weekly dinner program provided for 55-60 hungry and homeless people through Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Bethesda (across from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School).

In addition to taking a main dish and vegetables, salad, fresh fruit, rolls or bread, and dessert, we supply 2 gallons of fruit juice or a beverage, 2 gallons of milk, and salad dressing, and other condiments as appropriate. Costs for the food is reimbursed by the church. Dinners need to be delivered to Our Lady of Lourdes between 4:15 to 4:30 PM.

If your group or family would like to volunteer to help out with this local mission project, please contact Pastor Jane at 202-363-2202 or jane@chevyCHASEPC.org.



Calling All Graduates!

We would like to recognize our graduates (high school, college or graduate school) in the June issue of the *Gateway* and need your help in making sure that we don't leave anyone off of the list.

Please contact Becky Wood at becky@chevyCHASEPC.org or Lynn Jostes at lynn@chevyCHASEPC.org with the name of the graduate, the school from which they are graduating and the college/course of study or work they will enter upon graduation. We need this information **by May 6** and will look forward to hearing from you soon!! Many thanks.



Transition Assistance Program *up close*

Many Hurdles to Clear to Obtain ID's

A recent *Washington Post* letter writer said he didn't understand the problem with new state laws requiring voters to show ID cards. They should just go get one, he wrote. He's obviously never been to CCPC's Transition

Assistance Program! Many of the clients come for help in obtaining nondriver IDs—an absolute must to get a job, apply for Section 8 housing, enroll in a training program, etc. Here's the hitch: first they need a copy of their birth certificate, plus other supporting documentation such as their Social Security card, to get one. The rules have become tougher since 9/11 spawned anti-terrorism efforts. People who are homeless or have moved frequently, who are no longer connected to family members, or who were incarcerated, for example, typically lack such records. People who were born at home may not have had a birth certificate. The complications are endless.

That's where TAP's volunteer "detectives" come in. One of TAP's niches in the region's social services safety net is helping people navigate the process—and pay for—ID applications. TAP's expertise is why 90 organizations and agencies refer needy clients to the CCPC outreach program each year. Starting with the Internet, TAP volunteers research the rules and obtain necessary forms in the state or county where the client was born. Most jurisdictions require that the applicant provide a government-issued photo ID, or, if that isn't available, two supporting documents with their application for a duplicate certificate, and many TAP clients don't have those either. This calls for creative measures such as finding a family member with an ID who can submit the application on the client's behalf. Once the birth certificate is in hand, the client can apply for a photo ID, but also must show proof of DC residency. If they are living with a friend or relative, for example, this adds another documentation hurdle. But TAP volunteers never give up until the client succeeds in getting the coveted ID which opens doors to a better life.

Wondering When the Pentecost Picnic Will Be?!

**Not to worry...
and save the date for**

Sunday, June 3, 2012

**in Chadsey Hall and on the Church
Grounds**

**following 10:00 a.m. worship
(including the rite of Confirmation.)**

**Plan to join us for traditional picnic fare and
fellowship with your church family.**



Pentecost is the annual celebration of the birth of the Christian Church
which falls 50 days after Easter Sunday...

So since Easter was April 8, Pentecost falls on Memorial Weekend Sunday, May 27, 2012!

We will celebrate that day AND continue
the festivities on June 3. See you in June!!

easter festival 2012



Photos courtesy of Chris Ertz

Join us for

The Pentecost Picnic

On Sunday, June 3

following 10:00 worship



Plan to join your church family for
traditional picnic fare and fellowship!

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

“Christ our Center. Children our Blessing. Justice our Passion.”

gateway

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