Blessings and Challenges: A Fresh Perspective

It always helps to have a fresh set of eyes. How often has it happened when trying to balance a checkbook or reconcile accounts that things don’t add up, but we can’t see where the trouble is? We look and look, but we simply cannot see it because we have looked for too long. That’s when it helps to have someone else take a look. Often all it takes is a new set of eyes to reveal what we could not see before.

This past month, the Session worked with stewardship consultant Mark Ewert of Generosity Path to bring a fresh set of eyes to CCPC. Mark spent a long time studying CCPC membership trends, giving patterns, staffing structure, budget, and finances, as well as our Christian Education, Mission, Youth, Worship and Music, Connections, and Deacons ministries. He had conversations with session members, committee members, and others not currently in leadership to get a person-from-the-pew perspective. He met with members of Session twice and attended Sunday morning worship. He looked at everything through a stewardship lens. How might the appearance of our building impact stewardship? Are we teaching about the spiritual impact of giving on a person’s relationship with God? How well do we guide our new members into the expectations and practices of membership?

It will take the Session some time to digest all Mark’s findings, but here are some highlights. He saw the following as our strengths: the pastors and staff are excellent and our staff is the right size for our congregation; lay leadership is intelligent, passionate and engaged; there is a strong vision and strategic plan; there is a great music program committed to excellence; worship is lively and spirit-filled with outstanding preaching; the Board of Deacons is well-organized, empowered, and provides an expansive ministry of caring; there are strong justice ministries, particularly our signature ministries TAP and Shikokho; there is an impressive Christian Education ministry that spans all ages from birth to adult; there is a beautiful building in a great location; and there is really good, solid financial management, about which he said, “This is an organization where you can make a significant contribution and feel really good about it.”

Some of our challenges include: our stewardship campaign goes on far too long and must have a clear ending; we approve a budget after the fiscal year has already started; we need to do more to help people find their place at CCPC and help people be involved through a small group or activity outside of worship; we have too few people giving at the top levels and too many giving at the lowest levels; our signage is insufficient to help visitors find their way; we talk far too much about the budget and not enough about faith; and we need to be better at talking about money as a faith issue all year round, not just during the annual stewardship campaign.

The fresh set of eyes that Mark has brought to CCPC gives us much to think about. Clearly we have challenges the Session needs to address. Yet we also have a tremendous amount to celebrate. God has blessed us! We are heading in the right direction and God has a wonderful future of vibrant, thriving Spirit-filled ministry for CCPC. Thanks be to God for eyes that help us see ourselves anew.

God’s blessings,

Molly

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*The deadline for November’s Gateway is October 28 at 9:00 a.m.*
Worship Schedule

October 6  Worship — World Communion Sunday
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Music:
9:30—Carol & Junior Choirs, First Service Singers
11:00—Chancel Choir

October 13  Worship
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Jane Duffield will be preaching
Music:
9:30—Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers
11:00—Chevy Chase Handbell Ringers, Chancel Choir

October 20  Worship
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Music:
9:30—Men’s Chorus
11:00—Men’s Chorus

October 27  Worship
Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert will be preaching
Music:
9:30—Revelations
11:00—Chancel Choir
The schedule for the 43rd Season of Chevy Chase Concerts is as follows:

Conservatory Classic Jazz Band
October 27, 2013 — 4:00 p.m.

Peabody Opera Outreach performs Hansel and Gretel
November 10, 2013 — 4:00 p.m.

CCPC Annual Christmas Concert
December 15, 2013 — 4:00 p.m.

Apollo Chamber Orchestra
January 26, 2014 — 4:00 p.m.

Duke University Chorale
March 9, 2014 — 4:00 p.m.

37th Annual Bach Marathon
March 30, 2014 — 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

CCPC Chancel Choir performs Handel's Coronation Anthems, with Orchestra
May 18, 2014 — 4:00 p.m.

All events are admission-free, and donations are gratefully accepted. A reception to meet the artists and to greet one another takes place following each concert.

The 43rd season of the Chevy Chase Concert Series begins on October 27 at 4 p.m. with a performance by the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band.

The band is a seven-piece group formed in 2003 to present the sounds of traditional jazz to Washington, D.C. audiences, according to their website, http://www.ccjazzband.com/. They play New Orleans style, Chicago style, small-group swing, and mainstream.

Bring the whole family for a toe-tapping good time!

Meet Sammy Huh, our tenor section leader and soloist

Sammy Huh is a first-year Master’s student in the Maryland Opera Studio, studying with Gran Wilson. Originally from Ridgefield, NJ, he graduated from The Juilliard School with a BM in Vocal Performance under the tutelage of Edith Bers. In past seasons at Juilliard Opera, he performed the role of Leandro in Le Donne Curiose and has covered the role of Mosquito in Cunning Little Vixen. Also at Juilliard, he was selected to sing in master classes led by Daniel Ferro and Malcolm Martineau. As a recitalist with enthusiasm for the lieder repertoire, he has presented entire cycles of works such as Dichterliebe Op. 48 and An Die Ferne Geliebte Op. 98 and has performed in concert with pianists Arlene Shrut and J.J. Penna.

In past summers, he held the roles of Young Artist with the Aspen Opera Theatre Center, where he has covered Tobias Ragg in Sweeney Todd, and Young Artist at the Manhattan Summer Music Voice Festival, where he sung the role of Rodolfo in Act IV of La Boheme. He is the recipient of awards from the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship, MEBCI vocal competition, Monmouth Civic Chorus competition, NJ Governor’s Award in Arts Education, Young Singers’ Foundation Scholarship, and the Lucrezia Bori Grant, which gave him the opportunity to study in Berlin, Germany.

Sammy Huh joins mezzo soprano Tanya Coyne to provide musical leadership in many aspects of our ministry, from Chancel Choir to First Service Singers.
Adult Education and Nurture at CCPC

Sunday Mornings
October 2013

**Faith Trek** (meets from 10:00 to 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. We are discussing “The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief” by Francis S. Collins. Check with Margaret Chan at 301-656-5034 if you have any questions.

**Open Forum** (meets from 10:45 to 11:45 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 October for these discussions:

**Oct. 6: “An Update on the Affordable Health Care Act” – Susan Dentzer**
The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, is now approaching the final phases of implementation. October 1 marks the beginning of ‘open enrollment’ season for signing up for health insurance coverage through new health insurance marketplaces. In January 2014, many provisions affecting all health insurance will take effect. In the meantime, many states like Maryland are expanding Medicaid to cover more poor working adults, while others like Virginia are not. Susan Dentzer will provide an update and detail additional challenges that the United States faces with respect to improving the nation's health care system and its health by extension. Susan Dentzer is senior policy advisor at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s largest health care-focused philanthropic organization, working to carry out the organization’s mission. As one of the most respected health policy thought leaders and journalists in the U.S., she is also a health issues analyst on the PBS NewsHour.

**Oct. 13: “Grieving, Facing Life's Losses, and Learning to Let Go” – Dr. Derek Hawver**
CCPC member Derek Hawver will talk about how to cope with grief and loss. He recently retired from a career as a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, mainly in private practice in the Washington, D.C. area. He has also been a supervising and training analyst at the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis and a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Georgetown School of Medicine.

**Oct. 20: “Religion and Foreign Policy” – Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love**
Love, a member of the U.S. Department of State’s working group on religion and foreign policy, will talk about how religion can be a force for peace. The working group she is in helps the U.S. engage more effectively with sectors of civil society in other countries. Love also teaches international relations at the Catholic University of America. Her books include “Beyond Sovereignty: Issues for a Global Agenda” and “Morality Matters: Ethics and the War on Terrorism.”

All indications, both in what already has been reported and what inside sources reveal, is that Pope Francis represents a major change for the church. In the first of two presentations, Roberts, author and editor-at-large of the National Catholic Reporter, will discuss the most significant of the very unusual steps Francis has taken, and explain why they are more than a mere symbol. He will discuss what is happening as a result of Francis’ meetings with Church leaders, who is being replaced, and what Francis expects from ”the gang of eight” cardinals. Roberts has won awards for investigative and environmental reporting from the National Journalism Center and the Scripps-Howard Foundation. He is the author of “The Emerging Catholic Church: A Community's Search for Itself.”
Sunday Mornings (cont.)

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

Early Christian Creeds: What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Son of God? Since the earliest statement of faith, “Jesus is Lord,” Christians have sought to clarify their faith through personal and corporate creeds and confessions. Come join us as we explore the assertions of two of the earliest affirmations, the Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed. All are welcome!

Wednesday Mornings (bi-monthly)

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group continues its study of the parables in October. The group meets twice a month in Geneva Hall, usually on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Attending prior sessions is not a prerequisite for informed class participation and understanding. Contact Jane Duffield for more details.

October 9 – The Good Samaritan: A Costly Demonstration of Unexpected Love
October 23 – The Parables of the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep: Finding That Which is Lost

Inquirers’ Seminar Scheduled

A fall Inquirers’ Seminar will be offered on Sunday, October 20, from 12:15 to 3:45 p.m. in Geneva Hall. This session is open not only to those who may have decided to become members, but also to those who are 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 (U.S.A.) as well as an outline of specific opportunities for using your gifts with others in ministry at CCPC.

If you are interested in participating in the seminar on October 20 or know someone who may be interested, please contact the Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert or Kristen Riley at kristen@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, answer our calling, and serve our Lord together.

Church School Classes Continue

Church School classes continue in October and we’re saving a seat for you! Children and youth are encouraged to attend worship with their families or with friends at 9:30 a.m. and then go directly to their classes after the Time with Children each week. A short music time with Joann Moorer for age 5/kindergarteners through fourth graders will begin on October 13 in Room 308. We ask that parents pick up their children in their classrooms promptly at 10:45 or alert their child’s teacher in writing on the registration form if they are to meet their parents in Chadsey Hall for brunch. Parents, please plan to fill out a new registration form online or in your child’s classroom.
FOCUS Classes Begin October 3

The Christian Education Committee invites you for a sixth year to FOCUS! This Adult Education initiative at CCPC is offered Thursday evenings on October 3, 10, 17, and 24, and continues with another series in March 2014. FOCUS courses highlight various aspects of the adult journey (like Faith, Outreach, Community, Understanding, and Spirituality) and are open to members and friends of CCPC as well as the larger community. Classes are held from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. with dinner available ($7.00 for adults; $3.00 for children ages 3 to 10; children under 2 eat free; reservations are required) from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in Chadsey Hall, to facilitate participation by those who are coming straight from work.

Food (for Thought) – Firesides
With all the buzz in the news about food production and consumption, how much do you really know about it? This four-week session, presented by CCPC’s Earth Stewards, will focus on some of the new methods of food production and the large impact of farming on the world’s environment.

October 3: Sustainable Agriculture – The Locavore’s Dilemma.
October 10: Meet the New Meat – Holistic farming and poly-culture, grass-fed beef...why all the fuss?
October 17: Genetically-Engineered Foods – Why we should all care?
October 24: Other food-related topics. Bring your concerns to the table!

Coordinator: Dennis Leister, Ph.D. – Dennis has been a member of the Earth Stewards at CCPC for four years and is the current chairman of the group. Their goals are to raise awareness of green issues within CCPC and to reduce the church’s carbon footprint by working through its committees and other activities. He has worked in both industrial and biomedical companies and is currently a project manager for MedAssurant, a privately-held health informatics company located in Bowie, MD. He holds a B.S. in biology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in cellular and developmental biology from Johns Hopkins University.

The Pilgrim’s Way – Library
What’s it like to travel to the Holy Land as a pilgrim? What’s so special about Jerusalem, anyway? How does the land of Israel and Palestine shape our Christian faith?
You are invited to take an armchair pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine through a book study with Ruth Everhart, a Presbyterian pastor and writer. Hear how her experiences changed her faith. Then ask yourself: What does it mean to be a pilgrim? Could I be a pilgrim?
“The gift of pilgrimage changed my faith,” Ruth says in Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land. “All my life I’ve been immersed in Scripture, but most of my learning stayed above the neck, in the realm of ideas. As a pilgrim, I felt Scripture seeping further down into my being. A pilgrim travels dusty roads, swims in holy water, drinks Palestinian-made wine, eats olives and pita bread, lights candles, touches stones, whispers prayers, laughs, cries and sings. Being a pilgrim is not about traveling to a particular place, as much as immersing oneself in the Spirit-filled past so it can infuse our present. As the old hymns say, we’re all pilgrims on a journey.”
In this book study, Ruth will lead us on an exploration of four pilgrim themes through scripture, readings, and imagination. Copies of Ruth’s book Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land will be available for sale in class ($15.00) or you may purchase it on your own. Pre-orders can be indicated on the registration form.

October 3: Armchairs to the Holy Land – Our journey begins with images, a virtual introduction to the Holy Land.
October 10: Be Open – A pilgrim is open to where the Spirit leads, even if it is uncomfortable.
October 17: Cheek to Cheek with the Divine – A pilgrim has the opportunity to brush against the presence of the Divine.
October 24: Religious Strangers – A pilgrim cannot avoid the painful connection between religious strangers and estrangement, which sometimes leads to violence, both historically and currently.

Leader: The Rev. Ruth Everhart lives in Sterling, VA. She has been a pastor in National Capital Presbytery since 1999, serving for a decade in Poolesville, MD, and doing brief part-time interims at Vienna Presbyterian and Western Presbyterian. Before moving to the DC area, Ruth served at churches in upstate New York and central Illinois. She is a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and Calvin College. Born in the Chicago area, Ruth grew up safely tucked into pockets of Dutch Calvinism before she moved to northern New Jersey as a child.
Who Stole the American Dream? – Geneva Hall

Join Ed White for a four-session study of Hedrick Smith’s book “Who Stole the American Dream?” Hedrick documents the changes that have moved America to almost a mirror opposite of the time in which Ed grew up. During this period, America has been transformed from a nation to an empire. All throughout history, empires have experienced the tragedy of becoming drunk with power. Inevitably, they end up violating the first Great Commandment by trying to occupy God’s throne. As the people of Israel entered the Promised Land, God issued them a promise and a warning in Deuteronomy 8:

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing … and you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments … lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna … that he might humble you and test you to do you good in the end …

If you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you this day that you shall surely perish.”

America is living out the very story that God warned the people of Israel against. The God of the Bible has been replaced by the gods of unrestrained greed, fear, hatred, violence, and death. Hedrick Smith dispassionately describes the tragic journey this nation has been on and then explores what initiatives might help in reclaiming the dream.

This is not a class for the faint-hearted. Ed found it painful to read Smith’s book, but he is inspired to explore this subject out of concern for his 12 grandchildren, the upcoming generation whose future is being betrayed by the theft of the American Dream. Those who are concerned about the future of their children and grandchildren are invited to join him in this exploration. **A limited number of copies will be available for sale by pre-order indicated on the registration form. Otherwise, please bring your own copy.**

**Leader: The Rev. Dr. Ed White** is Parish Associate at CCPC, and an experienced and thoughtful teacher. In his long and distinguished career, Ed has served as general presbyter for the National Capital Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and was, at various times, chairman of the Alban Institute’s Board of Trustees, president of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, president of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, and president of the Society for Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry (SACEM). In the 1960s, Ed was active in the civil rights movement as a Freedom Rider and a coordinator for the Poor People’s Campaign.

Register online at [www.chevychasepc.org](http://www.chevychasepc.org) or return the registration form to the church office with your choices and dinner reservations. We’ll see you there!
**Peacemaking: Offering to Support Miriam’s Kitchen**

Homeless individuals live without peace, afraid of streets and shelters, hungry, often suffering physically and mentally without relief, and unable to change their lives. Miriam’s Kitchen, which will receive 25 percent of our 2013 Peacemaking Offering, offers them comfort, care, and peace. Initially, most people come for the nutritious meals of fresh foods served in a welcoming dining room. They enjoy art and writing therapy, access to medical and psychiatric care, yoga, a mailbox, a phone, clothing, and fun with small door prizes. When they are ready, they find case managers who listen as guests define their needs before suggesting options and assistance for consideration. Some join the People for Fairness Coalition, where guests advocate for homelessness issues with the D.C. government.

Because of these services, a man named Richard, who lived on the streets for 25 years, finds peace in having a key to his own place where his grandchild can visit him. Ending chronic homelessness in the District of Columbia is possible and that is the goal. Miriam’s Kitchen uses the Housing First model, maintaining contact as needed even after housing placements. On Wednesdays, there are classes in life skills, such as shopping and meal preparation, maintaining a clean apartment, and writing a resume.

CCPC volunteers regularly cook and serve breakfasts and dinners with professional chefs, join in advocacy efforts and serve on the organization’s Board of Directors. All those who participate love this well-run organization that values volunteers as well as guests. And the guests? No matter what sort of situation they are in, virtually everyone thanks us for being there to serve them. At Miriam’s, they can find peace.

We can all be peacemakers with our generous gifts at Worldwide Communion time to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering. Please make checks payable to CCPC, with Peacemaking on the memo line, to support Miriam’s Kitchen as well as national and international efforts toward peace.
Meet CCPC’s New Facilities Manager

Claude Allen, CCPC’s new Facilities Manager, joined the church staff in September. He grew up on Long Island in Massapequa Park. Just out of high school, he had the opportunity to work for a facilities architect at Hofstra University, where he got his start in facilities work and was Clerk of the Works for the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. He even worked for the New York Jets during his time at Hofstra.

He sketched and created acrylic paintings in his spare time, and it was his love of painting that attracted him to Principia College just outside of St. Louis, where he majored in the fine arts. Later in his life, he would come back to his second home, St. Louis, to finish his Master’s degree in architecture at Washington University.

Living in the Midwest was at first a culture shock for Claude because people actually had a life that was not just about work, but also about family, church, and the St. Louis Cardinals. Church has always been part of his life, and church work has blessed his family, the workplace, and the community.

Claude moved to Washington, where he met his wife, Consuela. He later started work at Culbertson, an exterior restoration contractor, and worked for Hoffmann Architects and Wiss Janney Elstner. He worked side-by-side with general contractors and architects, he developed construction knowledge, and he has performed quality control on millions of square footage of building envelope.

He also designed and built large homes in exclusive parts of Washington, D.C. He worked for a prestigious master builder in Potomac, Maryland, Leo Patrick Cullinane, who built mostly spec homes detailed with the finest architectural millwork in town. Claude was also facilities manager at St. Albans School for Boys and at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Claude’s working philosophy is about reaching out to everyone with kindness and respect. He believes that attitude is contagious, transforming the atmosphere and adding to the beauty of the workplace.

He has also contributed to the community by volunteering as the block captain in crime prevention, and he continues to assist local activists and local officials in Saving Oregon Avenue.

Claude still sketches and paints watercolors as an outlet for his creativity, and he and his wife enjoy vacationing in Maine during the summer. He is an avid traveler and some of his recent stops have included places in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Nominations for CCPC Leadership

The Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 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. Self-nominations are welcome. Suggestions may be emailed to Catherine Triantis at catherinetriantis@gmail.com or placed in the offering basket.
Save the Date to Deck the Halls!

Mark your calendar and plan to join your church family as we Deck the Halls on Friday, December 6. The fun begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by creating Christmas decorations, decorating the church tree and cookies, sharing with others, singing carols, and enjoying time together. The cost of the evening is $7.00 for adults (ages 12 and up) and $4.00 per child (children younger than 4 eat for free). A nursery will be available for infants and young preschoolers. Reservations to the church office at 202-363-2202 are appreciated but not required.
Gatherings Group

“A beautiful reception...” “So special...” “Everyone enjoyed themselves....”

These quotes come from appreciative notes sent by families to the Gatherings Group. This committee arranges the receptions following funeral or memorial services at church. This hospitality, coming as it does during a difficult time in family life, is much appreciated. When requested, the Gatherings Group provides and serves finger food and beverages for groups of up to 100 people. For larger gatherings or ones that include lunch, the committee supplies and serves the beverages and works with the family's caterer.

The group aims to make memorial gatherings like family entertaining at home—warm, loving, and non-institutional. This means linen tablecloths, fresh flower arrangements on the tables, homemade cookies and tea sandwiches, and church friends pouring coffee and replenishing the tables of food.

The group works cooperatively on each gathering with one person as coordinator and everyone else volunteering as they are able to prepare or purchase food, set up, serve, and clean up. Organizational meetings are held once a year, when the coordinators' schedule is set. The group communicates mostly by email.

Additional helping hands are always welcome. Members only serve when they are free to do so. Therefore, a large pool of volunteers is needed. To sign up as a volunteer or for more information, please email Dottie Boerner at microdot007@verizon.net or call her at (301) 320-3894.
Homecoming Sunday 2013

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church
Christ our Center. Children our Blessing. Justice our Passion.

gateway