



# NEWSLETTER

## Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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# 1

### *From Pastor Carrie*

Greetings in This New Year!

I hope everyone had some time with their family and friends during the holiday season! There is nothing like being together and surrounded by love. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who prayed for me and my family with the passing of my father and his subsequent memorial service. It was soul soothing to hear all the stories about my dad and how he impacted so many in the faith. There were many tears, but also much joy and laughter- a true witness to the resurrection and a celebration of life.

This New Year is already starting off with some changes in the life of the church. As you know, the Committee on Ministry (COM) of our Presbytery suspended the PNC process so that there can be a time of coming together with a unity of vision and a space for discerning God's desired future for BPC. You will be hearing further information from the Session about how we will structure this time together.

There seems to be some confusion here at BPC about what this interim period is all about. The interim period is a time of focusing on 5 different areas of church life. It is NOT a time where the interim pastor just holds your hands until a new installed pastor appears. It is supposed to be an introspective, interactive, discerning and transformative time where exploration, conversations, and experimentations are done so that a new vision for your church emerges. It takes time and almost always there is change and disorientation until a new structure, vision and mission takes its place. I know this is difficult. Some of you are angry about the Presbytery's decision. I hope and pray that you may see this as an opportunity to strengthen BPC's life and love- there is nothing more important now than this. The promises of God that God is always with us and guiding us in these difficult times is what we hang on to as we go through the process of emergence. I hope that Proverbs 3:5-6 speaks to all of us:

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.  
Seek God's will in all you do,  
and God will show you which path to take.*

Please see below for the different areas of foci and the 4 questions that are posed for each of the Interim tasks. You will hear more about the process of a way forward at the Annual Congregational Meeting. We ask that you continue to pray and be open to the Spirit's movement as the way forward becomes clear.

BPC continues to work on the 5 developmental tasks in the transition period before BPC calls a new installed pastor. Please take a look at the tasks below and ask yourselves these questions for each of those tasks:

1. Where has God challenged us or awakened us within this task?
2. Where have we seen God's Spirit move us in this task?
3. What specifically have we done to address the themes in this task?
4. Do we sense that we are as done as we are going to get in completing this task or is there still more to do?

### **1. Coming to Terms with History**

Following a pastor's departure, a congregation usually needs to resolve its feelings of loss, grief, anger, relief and guilt as well as panic about the future. "Letting go" of the previous pastor is a critically important task for a congregation as it begins to prepare for a new pastoral leader.

Moreover, a church sometimes has issues or conflicts that need to be addressed if forward progress is to be possible. If there is much grief or deep conflicts, the church members can find themselves exhausted and burned out. Many times there is a need to renew a congregation's spiritual energies to move toward a positive atmosphere within the church.

### **2. Discovering a New Identity**

As the search for a new pastor proceeds, it is essential that the Leadership Team, Search Committee and the congregation have a clear sense of the church's identity, mission and purpose based on a number of factors, including a church's past and an understanding of its strengths and the discernment of God's desired future for ministry in this time and place. This self-understanding is the end result of a careful self-assessment by a congregation and activities and learnings done by the leadership, PNC and congregation that help bring forth that new identity.

### **3. Strengthening Patterns of Lay Leadership**

In the interim period a church may experience shifts in power or leadership among the laity, depending upon the relationships of individuals to the former pastor. Some leaders may recede into the background while new leaders may emerge in this period. Gratitude for service rendered as well as cultivation of new leadership is important. Furthermore, this is a time to assess, as a whole, patterns of lay involvement in the church.

### **4. Strengthening Denominational Ties**

In the interim period, congregations find themselves working more closely than usual with the denomination, particularly with Presbytery staff and resources. It is an opportune time to affirm the church's connection to the larger church and the benefits such a relationship has for the congregation.

### **5. Preparing for New Leadership**

During the search process, two significant tasks are going on simultaneously: the Search Committee, on behalf of the congregation, is fulfilling the necessary steps in the process of finding a new pastor AND the congregation is readying itself psychologically and spiritually to enter into partnership with a new leader.

Blessings!

Carrie

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# Upcoming & Recurring Events



The **Choir** meets every Wednesday at 2pm at Jane Dassen's house. Contact Jane at 301-948-9816 if you're interested in joining.



The **Praise Team** meets every Wednesday at 6pm in Kerr Hall. Contact Carrie at 301-461-1006 if you're interested, or you can just come join us.



The **M&Ms** (Mission and Merriment group) meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month in P-W Hall, from 11am–1pm. At each meeting, we start with a devotion, have a brief business meeting and then make two fleece blankets. Each month, two blankets are made for baby cribs, and two are for youth-sized beds. These blankets are given to a pregnancy center and the Children's Advocacy Center, both in Frederick.

Some members of M&Ms carry out knitting and crocheting projects at their homes, making prayer shawls and hats for those who lose their hair due to chemotherapy. The prayer shawls are given to anyone struggling with illness or loss. The hats are distributed to oncology units and cancer treatment centers and anyone who wants one for a friend or relative.

Contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265 if you are interested in receiving any of the items we provide and for more information.



**Lunch Bunch** meets the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. The next gathering is January 9<sup>th</sup> at noon at **Bassett's** in Poolesville. For reservations, contact Sharon Catron in the office at 301-540-2544 by Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.



**Men's Fellowship** meets the second Saturday of each month, now at **IHOP** in Germantown. We welcome all men to join us for a hearty breakfast, devotion with discussion and good conversation. The next gathering is January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8am. For more information, contact Rowland New at 301-882-7151.



**Soul Sisters** will meet the last Thursday of each month. The next gathering is January 25<sup>th</sup>, at **Bennigan's** in Clarksburg. Come join us anytime between 6:30-9pm for fun, fellowship, and food with friends.

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Our youth meet for **Ablaze** on Sunday evenings from 5 - 6:30pm for a meal, a lesson and preparation for youth involvement in the 9:30am Sunday services.



Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year of our church participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** (SBOC). The SBOC is an annual event where churches and other groups around the country collect money and canned goods on Super Bowl Sunday. The SBOC contrasts the real Super Bowl and all its build-up, to what we can do to help those in need.

100% of the proceeds go to the charity of choice, which in our case is Meals-on-Wheels and WUMCO Help. Our middle and senior highs will present a skit interpretation related to the Souper Bowl and will collect money and food donations after each service. Join us on February 4<sup>th</sup> for a Boyds tradition!



On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the **Adult Study Group** will begin a 5-week Lenten study titled *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. Contact Dick Ernst at 301-540-2143 for more information and material.



### **Bad Weather Action Plan**

In the event of heavy weather this season, please call the church office @ 301-540-2544 to listen to any worship schedule changes or check our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoydsPresbyterianChurch>.

We will update any service change before 8 am on Sunday morning.

# CHURCH NEWS

## From the Session

Our wish for everyone is that you had a great Christmas and a safe New Year's Eve. Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ each year is a special and meaningful time. We hope you found time to consider scripture, read the Christmas story found in Luke, especially, and continue on your faith journey. As we enter 2018, Session will be considering many agenda items including, and most importantly, our next steps with finding a new installed pastor. Please keep our Church in your daily prayers

In the meantime, our Ministry Teams continue to gain strength. Please come to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28 at 12N for a light lunch and a review of the Ministry Team activity. Look for more information about the meeting in the weekly Friday updates

**Next meeting:** Saturday, 1/13 at 8:30am in P-W Hall.

## From the Deacons

The BPC Deacons meet on December 11. The deacons continued discussing the coordination of duties with the Worship, Fellowship and Mission Teams and the best way to provide congregational care to our congregation. The Christmas Angel Tree project provided gifts for 4 local families and approximately 15 children and babies at the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. The project also provided fruit baskets and flowers for some of our congregational members. Thank you to those who providing donations to help share the Christmas spirit!

**Next meeting:** Monday, 1/8 at 7pm in P-W Hall.

## From the Trustees

No meeting in December..

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, 1/30 at 7pm in P-W Hall.



BETTERtogether

**Appreciation and Gratitude** to Bob & Brenda Hoyt and our CE Team for hosting one of the December fellowships; to everyone who contributed to the Potluck; to the Mission & Merriment group for decorating the Sanctuary and P-W Hall; to Cecile and Max Jones for cleaning the church; to Cecile & Max Jones and Linda & Rowland New for setting up the poinsettias; to Marj Turbyfill and Ginger Gibson for watering the poinsettias.



**Fellowship Hosting** is needed during the first three or four weeks of each month. The last Sunday of each month is designated as "Potluck." The sign-up sheet is in P-W Hall. Join with a friend or other family or two to host Fellowship between the services.



The **2018 Sanctuary Cleaning** schedule is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule. Please sign-up to clean for one month.



**2018 Offering Envelopes** are in the church vestibule. If you weren't assigned a box, please write your name on the form and take the associated box of envelopes, or contact the office.



The **2018 Per Capita** for each communicant member is **\$39.91**. Per capita is what BPC pays to *The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, in order to cover the denomination's general administrative expenses. If you choose to help offset this expense, you may use the first blue envelope in your offering box designated for "per capita apportionment."



## Prayer List

### Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who died during December: Daniel Inscoe and Bill Yearick.

Family of Earl Dillehay, who died January 10.

### Pray for healing:

Gene Ahalt; Gwen Alred; Cindy Ashley; Carlos Aulestia; Dale & Karla Barron; Stephanie Bennett; Wynona Beuz; Susan Blackman; Nell Brewer; Michael Broschart; Cornelia & Cornelia Ann Burr; Charles Shepherd Burton; Dave & Judy Cullen; Nancy Daughtry; Anne Davies; Dean; Averi Donat; Billy Dorsey; Blair Gibson; Perri Green; Ruth Hoyt; Joe Katran; Carey Beth King; Eddie Kiser; Kaisy Knott; Jack Louth; Jean Phillips; Claudia Pleasants; Rex Reed; Carolyn & John Repass; Jim Rhea; Justin Rosner; Mark Sutch; Sandy; Winfill family; Gene Younkin; those who have recently lost loved ones; active members of armed services and their families; members of our church; those affected by weather events, wildfires and tragedies. Pray for those recovering from their war wounds, for victims of violence and war throughout the world.

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- January 1 – Happy New Year, Office Closed**  
**January 6 – New Officer Training**  
**January 15 – Martin Luther King Holiday, Office Closed**  
**January 28 – Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck**
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the most vulnerable  
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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, January 21, 2018, 5:00 pm

### **JAZZ VESPERS to benefit CMR**

Christ Episcopal Church  
109 South Washington Street  
Rockville. MD

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### **CMR's VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT**

Glenview Mansion  
603 Edmonston Road  
Rockville, MD



Do you have one of these? If so, please contact Dee Smith at 301-318-4561.

The youth would like to borrow it for their Souper Bowl of Caring skit. They would like to have it soon so they can use it for practices.