

January 2020

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Dorothy L. Boulton, M.Div.

Director of Music

Greg Knauf, D.M.A.

Organist

Douglas Heist, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Sunday Sextons

Cecilie Nilsen

Paige Percy

Sunday Child Care Providers

Patricia Craig

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Starwise

By Ken Kovacs

Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night
Star with Royal Beauty Bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding

Guide us to Thy perfect Light. —John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

There's one "character" often overlooked in nativity plays and pageants, something that moves the story along—the star. Its brilliance weaves its way through the narrative. Matthew describes

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INSIDE

Growing in Grace: January Education Opportunities. See page 3.

Upcoming in January: Join us for special events, concerts, meetings and a potluck at church. See pages 4 and 5.

Living a More Authentic Life: Purchase your ticket now to hear speaker James Hollis. See page 7.

Help us "Envision" the Future: Applications for 2020 for projects are open until March. See page 9.

"Starwise"

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a star that moves even as it summons the magi to move. The star seems to be alive; silent, yet eager to speak. It knows something that the wise men don't know. The star is wise.

It was scientist and theologian Thomas Browne (1605-1682) who perhaps first coined the word "starwise." "Ice splits," he said, "starwise." But I want to borrow this word to talk about the wisdom of the star, a wisdom that captures the attention of people who are wise, wise enough to trust its light and go wherever it leads them, to destinations unknown.

Scholars and contemporary astronomers love to guess about the nature of this star. (Some of these theories will be discussed in adult education on January 5, see page 3.) The magi were more interested, however, in what the star conveyed and portends. But for the star they would never have left home. And they had to leave home in order to discover what the star knew. As they came to know, the brilliance of that star among stars mirrors and reflects the brilliance of God's glory that was born in Bethlehem. Jesus' appearance, the fullest manifestation of God's glory and light in this child, is an *epiphany*—a manifestation of God's glory, a light for the entire world to see, not only for backwater Bethlehem, but also for all the nations of the world.

This year on **Epiphany Sunday (January 5)**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. And, like last year, we will have new star words for you to choose. This was a very meaningful ritual for us last year. On this Sunday, you'll be invited to choose a "star word" for the upcoming year. I should say, "choose," because for some it was clear that the word *chose* them. We heard from so many folks that the word they chose (or which was chosen for them) was exactly the word they needed for where they were in life. It's also true that some wanted to give their word back and get a different



one. Nevertheless, the word was given for a reason. My star word, leading me through 2019, was **GUIDANCE**.

T. S. Eliot said, "For last year's words belong to last year's language / And next year's words await another voice." (*Four Quartets*) A new year calls for a new word to lead us toward God's light.

And then on the following week, **Baptism of the Lord (January 12)** we will have another opportunity early in the new year to start afresh. We will remember Jesus' baptism as well as our own, we'll confirm our trust and faith in Christ, and recommit to being his people in the world. We will renounce evil, be open to God's love and grace, and reaffirm our baptismal vows. After all, baptism is about new beginnings, being born again by the Spirit of life, which happens again and again in the journey of faith. And, as the magi knew, it's all about the journey. ✚

Growing in Grace

Adult Education Opportunities

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the library. Childcare is provided.

JANUARY 5

The Star of Bethlehem

The Gospel of Matthew recounts extraordinary events on a cosmic level at the time of Christ's birth, events that rivaled anything in written astronomical history. One event in particular involved the rising of star in the east, a star heralding the arrival of the son of God. Join us for this hour-long documentary *The Star of Bethlehem* (2007) that explores the historical data behind this miraculous event and the resonance of it through the centuries.

JANUARY 12

Led by Ken Kovacs

Remember Your Baptism and be Thankful

For centuries, Christians have been invited to remember their baptism, and be thankful. On this Sunday—Baptism of the Lord—we will turn to the lectionary for the day, Matthew 3:13-17. We'll explore the significance of baptism among the first followers of Jesus, and the meaning and symbolism of baptism for us today, whether we remember our baptism or not.

JANUARY 19

Led by Ken Kovacs

Engaging the Text: Daniel

Our Thursday Morning Bible Study has been working its way through the book of Daniel. This Sunday we'll review some of the themes we've uncovered so far, and look at one of Daniel's dreams and one of his visions, and listen for what the Spirit might be saying to us today.

JANUARY 26

Led by Ken Kovacs

What if God is Dreaming Through You?

Throughout the Bible, dreams appear at critical moments in the lives of God's people, issuing warning, determining direction, conveying correction, as well as revelatory wisdom. What about us today? How do we approach our dreams? What does recent brain research suggest is happening when we dream? Are we reluctant to honor our dreams? But what if we did, and discovered that they are an invaluable gift? We'll touch on these questions as Ken Kovacs demonstrates how (and why) dream work is an essential part of Jungian psychoanalysis.

Poetry as Prayer

By Ann Quinn

Twenty brave souls gathered the morning of November 24 to explore the topic of "Poetry as Prayer" in Adult Ed. Right off the bat, Al Davies bravely uttered what perhaps many were thinking, "I don't really like or get poetry." What a great reminder to have that right out in the open! It reminded me to talk about what I love about poetry, and what poetry is, and why it doesn't have to rhyme. We discussed how poetry and prayer come from the same source—a deep listening and observation—for the more one looks, the more one becomes aware of the divine in all things. After discussing some contemporary poems, we took ten minutes to write, another ten to assemble our writing into group poems, and then shared our work. Here is one titled *Holy*:

*Holy the cheek of a small child,
warm as a peach just picked in
the sun.*

*Holy is the mind of a small child
as it interprets the sound of a
voice.*

*Holy is the morning air
filled with promise
of new beginnings.*

Upcoming in January



Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra January 19 at 3 p.m.

The Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra is rapidly becoming known as the leading professional ragtime orchestra in the United States. Peacherine recreates the syncopated stylings of a bygone era – ragtime, theater and dance music of the late 1800s and early 1900s along with underscoring classic silent films featuring the biggest names of the day using an immense archive of original scores. Two classic silent movies will be shown, accompanied by the orchestra.



Annual Congregational Meeting January 26 after worship

The purpose of the annual Congregational Meeting is to receive the budget for 2020, approve any changes in the Pastors' Terms of Call, and conduct any other business related to the life and witness of the church.

Ahead of the annual meeting, the reports for 2019 are due no later than Wednesday, January 9. Please send reports to office@catonsvillepresb.org and limit them to two pages.



SouperBowl of Caring Luncheon February 2 after worship

Join your church family in fellowship hall following worship for a delicious soup luncheon hosted by our senior high and middle school youth. Donations go towards hunger-relief through our support of the Westside Shelter ministry. Each month, Catonsville Presbyterian provides a meal for the 150 residents of the Catonsville shelter.



Winter Blues Throughout Winter Months

These cold, dark winter months can be difficult for the spirit. Come join a pastor for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and have a time for conversation, prayer, and words of support. Please contact Dorothy or Ken at the church office at (410) 747-6180 to set up a time to get together.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Youth and Mission News

Youth Night

Sunday, January 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Both middle and senior highs will be meeting for a mission-focused evening. Middle school will create Valentine Cards for our homebound members. Senior highs should bring a 2020 calendar and a parent to start planning for a summer mission trip. Check out the 2020 Montreat Youth Conference, and Broadstreetministry.org—radical hospitality/community engagement for possibilities.

Our Daily Bread

Sunday, January 12

Jenny Hutton will lead the high school youth group on a trip to Our Daily Bread. The group

will serve breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to those in need. We will meet in the main parking lot at **8:15 a.m.** for carpooling. Requirements are 14 years or older, closed toed shoes, and a hat. If you would like to attend, please email Jenny at jenhutton2010@gmail.com

Church School

Second Sunday

Second Sunday for ages 4-7 will meet on Sunday, January 12th right after the children's message. Parents may pick up their children in the Dragons room after worship.

Únete a nosotros para una cena informal!

By Laurie White

Join us for a potluck dinner on January 26 at 6:00 p.m. to hear about the trip to Puerto Rico last November. The group will be there to tell stories, show pictures and explain what we accomplished and what we hope to accomplish in the future. Please come and learn about our experiences and what made our hearts full.



The Winter Warmth Tree Mission

By Debby Shumaker, C.E. Committee Chair

In the spirit of Christmas and kindness and generosity, the Christian Education team, in partnership with Grace AME, is inviting you to help those that are less fortunate. Throughout the month of January, you can visit the Winter Warmth Tree that is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, pick one or more paper ornaments off the tree that have articles of warm clothing labeled on the back, and place your purchase(s) in a box under the tree. Truly, giving back is God's hope for us. It would be a wonderful sight to see every ornament plucked off of the tree and the box filled!

He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

Advent Season Photographs

Family, friends, and members shared in holiday joys together with our service full of music of the season in December. Later members enjoyed and supported the Cookie Walk to raise funds for the Santi School in Nepal. All proceeds from the Cookie Walk benefit the Santi School Project focused entirely on training teachers to help improve childhood literacy.



Santi School Thank You Note

Letter Excerpts from President of Santi School in Nepal

"Thank you for your recent donation of \$3,000 to The Santi School Project. I am deeply grateful for the continued support over the years by the Mission Committee, as well as from the Envision Fund and the dozens of individual members of Catonsville Presbyterian Church who have been so generous since our very beginning.

The first official Santi School fundraiser was back in June 2007, when two Nepali friends and I spoke to more than 30 church members at a gathering in the France Room after the Sunday service. At the time, we were raising \$20,000 to build our first school. So much has happened since then, of course, including a devastating earthquake that still affects daily life in many communities in Nepal. I mention our first fundraiser because it reminds me not just about the relationship between Santi School and Catonsville Presbyterian, but how Santi School helps keep me connected to the church.

Over the past few years we have turned our focus exclusively to training teachers, emphasizing reading aloud to children, which is not typical in Nepal. We are particularly excited about launching our own children's book publishing arm in 2020." Learn more about the Santi School training program at www.santischool.org/spread-the-joy-of-reading.

Thank you again for your support.
Sincerely, Christopher Heun

Living a More Authentic Life

By Ken Kovacs

On February 29, we will welcome my good friend and mentor, James Hollis, Ph.D. –author, internationally acclaimed Zurich-trained Jungian analyst, and remarkable teacher. Former director of The Jung Center in Houston, TX, as well as the Jung Society of Washington, D. C., Hollis is in private practice in Washington. He is the author of fifteen books, the last being the subject of our time together in February, *Living an Examined Life* (2017).

What constitutes the "second" half of life when viewed through a psychological lens? What does it mean to "grow up"? This program will present several considerations to assist in the discernment process we all must undertake if we are to reclaim our personal authority and live our journeys more authentically.

Join us, Saturday, February 29, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 and registration is required. You can purchase your ticket now online at: www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-the-second-half-of-life-with-james-hollis-phd-tickets-84778126659. Tickets will also be on sale after worship in February. Copies of *Living an Examined Life* will be available for purchase, and Jim will be happy to sign your copy.



Scouts Update

By Glenda K. Johnson
Chartered Organization Representative

Boy Scouts

Thanks to all the Scouts for their great job selling the 2019 Christmas trees. The project ended on Sunday December 16, with the sale of the one tree left on the lot. That same afternoon Troop leaders and Scouts got the sales tent unassembled. All related equipment was cleaned up and put away for another year. Scouts and their parents worked through several very cold and rainy times for this sale. Many thanks to the congregation and the Catonsville community for their continued support of this major fundraiser.

The Troop announces the retirement of Mike McDonal, our Committee Chairman, for the past 10+ years. His many hours of volunteer service and his Scout knowledge and experience within the District, the Baltimore Area Council, and the National Council will be missed. Thanks Mike, for your commitment and dedication to Troop 306. Our new Committee Chairman is Cynthia Jones, whose son was a Cub Scout and is now an active member of the Troop. Cynthia has transitioned into this position with guidance from Mike during the past couple of months. She is an experienced volunteer in the community who has tackled this position with enthusiasm and professionalism. You will have an opportunity to meet her on Scout Sunday in February.

Cub Scouts

The annual popcorn sale is now finished and Pack 306 did an outstanding job with this project. Thanks to all of you who purchased the products and helped support this active group of 50 Cub Scouts. Cub Scouts and their families were a large presence at the annual church grounds clean up and their help is much appreciated. Leaders are providing a varied weekly program of high interest activities. In the coming month, they are looking forward to special STEM related activities and preparing for the Pinewood Derby which will be held in February.

Eric Loewner's Eagle Scout Project

Benefit Helping Up Mission

Eagle Scout candidate Eric Loewner is asking for assistance from the Troop and Pack for his Eagle Scout project. Eric is working with Helping Up Mission, a men's rehabilitation shelter in Baltimore, to collect gently used men's suits and business attire for their members. Helping Up Mission has a yearlong religious based program in which they help men recover from addiction. As part of their program, they provide the men access to proper clothing for job interviews and for when they re-enter the work force.

Starting Thursday, December 19 and continuing through Thursday, January 16 there will be a collection box in the Scout Room to collect men's suits, ties, dress shirts, dress pants, suit and sport jackets. The clothing articles should be in good condition, current styles, no stains or tears, no missing buttons, and the zippers must work.

To help with cleaning costs, Eric will be having a fundraiser at Peace of Pizza on Mellor Ave. on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 from 4 to 8 p.m. Part of the sales that night will go towards his fundraising efforts. If you can join him for dine-in or carry-out, let them know at the register it is for Eric's Eagle Project. He will have a collection box there as well for any additional clothing donations.



Help us "Envision" the Future

Since 2015, Catonsville Presbyterian Church has been blessed to award annual grants from The Envision Fund to support projects and initiatives through ministries here in Catonsville and surrounding counties, nationally and internationally thanks to a generous bequest by Robert Riley. Visit catonsvillepres.org/envision-fund for details on the more than 30 projects supported by the Envision Fund.

We invite you to use your creativity and imagination. What ideas do you have for projects that allow Catonsville Presbyterian to work collaboratively with organizations to positively impact our local community or the world? Applications for 2020 for projects that fall within the categories of Development, Mission, Peace and Justice Advocacy, and Capital Improvements to our facilities are being accepted now. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2020. Members of the congregation can participate by submitting an application individually, as a Catonsville Presbyterian committee, or by sponsoring an application from an outside organization. For questions on the Envision Fund, please send an email envision_fund@catonsvillepres.org.

Seafarers International Thank You Note

The Mission Committee thanks who participated in our annual project for the Seafarers Center. We completed 42 boxes, which were taken downtown by Lee Van Koten, a longtime volunteer for this group. Many different churches and various organizations participate in this effort to provide a holiday gift to seafarers who come into various ports. Most of these workers are away from their families for many months and it can be lonely, especially during the holidays. We also thank all the volunteers who helped organize, wrap, and transport the boxes in December. All of us working together helped make this holiday more special for these recipients.

A Thank you note from Seafarer's International

"You have a long history of support, but we never take for granted the investment of resources and time involved. And the seafarers definitely don't take for granted this bright spot in an otherwise dark and lonely time of year! Our opportunities to photograph crews are limited, but I'm attaching one from a recent delivery. We are blessed by Lee's [Lee Van Koten] outstandingly dedicated ministry, and by all our connections with Catonsville Presbyterian."

Thanks and blessings,
Rev. Mary Davisson, Director
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center



Session Meeting Highlights

The Session is a body of fifteen members, elected by the congregation and ordained as ruling elders, who provide leadership for our congregation. Following are highlights of the regular monthly Session meeting of December 4, 2019.

■ The Session approved a proposal from Troop 306 Eagle Scout candidate Eric Loewner, to hold a clothing drive at CPC to benefit the Helping Up Mission in Baltimore, as his Eagle Scout project. Donated clothes would be provided for job interviews for homeless men seeking employment.

■ The Finance Committee reported that the budget gap is closing as of 11 months of 2019, but strong giving will be needed to end the year without a deficit. Congregation members are urged to bring their pledges up to date, and to consider a special year-end gift to the church.

■ A task force has been formed to review the operating guidelines of the Envision Fund. The task force is composed of present and former members of the Envision Board, with a congregation member-at-large. Ruling elder Laurie White is serving as Facilitator of the task force. A report to Session is expected in March, 2020.

■ The Stewardship Committee reported that 65 pledges were received after Pledge Commitment Sunday, versus a total of 104 pledges received last year. A strong effort by the Committee to encourage pledging by congregation members is planned.

■ Session voted to call the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 26, 2020. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear annual reports, elect church officers, receive the annual budget for 2020, and approve the pastors' terms of call for 2020.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. Session member contact information is listed in the Church Directory, so it is easy to communicate directly with your church leaders. Take a few minutes to send a message to a Session member, the pastors, or the church office, and let us know what you think. We want to hear from you! — David Hutton, Clerk of Session

Our Financial Resources

We rely on everyone to support what God is doing through this congregation. The vitality of this ministry is secured by God's grace and funded by the faithfulness and commitment of God's people. We are counting on the ongoing generosity of our members and friends. Thank you! — Keith Glennan, Finance Committee

Actual income as of December 14, 2019:	\$ 539,712
Actual expense as of December 14, 2019:	\$ -553,442
Total:	\$ -13,730

Poetry and the Christian Life

Join us on Tuesday, January 28, from 7 to 8 p.m. for the next poetry discussion on the chosen poem *How Quiet* by Judith Harris. Read it slowly, ponder it, reflect on it, let it speak to you, even pray it. Then join us for discussion on a January evening in the church library.

How quiet is the spruce, the wind twills through the uppermost tier of splayed leaves. Now the song of a bird like the

squeaky lock over a canoe's oar, followed by startling chirps, the sky pushing its clouds like sailboats, and I think, what kind

of God keeps himself secret so that to find him out we have to seek, as children do for something like the beetle scuttling between grass, hidden in plain sight.

Catonsville Presbyterian Calendar

EVERY WEEK

SUNDAYS

8:40 a.m. Youth Choir, Grades 3 and up, Music Rm
9 a.m. Church School, Grade 3-High School
9 a.m. Child Care and Social Time, Infants-Grade 2
9 a.m. Adult Education, Library
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

MONDAYS

7-9 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall
8-10 p.m. Scottish Dancers, Gym

TUESDAYS

9-11 a.m. Al-Anon, France Room
10 a.m. Needles Group, Library
7-9 p.m. Charm City Dancers, Gym
7-9:30 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS

7 p.m. Cub Scouts, Gym, SR, RS Rooms

THURSDAYS

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library (Except January 2)
5:30-6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Library
6:45-7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Upper Music Room
7-9:30 p.m. Kung Fu, Fellowship Hall
7:35-9 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room
7:30-9 p.m. Boy Scouts

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

WEDNESDAY, January 1 [New Year's Day](#)

Church Offices Closed

THURSDAY, January 2

7-9 p.m. Boy Scout Com, Library

FRIDAY, January 3

7:30 p.m. Session Christmas Party, Kovacs' House

SATURDAY, January 4

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, January 5 [Second Sunday After](#)

[Christmas Day](#)

6-7:30 p.m. Middle and High School Youth Night

MONDAY, January 6 [Epiphany](#)

WEDNESDAY, January 8

7 p.m. Session, Library/France Rm
7 p.m. Child Care Council, Conf Rm
7:30 p.m. Trustees, Library

THURSDAY, January 9

12:30 p.m. Committee on Local Arrangements, Worship Team, Library
7-9 p.m. Cub Scout Com, Library

SUNDAY, January 12 [Baptism of the Lord](#)

8:15 a.m. Senior High Youth, depart for Our Daily Bread downtown
12 p.m. Envision Task Force

MONDAY, January 13

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation, France Rm
7:30 p.m. Adult Education Com, Conf Rm

TUESDAY, January 14

12 p.m. Committee on Local Arrangements, Worship Team, Library (Snow Date: 1/16)

WEDNESDAY, January 15

2 p.m. Com on Preparation for Ministry, Library
6:15-7:45 p.m. Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group, France Rm
7 p.m. Envision Board, Conf Rm

THURSDAY, January 16

7:30-9 p.m. Dismantling Racism Group, Library

SATURDAY, January 18

9 a.m. Preparation for Recital
1-4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym
1 p.m. Recital by L. Fromm's Students, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, January 19

3 p.m. Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra, Sanctuary and Reception, FH
3-5 p.m. GA Hospitality Team, Conf Rm

WEDNESDAY, January 22

7-8 p.m. Cub Scouts: STEM Speaker, FH

SUNDAY, January 26

11:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Puerto Rico Potluck

MONDAY, January 27

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation, France Rm

TUESDAY, January 28

7-8 p.m. Poetry Discussion, Library

Connect with Us Beyond Sunday

By Lisa Roca

One of the ways we can effectively accomplish connecting with people, and communicate the news, is through social media. Follow us today if you're on Twitter @catonsvillepres or Facebook @catonsvillepresb. Our Catonsville Presbyterian's Facebook page, has existed since 2014 and accumulated more than 860 followers. Many of the page's followers are you—members and active friends—but many other followers have never actually stepped inside the church but they are interested in the Catonsville Presbyterian community. Our public Facebook page is a great way to externally spread the word about Catonsville Presbyterian among social networks. It is a place where we share news and you can learn about upcoming events, programs and latest updates at the church. We also have a Facebook group, @facebook.com/groups/catonsvillepresbyterian, which is intended only for members and friends of the church. It is a closed group, which means you must request to join, and it has more than 205 members that share inspirational stories, notes, and photographs each day. If you haven't done so already, visit our social media pages, request to join and stay connected, beyond Sunday. In addition, we offer a weekly e-newsletter that gives you the Sunday worship service preview, latest announcements, and upcoming events at our church. Visit our website at www.catonsvillepres.org/news/connect-with-us to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter or social media accounts.

Sermons at CPC

Text and Audio Recording

Now, both the text and audio recording of the sermon will be up on our website each week. You can read, listen, or download the file to listen at another time. Visit www.catonsvillepres.org/sermons to read or listen to Catonsville Presbyterian Church sermons.

Next Messenger

Deadline January 15, 2019

Send your content for inclusion in the *Messenger* to Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor Lisa Roca at lroca@catonsvillepres.org.

THE Messenger

Our Mission

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

Child Care Center

(P) 410-747-4581, (F) 410-744-5168
www.cpcfccc.org



We Choose
Welcome

pcusa.org/WeChooseWelcome #WeChooseWelcome

