

January 6, 2021

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.

Interim Organist

Jason Kissel, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



By Another Road

By Kenneth Kovacs

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we remember the magi, who, “having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road” (Matthew 2:12). Contemporary poet and artist Jan Richardson beautifully reflects on what that experience might have been like for them—and for us. Do yourself a favor. Sit with this poem. Let it speak to you, lead you, bless and illuminate the way for you. Consider it a gift to yourself.

Epiphany: Blessing of the Magi

*There is no reversing
this road.
The path that bore you here
goes in one direction only,
every step drawing you
down a way
by which you will not
return.*

*You thought arrival
was everything,
that your entire journey
ended with kneeling
in the place
you had spent all
to find.*

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By Another Road

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*When you laid down
your gift,
release came with such ease,
your treasure tumbling
from your hands
in awe and
benediction.
Now the knowledge
of your leaving
comes like a stone laid
over your heart,
the familiar path closed
and not even the solace
of a star*

*to guide your way.
You will set out in fear.
You will set out in dream.
But you will set out
by that other road
that lies in shadow
and in dark.
We cannot show you
the route that will
take you home;
that way is yours
and will be found
in the walking.
But we tell you,*

*you will wonder
at how the light you thought
you had left behind
goes with you,
spilling from
your empty hands,
shimmering beneath
your homeward feet,
illuminating the road
with every step
you take.*

From: Jan Richardson, *Circles of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* (Wanton Gospeller Press, 2015).

Envision Awards 2020

On November 22, we announced the last of our three rounds of Envision Awards for 2020. This is a time for all of us to be grateful that we can share the Envision Funds with groups in the larger community. The awards that have been approved by the Envision Board will go to three organizations.

- The first award of \$28,500 is to the Immigrant and Refugee Services: Self-Sufficiency Initiative which is part of FIRN – Foreign Born Information and Referral Network – Language Connections Program. That long title includes the target group (immigrants and refugees) and their need for bridging language barriers. This project will develop a website for easier access to language services which assist non-English speakers with locating medical services, knowing what is available in the community, and help with legal document translation.
- The second grant of \$5,065 is to Supporting Native American LifeLines of Baltimore. Native American Lifelines provides health education, cultural programming, behavioral health care, dental services and more primarily to eligible American Indians in the greater Baltimore area. They traditionally host a holiday sponsorship program to provide gifts to Native American youth. This year, due to the pandemic, they are struggling to find sponsors to support the program. The grant will help bring gifts for young people who may not have other bright spots during these difficult holidays.
- The third grant of \$10,000 goes to McKim Leadership Transition 2021. Many of you are familiar with the 200 year old McKim Center in the Jonestown area of Baltimore. The Center is in a leadership transition period with the hiring of Mr. Garfield Thompson to replace Mr. Dwight Warren, who has been Executive Director for 30 years. They are seeking funds to provide education and training for Mr. Thompson so he can continue to expand the successful Track and Field program, and collaborate with the Baltimore Wisdom Project in raising funds for programs and operating costs. Other funding sources are helping with this effort as Mr. Thompson becomes the new Executive Director in 2021.

We give thanks to God once again for the opportunity to share our abundance with those around us, and look forward to the positive changes that these grants will help to nurture.

Recording Worship

By Kathy and Keith Glennan

On Saturday mornings, the Glennans get up, dress nicely, grab the video camera bag, and head off to church, arriving at 9 am, about 60 minutes before the time to start recording the Sunday worship. The recording process has changed dramatically since the start of the COVID-19 related closure of the sanctuary, when Sue Krehbiel shared a short prayer service on Facebook live via her iPhone, to the current setup of capturing a full worship service. We now use a computer, microphones, a mixer, two video cameras, and a teleprompter. After experiments with livestreaming the service, we moved to recording on Saturday mornings. This allows for less stress, and the ability to be more flexible about when which segments of the service are recorded. For example, we may record the musical offering first, which allows the soloist to leave before the main part of the service starts. We also have the option of a do-over, if something goes wrong. While there are substantial benefits of recording for delayed viewing, there are also some drawbacks, especially when it comes to stitching the service together. We have to keep track of multiple takes and the desired order of the service. To facilitate this work, we acquired a whiteboard clapper, just like they use on movie sets. On a typical Saturday, we are done recording at 11 am, although certain services do take longer. For most people, the service commitment ends there, but not for Keith, who spends about three hours each week putting the segments together, cutting in pre-recorded segments, adjusting the sound, and finally adding in the hymn texts. Once everything is final, he processes the file and then uploads it to Facebook and YouTube, setting the “premiere” time for the next day.



Things are a little different for other services we have captured. Kathy recorded the summer outdoor vesper series on the main video camera. We did not try to air this live; instead, Keith uploaded the video a few hours after those services ended. The most recent prayer service was done on Facebook Live; this requires an entirely different mindset, including knowing exactly when we are going live, remembering that we can't start over if there are any problems. However, the live broadcast means that Keith's work is done when the service is over.

Over the past eight months, we have been in a continuous improvement mode with the technology, upgrading the computer, buying an additional mixer and microphones, and obtaining a remote-controlled camera. Adding more technology means more people are involved. Initially, Keith did the technology, but after a few weeks he asked Kathy to come and run the video camera. Vickie Lord agreed to manage implementing the teleprompter, which requires uploading the service text and manually scrolling through the display as the text is read.

While we all miss the opportunity to gather and worship together as a congregation, there have been some unexpected benefits. We have been able to welcome current and former members who are normally unable to participate due to health, mobility, or location considerations. Too, we have been blessed with participation and feedback by a number of pastors who have been able to join us who would normally be busy when we gather in person. It's clear that even after a vaccine is available, CPC members and friends will still want remote access to our services. This is another change that the pandemic has brought which we will need to live into in the months and years ahead. However, once more than 10 people start attending worship again, we will have to make some more adjustments, like not setting up the computer in the center aisle!

It has been a real privilege to serve the congregation in this way during the pandemic, and we are grateful for the support and encouragement that you all have provided as we have collectively navigated these challenges.

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.

Doing God's Work

The church received \$425,000 so far for 2020. This was \$15,000 or 3.7% more than we had budgeted.

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:
Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

Next Messenger Deadline
January 18, 2021

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

Save the Date

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study returns on January 7 at 10:30 a.m. We'll kick-off a new year with a new four-week study: we're going to explore the theme of 'hope' in the New Testament. Look for the Zoom link and class description going out next week

Concerts at 3 pm

Join Catonsville Concerts at 3 on January 10 to hear the extraordinary musical Strata Trio online. Strata is the coming together of three musical talents which include Nathan Williams on clarinet, James Stern on violin and viola, and Audrey Andrist on piano. With a performance combining the great trio and duo repertoire of the past with a body of new works written especially for them. Broadcast virtually via Facebook!

Westside Shelter

We are now collecting new or used (clean and in good condition) coats for the shelter. In particular, they are in need of coats in size L and XL. There is also a need for new hats, gloves and long underwear. Items can be dropped off in the collection bin on the front porch of the church house through January 31. Contributions to this effort can also be made by giving a gift online (onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/now) or by sending a check to CPC and designating it for the Westside Men's Shelter.



We Choose Welcome

