

November 1, 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.

### Organist

Christopher Keenan, 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 Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Moonzie Kirk, Moonzie, Fife, Scotland. Photo credit Kenneth Kovacs.

## For All the Saints

By Kenneth Kovacs

**I**n the middle of October, I was in Scotland to be with a dear friend who means the world to me. She's recovering from major surgery and has a long road ahead of her. I found a quiet, remote place to stay that fed my soul, which certainly needed tending. It was about three miles from the hospital, a renovated stable that once belonged to the manse of Moonzie Kirk. The parish kirk of Moonzie (originally named Urhithumonesyn) sits on a hill surrounded by farmlands as far as the eye can see. Closed by the Presbytery of St. Andrews in the 1960s, the church dates

*continued on page 2* ➔

### —INSIDE—

**Session Updates:** Highlights from the October Meeting. See page 3.

**Envision Fund Awards:** Fall 2021 Grant Recipients. See pages 4 and 5.

**Adopt a Turkey:** Drive Running through November. Page 6.

**Mission Committee's Fall Project:** Successfully completed. See page 7.

# For All the Saints

*Continued from Page 1*

to the 12th century and had connections with the cathedral priory in St. Andrews. There's some indication that the hill contained a cell for a solitary Pictish monk in the 6th century.

Today, the auld kirk is surrounded by gravestones, worn by weather and time, that bear witness to generations of people—to their life, faith, and work. The hill and kirk, as well as the kirkyard, had an odd hold on me. I went there at sunrise and midday, at sunset and in the gloaming, even at night.

A kirk and a kirkyard. A church and a cemetery. Almost from the start, cemeteries and Christian worship go together. Consider the catacombs in Rome where Christians gathered to worship and break bread amongst the graves of the community. By contrast, Romans situated the cemetery (the necropolis, the city of the dead) outside the city walls. Christian burials were close to where the community gathered. The church I served in Mendham, NJ, founded in 1738, is surrounded by an old cemetery that's still in use. The First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore had a cemetery established in 1787 (today, around Westminster Hall, where Edgar Allen Poe is buried). It seems fitting to have the new Columbarium—which will be dedicated after worship on October 31—situated steps away from where God's people gather to worship and break bread.

All of this might sound morbid or depressing. It can be. It doesn't have to be. It's powerful and moving to know that we are connected to the past, joined with those who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:7), and now rest from their labors. To know that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) who are close to us and cheer us on, encouraging us to be bold and courageous and faithful. I love the way T. S. Eliot captures this element of the Christian life, of our connection to another world in moments and places that feel "thin." Little Gidding, in England, was one such place for Eliot. He writes: "...any action/Is a step to the block, to the fire, down the sea's throat/ Or to an illegible stone: and that is where we start./ We die with the dying:/ See, they depart, and we go with them./ We are born with the dead:/ See, they return, and bring us with them" ("Little Gidding" in *Four Quartets*).

Sunday, November 7, will be our All Saints' remembrance. We will gather around the Lord's Table, invoke the names of loved ones we goodbye to this year, and sing with joy and gratitude: "O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory in shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!"

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## YOUTH SERVICE DAY with The Center

By Dorothy Boulton

On October 2, our middle and high school youth visited Stillmeadow Community Fellowship Church, ten minutes away on Frederick Avenue in Baltimore, for a day of joyful outdoor labor and fellowship. Working diligently, they cleared weeds and other overgrowth from the "baby trees" that have been recently planted in the 10 ½ acre woodlands of the church property. The long-term goal is to reclaim the overgrown urban forest so it will serve the community with hiking trails, meditation spaces, and the beauty and calm of nature. Future plans for additional trees and water retention spaces in the church parking lot will also help prevent flooding in the area. The event was organized by Baltimore Presbytery's mission agency, [The Center](#), and we participated along with youth from other Presbyterian Churches in our geographical area, known as West Side Story ministries. It was a privilege to work with volunteers who are such good stewards of this amazing, and rare, natural resource. For those wanting more information about the Stillmeadow Peace Park, here's a link to an article in the Baltimore Sun [www.baltimoresun.com/ee744133-1334-475c-a7c9-c5ab958d01f1-132.html](http://www.baltimoresun.com/ee744133-1334-475c-a7c9-c5ab958d01f1-132.html)



# SESSION MEETING Highlights from October

By David Hutton

Your Session continues to meet monthly and is using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on October 6, 2021.

- The Pastors reported that the new program year is off to a strong start, despite the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic. The combined Zoom worship with Knox Presbyterian Church was enjoyed by all, the fall book study on *Learning to Pray* has had an excellent response, we celebrated our first in-person communion service in over 18 months, children and youth activities are off and running with outdoor church school an environmental service project and a planned Halloween event, and the Child Care Center is celebrating its 40th year of operation. We have been truly blessed!
- Session had the opportunity to welcome ten members of an extended family into membership in the church, and to approve the baptisms of six of their children. They were all be welcomed into the life of CPC at worship on Sunday, October 10 (page 8).
- The Finance Committee reported that finances are relatively stable for this time of the year, with a budget deficit continuing due to slowing of congregational giving over the summer. Members are reminded to bring their pledges and contributions up to date now that the summer months have ended.
- The Envision Board presented its recommendations for Envision grant awards for the second grant cycle of 2021, and Session approved the awards to three deserving organizations totaling \$41,200. The organizations receiving the awards was announced at worship in October 2021 (pages 4 & 5).
- The Mission Committee is investigating the possibility of supporting Afghan refugees to the United States, looking into support groups, housing needs, and financial support for the 30 to 60 day transition period after the refugees arrive in the U.S. and before they are settled into longer-term housing.

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 easier than ever 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!



Commissioning our new Stephen Ministry leaders Charre Symms and Reid Spearman, October 17.

# ENVISION AWARDS

Fall 2021

By Michelle White, Envision Board Member

Each year, the Envision Board awards grants to serve as seed money for projects that will enrich the ministry and life of the church. These projects serve a wide variety of people, from within the congregation here at CPC to the local, national, and international communities. We evaluate proposals for funding in the categories of Ministry Development, Service in Community, Social Justice Advocacy, and Capital Improvement.

The Envision Board is grateful to God for the life and witness of Robert Riley, whose generous bequest to CPC was used to establish the Envision Fund, as well as the support of Session (especially the Finance Committee), the congregation, and our church office staff who make these awards possible.

For 2021, the Envision Board had \$164,555 available to distribute. During the spring application round, three projects were funded totalling \$102,995. For the fall application round, the Board had \$41,210 remaining to distribute, and received five applications totalling \$141,300. At this time, the Envision Board under the approval of Session was able to award funding to service in community projects, totaling \$41,200.

## **LAZARUS CAUCUS, CLOTHING STORAGE UNIT FOR THE WESTSIDE SHELTER**

(Service in Community; Local Project, \$18,000, partial funding). Envision funds will be used to purchase and locate a storage unit at the Westside Shelter in Catonsville as a clothing closet. Currently, donated clothes are in tubs and boxes offsite in a space donated by a local church, and volunteers must take “orders” and bring back clothing to persons in the shelter. The proposed storage unit will be 8’x20’, “electric-ready” for air conditioning, heating and lights, and will have clothing organized by size and type. Most importantly, clothing will be available immediately when individuals express need. This project was submitted by Andrea Ratajczak, Executive Director of the Lazarus Caucus, [www.lazaruscaucus.org](http://www.lazaruscaucus.org), and sponsored by Vickie Lord.

## **LIVING IN RECOVERY, SMILING IN RECOVERY**

(Service in Community; Local Project, \$10,000, partial funding). The project seeks to fund out of pocket dental care expenses for persons who are living in a recovery house program in Howard County. Residents of the recovery program have dental needs, as effects of substance abuse impact the teeth and overall mouth, which lead to bruxism, tooth loss, periodontal disease, halitosis, stomatitis, and oral cancer. The project will provide funding to persons who are at least one year in recovery, with implants and dental care. This project was submitted by Jessica Matthews of Living in Recovery [www.lirhowardcounty.org](http://www.lirhowardcounty.org), and sponsored by congregation member, Nancy Burke.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT NETWORK, START-UP FUNDING FOR ROOMS OF SUPPORT AT BALTIMORE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND TWO OTHER SCHOOLS**

(Service in Community; Local Project; \$13,200, partial funding). The Student Support Network operates in 13 low-income schools in Baltimore County. The program stocks “Rooms of Support” with food, school supplies, personal care items, clothing, and other items requested by school staff or students themselves. To join the Network, the school’s community must provide \$2,000 for initial funding. Envision funding will provide the assistance (seed money) to the low-income schools so they may join the Support Network, and be able to distribute food and supplies as quickly as possible to students and their families. The project was submitted by Rina Vaishnav Rhyne, Executive Director of Student Support Network <https://studentsupportnetwork.org>, and sponsored by Cheryl Thurber.

*continued on page 5* ➔

## CATONSVILLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (CEA), EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND SERVICES THROUGH VITAL TRANSPORTATION

(Service in community, local project, \$25,000). CEA is a nonprofit that helps with food, rental and utility assistance to those in need. This project will enable CEA to continue picking up food donations and orders from the community and the Maryland Food Bank by using grant funds to purchase a vehicle for all transportation needs. The volume of food donations has increased, as had the need for food, during the pandemic. Staff members of CEA use their personal vehicles which is growing insufficient in being capable of transporting 1,000 pounds or more at a time. CEA will purchase a used SUV with Envision Funds to continue meeting the growing need in the community. The project was submitted by Bonnie J. Harry, RN, Executive Director of Catonsville Emergency Assistance <http://catonsvillehelp.org>, and sponsored by Maureen Parkhurst. This project was submitted in the spring 2021 application round, and approved during the fall 2021 review. The award amount is included in spring 2021 totals, under the approval of Session.

The Envision Board is truly excited to see God working through these wonderful projects, and thanks all those who submitted proposals for their time and effort.

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# COLUMBARIUM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

By David Hutton

Following are some Frequently Asked Questions about the new CPC Columbarium to help members understand its purpose and function. A more complete list of FAQs is available on the CPC website at [www.catonsvillepres.org/columbarium-and-sacred-space-garden](http://www.catonsvillepres.org/columbarium-and-sacred-space-garden).

### WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

A columbarium is a final resting place for those who have been cremated in the same way that a cemetery is a final resting place for those who have not been cremated. A columbarium is made up of a set of niches in which urns containing the ashes of human remains are stored in perpetuity. A niche uses an engraved granite faceplate to mark who is inurned in that location. Similarly, a cemetery is made up of a set of plots in which caskets containing human remains are stored. A cemetery plot uses a headstone to mark who is interred in that location. Columbarium is to cemetery as niche is to plot, as urn is to casket, as faceplate is to headstone.

- Where is the CPC Columbarium located? The Columbarium is located on the church grounds at the corner of Frederick and Beechwood Avenues. It is surrounded by the Sacred Space Garden.
- How many people does a niche hold? A niche will hold the ashes of up to two people.
- Who can be inurned in a niche? Any present or former church member or their family.
- Who can purchase a niche? Any present or former church member or their family.
- Who is considered a church member? Anyone who is or was on the active CPC member roll.
- What relations are considered a person's family? As we know, the definition of family continues to evolve. Our current definition includes the following: grandparents, parents, children, siblings, and domestic partners – all to include “step,” and whether by marriage or domestic partnership. CPC wants to respect all those who our church members consider family, and we are open to discussion and evolution of the current definition.
- When will the Columbarium be available? Construction is underway on the Columbarium and the surrounding Sacred Space Garden, and completion is expected by approximately the end of October, 2021. At that time, you will hear more about the availability of Columbarium niches for purchase, as well as engraved memorial pavers for the Sacred

# Christian Education News

By Dorothy Boulton

## Multi Age Church School

Ages 5 through 10 years-old will meet on Sunday, November 14 and 28. Children will leave the sanctuary following the children's message and gather in the pavilion for a time of learning and sharing approx. 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Parents may pick up their child/ren in the pavilion after the worship service. If your child is attending for the first time, please be sure the adult leaders have your cell phone number if we need to contact you. On November 14 we complete our focus on the "Follow Jesus" theme; the 28 is the first Sunday in Advent and we begin the series called "Hope."

## Youth Gatherings in the Pavilion

Middle and high school youth are invited for an afternoon of Thanksgiving-related activities and discussion on Sunday, November 14th from 4:30 – 6 p.m. Meet in the outdoor pavilion behind the church house. Friends are always welcome!

## Intergenerational Advent Activities

Sunday, November 28, we begin the Advent season with crafts, snacks, and a song or two in the outdoor pavilion following morning worship, approx. 11:30 – Noon. It's a great time for fellowship, too. All ages are invited!

## Volunteers Needed to Set Up

We are looking for a few volunteers to help set up, lead the crafts (materials are provided) and clean up. Please contact Dorothy Boulton at [dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:dboulton@catonsvillepres.org) by November 7. Thank you for welcoming our Advent season with hope and joy.

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## ADOPT A TURKEY

By Jennifer Hutton

The deacons and the Mission Committee will once again be having our "Adopt a Turkey" drive to assist Grace AME church in providing a Thanksgiving meal to those in need in our community. Grace AME has been steadfast in safely providing food assistance throughout the pandemic. This year will be much like last year in that they hope to provide a meal to over 200 families by having a curbside pickup on November 17. There are many ways to give to this wonderful ministry.

### MONETARILY

Sending a check to CPC, online by following this link <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/give/Thanksgiving>

**DONATE FOOD ITEMS** There is a bin in the back of the sanctuary and we will be collecting through November 14. On November 6 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., the Knights of Columbus will host the second annual "Fill this truck" event. We will be distributing paper bags in worship and encourage folks to fill them and bring to this event. On November 12 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., we will collecting food items in the small Frederick Road parking lot

**DONATE YOUR TIME** Volunteer for the "Fill this Truck" event to help collect food. Volunteer to be a shopper for food items still needed on November 15 and 16. Volunteer to help assemble bags and distribute curbside at the Grace AME Thanksgiving giveaway on November 20. You can follow this sign-up link to volunteer at [www.signupgenius.com/go/409044DA8AF22AoFCr-adopt](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044DA8AF22AoFCr-adopt) Many thanks in advance for your donations!



# Mission Committee's Fall Project

By Glenda K. Johnson

The Mission Committee's Fall project to assemble 200 Personal Hygiene Kits for Church World Service has been completed. Thanks to everyone for your support and participation in making this project a success. The kits will benefit persons who have been forced to leave their homes due to fire, flood, hurricanes, war or other emergencies.

The Kit Assembly Day was held Saturday morning October 16. All the items were set up in an assembly line arrangement so that the bags could be easily filled by the 14 volunteers. The kits were packed into labeled boxes and taken to the sanctuary for the dedication of them during the Sunday service. During the following week, the boxes were driven to the New Windsor warehouse for processing and shipping.

We welcomed Rick Santos, President/CEO of Church World Service to the Assembly Day. He briefly updated us about the work of CWS during the past 75 years, and thanked CPC for our contribution to their Kit Program. We are confident our kits will be welcomed by the recipients. We will follow up to let you know their final destination, as well as the amount of our donation which will be sent to support the shipping and ongoing work of the CWS Kit programs.

On behalf of the entire Mission Committee, thank you for your ongoing support of Mission projects, both local and international. Thank you for your donations which purchased the items in these kits, for your help in the assembly of them, and for your prayers during these major project undertakings. May you feel the blessings and peace of knowing how important your ongoing support is to the recipients of our project donations.



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## Afghan Refugees

By Susan Krehbiel

CPC Members and Friends are invited to an informational session (via Zoom) on Afghan resettlement in November as we consider how CPC can welcome and support Afghan refugees who are arriving into Baltimore and the Catonsville area. The Mission Committee will also start collecting donations for the "[We Choose Welcome Fund](#)" to support our CPC engagement. Zoom information will be sent out by email and posted on the CPC Facebook Group. The meeting will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.

# Catonsville Presbyterian Church

## Our Financial Resources

### Doing God's Work

Income as of October 23, 2021	\$ 590,562
Expense as of October 23, 2021	\$ -613,385
Total	\$ -22,823

## 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

1400 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
(P) 410-747-6180, (F) 410-747-7263  
[www.catonsvillepres.org](http://www.catonsvillepres.org)  
[Facebook.com/catonsvillepres](https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepres)  
[Twitter.com/catonsvillepres](https://twitter.com/catonsvillepres)  
[www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres](https://www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres)  
Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.  
[office@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)

## Christmas at Sea

By Lee Van Koten

We will again be collecting gifts for seafarers, but because of the pandemic, several things have changed. This effort will be even more important this year than usual. Christmas is always a lonely time of year for seafarers who are far from home and loved ones, but because of concerns about a covid outbreak onboard ship when they may be far away from medical treatment, most of them have not been permitted to have shore leave for many months. It is therefore even more important than usual to let them know that their efforts to keep the world economy functioning are appreciated. In order to eliminate the need for church members who may be concerned about exposure to covid to shop for individual items, the Mission Committee is purchasing items for the gift bags in bulk, and is accepting cash donations to defray the cost. A donation of \$10 will purchase items for one gift bag. Please make contributions to CPC and label them "Christmas At Sea." Donations will be accepted through the end of November. We will be assembling the gift bags on Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. Members of the congregation are welcome to help in the assembly of the bags. Our goal is 50 gift bags.

## Life in Community Welcome New Members

On October 10 we welcomed ten new members who joined CPC by Reaffirmation of Faith: Jeff and Molly Britton, Bob and Nancy McLaughlin, Michael and Nicole McLaughlin, Jared and Melanie Melrath, and Mike and Melisa Michener. And on the same day we shared in the Sacrament of Baptism, welcoming: Annie Lee Britton, Jameson Thomas Britton, Lucy Belle McLaughlin, Sean Charles McLaughlin, Grace Elizabeth Melrath, and Timothy Elliott Michener, into the life of the church.

## Thank You

By Dottie Marshall

The Worship Committee would like to thank Cheryl Thurber for many lovely flower arrangements that she provided with flowers from her garden for the summer worship services.

