

March 2022

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

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Administrative Assistant

Regine Bonhomme

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Welcome Regine Bonhomme

By Kenneth Kovacs

We welcome to the staff Regine Bonhomme, our new Office Administrator. Regine started working with us on February 1 and is gradually familiarizing herself with the office and the distinctive (if at times peculiar) way we Presbyterians “do” church.

Regine is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where she received a B.A. in Criminology / Criminal Justice. She comes to CPC with lots of experience working in the church. She has worked in several positions at the First Alliance Church in Silver Spring, MD, where she is also a member. At First Alliance, Regine helps with their weekly online worship services. Regine loves working for the church and is grateful for

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Lent in Plain Sight. See *page 3*.

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Welcome Regine Bonhomme

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the opportunity to be part of the staff here at CPC. And if you're a *Lord of the Rings* fan, be sure to let her know.

As Office Administrator, Regine welcomes visitors, manages office workflow, schedules the use of the buildings, publishes the weekly worship bulletin. In addition, she maintains the church records and provides administrative support to the church's pastors, staff, and leadership.

The Office Administrator is now a part-time (twenty hours per week) position. The new office hours will be, as of March 1: Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Over the past couple of years, the Session adjusted the number of hours required for this Office Administrator position. Nearly two years ago, it became

a thirty-hour per week position, and we knew that there would be further changes. As I shared in a previous *Messenger*, the shape and responsibilities of a church office are undergoing enormous changes in our day. This became clearer to us during the Pandemic. More time and energy are required to support our digital and online presence (website, Facebook, etc.) and develop and enhance our ability as a congregation to connect digitally as we also host in-person gatherings. In this light, we will soon reevaluate the responsibilities of the Communications Consultant position to align this position with our ministry goals better.

How we organize and structure ourselves as a church is changing. Regine comes to us knowing that we are in a time of transition. And we look forward to her insights and thoughts, and questions as we move into a new day. Welcome, Regine!

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Making the Road: Walking through Lent

“Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking.”
-Antonia Machado (1895-1939), “Walker”

Machado's poem resonates with us these days because it feels as if there is no road in front of us. The soil of our well-worn Lenten path has been overturned by the pandemic. If we want to follow Christ this Lent, we'll need to prepare the way and make the road. We'll need to rethink and recreate our Lenten practices. This six-week set of Lenten devotions includes daily reflections and prayers written by *Outlook* Editor Teri McDowell Ott. Each week we will make the road to Jerusalem through the following themes:

Walking through Lent
Walking in the wilderness
Walking in prayer
Walking with others
Walking in hope
Walking through Holy Week

The devotional readings will be sent out each week.

GROWING IN GRACE:

Adult Education Lent in Plain Sight

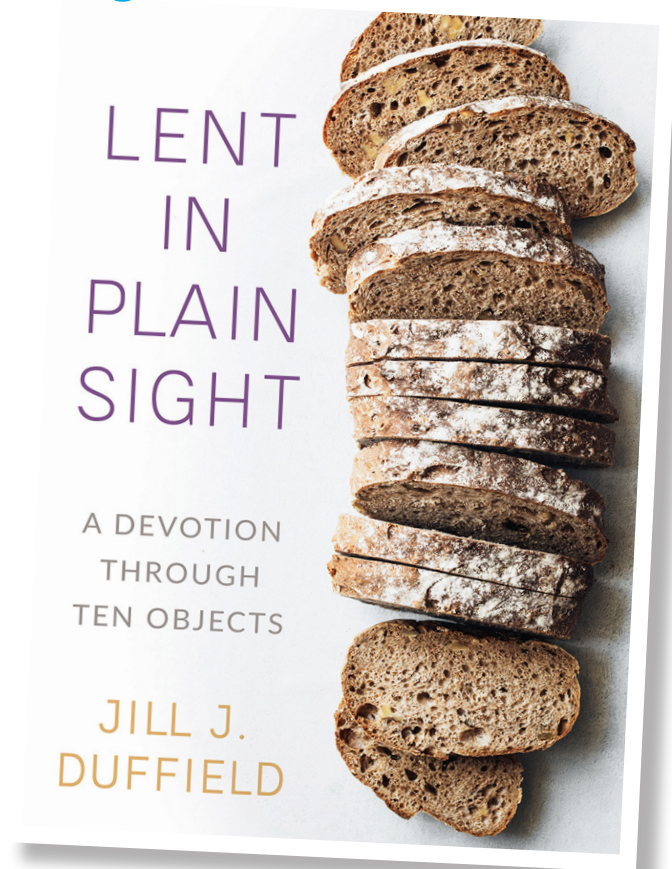
By Kenneth Kovacs

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.

Our guide through the season of Lent will be Jill J. Duffield, pastor and former editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Duffield draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, we will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* invites us to open ourselves to the realm of God. Cost: \$12.50. The books are also available on Kindle for \$9.50.

JOIN US

Sundays in the Library at 9 a.m. (Capacity: Twenty w/Facemasks)
March 6, 13, 20, 27
April 3 and 10



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2, 2022

We will gather for in-person worship at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Catonsville Presbyterian Church. The service will also be live-streamed via our website. Join us for a joint service with area Presbyterian churches: Dickey Memorial, Hope, Hunting Ridge, and Trinity. A contemplative service with the music from the Taizé community. Come, let us prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent.

RESOURCES

A LENTEN JOURNEY

For families with children, we have prepared a resource called "[A Lenten Journey](#)" which focuses on prayer during the six weeks of Lent. It invites families of any size and ages to discover new ways of praying – breath prayers, *lectio divina*, etc. plus there's a scratch-off calendar that is particularly accessible for elementary and early-middle school children and youth. We'll mail some of these materials home plus we'll have a link on the website, or you can download now the "[A Lenten Journey](#)".

THE CPC COLUMBARIUM A Meaningful Alternative for End-of-Life Plans

By David Hutton

From the earliest Christian times, there has been a tradition of burying the dead within the confines of church buildings and grounds. The word “columbarium” is derived from the Latin word “columba” meaning dove. The “dovecote,” or nesting area, is made up of many niches where doves make their nests. For Christians, the imagery of the dove is a witness to the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and giver of life,” who sustains us not only in this life but in life eternal, and is the giver of comfort and peace.

Our Columbarium is intended to meet the needs of those who desire a place of inurnment on the grounds of Catonsville Presbyterian Church. This is in keeping with a Christian tradition of burials in crypts below church sanctuaries, beneath floor stones in the naves, and on adjoining church grounds which would become church cemeteries.

The CPC Columbarium is a ministry of Catonsville Presbyterian Church, to serve the church members and their families by providing a resting place in perpetuity for their cremated remains in a dignified and attractive setting on the church grounds. Urns with the members’ cremation ashes will be interred in a sealed niche within the Columbarium structure, with an engraved faceplate on the niche showing their names and birth/death dates.

The Columbarium represents an opportunity to fulfill this essential function in a pleasing, economical and environmentally sound manner. Inurnment in the Columbarium will allow members and their families to maintain a connection to their home church even after earthly life has ended, and memorial services and visitation will be especially convenient compared to using the services of a funeral establishment. Finally, the costs of cremation and columbarium inurnment are a fraction of those with the use of a funeral home and conventional casketed burial. For questions and further information, contact columbarium@catonsvillepres.org.

COLUMBARIUM SPRING PAVER ORDER

As you may remember, engraved pavers can be ordered and added to the garden to honor or remember a loved one. You may also purchase a paver to lift up an appropriate text (e.g., Bible verse, poem, or quotation). If you have any questions about whether your text is within the guidelines, please feel free to contact us. Pavers cost \$125 each. The committee plans to put in another order this spring. Deadline for the spring order is March 31, 2022. Costs for shipping are greatly reduced when pavers are ordered in groups of five.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Letters of John

By Kenneth Kovacs

Join us on Thursday, March 3, at 10:30 a.m. (in person and Zoom) as we begin a new study—the Letters of John (John 1, 2, 3). The Letters of John spoke to the emerging concerns of an early Christian community that cherished John’s Gospel. The Letters apply many of the themes of the gospel to new situations. In particular, the Elder, the author, who writes these short epistles, reminds readers that their love of God must be made concrete in the love they show their fellow Christians. At the same time, these texts demonstrate how the church dealt with theological disagreement and division. We have much to learn from them today to help us understand theological diversity and the struggle for church unity. Our guide will be Raymond Brown’s, *The Gospel and Epistles of John: A Concise Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 1998). Cost: \$13. And a supplemental text will be C. S. Lewis’s classic *The Four Loves*.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

By Dorothy Boulton

MULTI-AGE CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, March 20 from 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Multi-Age Church School begins again! Kindergarten through fifth graders are invited to meet in fellowship hall on Sunday, March 20, 2022 after the children's message, approximately 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Sunday, March 20 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Middle and high school youth are invited to reconnect in fellowship hall and enjoy some fun and recreation together.

CONFIRMATION/COMMISSIONING

In March

Confirmation/Commissioning for 9th and 10th graders will begin this month. It will be a shortened – and adapted—experience due to the late start from Covid protocols, but we're looking forward to gathering together to learn, share, and grow. If you wish to participate and haven't received an email, please contact Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org right away—we'd love to include you.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Help Needed

By Charre Symms

We are continuing our search for members of the CPC family who recognize the need and are called to provide Christ centered support to those in our church and community facing difficult challenges such as grief, divorce, illness, unemployment, loneliness, and other life issues. Our pastors are always on the front lines of care. Stephen Ministers support and extend the care that the pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministry begins with a solid training program. The training consists of twenty modules and is comparable to an extension course in effective communication. Topics covered include listening skills, distinctively Christian caring, assertiveness, boundaries, and confidentiality. Other modules cover how to care for those in specific situations such as grief or divorce. After training, a Stephen Minister is matched with someone requesting care. They typically meet once a week as long as care is needed. Stephen Ministers meet monthly for support and supervision from the Stephen Leaders and other Stephen Ministers. The care receivers' names and challenges are kept highly confidential, known only to the Stephen Minister providing care and the Pastor or Stephen Leader who matched them. The supervision group is important to identify any issues that arise from the caring relationship and maintain the effectiveness of the program. Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors, and are trained to recognize when and how to recommend a referral.

If you are a compassionate person and good listener, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Contact one of our leaders for more information and/or an application. You can also find a wealth of information at StephenMinistries.org. Pray for our Lord to provide hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org

Reid Spearman at speareid@gmail.com

Charre Symms at csymms@sbcglobal.net

ILAM HOSPITAL IN NEPAL Life Saving Equipment

By Glenda K. Johnson

Last year the CPC Envision Board provided funding for the purchase of emergency room equipment for Covid-19 patients in Ilam Hospital. IMA World Health has now completed this project, located in the Morang District, a remote mountainous region in Eastern Nepal. This area of Nepal has been hard hit by the virus & didn't have equipment for a separate emergency room.

Funding provided by the Envision Board helped purchase the following items of equipment: 2 Ventilators, 1 Defibrillator, 2 Blood Gas Analyzers, 1 ICU Patient Monitors, 1 Infusion Pump, 2 Suction Machines, and 5 Three Channel Electrocardiogram machines. Working with LWR (Lutheran World Relief), life saving equipment was procured through approved channels & shipped to Ilam Hospital.

After installation, IMA World Health coordinated staff training on the use of the equipment. The newly equipped Emergency Room is being used for Covid-19

patients as well as other critical care treatments in various hospital departments.

Since Ilam Hospital is located in such a remote area, staff turnover occurs more frequently. Government officials have now agreed to provide financial incentives to the medical staff. Government officials thanked IMA World Health for this life saving project. This project has strengthened the hospital's service delivery and its quality of care for all its patients.

Thanks are expressed to the Envision Board and to CPC for your continuing care of those who are in desperate need of medical equipment & services. Information for this article is taken from the final report sent to the Envision board & the Mission committee by Jennifer Bentzel, Manager, Foundations & Partner Relations of IMA World Health.

THANK YOU NOTES For Donations

By Susan Krehbiel

In December the Mission Committee approved a contribution of \$3,000 to IMCK Hospital (Good Shepherd Hospital) in the Democratic Republic of Congo from our church's Mission & Advocacy Grants Fund. CPC's relationship with the DRC goes back 25 years and continues to this day through the PCUSA and IMA World Health. A major challenge for the hospital is the inability of patients to pay for their medical care which results in insufficient funds to pay hospital staff and other expenses. CPC divided its giving between the Indigent Patient Funds which helps the hospital pay its bills today and the Friends of IMCK Endowment Fund which will provide for the future. In January we received thank you notes for both of these donations.

"I'm writing on behalf of Presbyterian Mission to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support of our mission efforts. In December 2021, we received \$2,000 for IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, General, Democratic Republic of Congo."

"Friends of IMCK is very thankful for your continued support of the endowment. We are looking forward to the increased disbursements to IMCK this year. The endowment continues to build, by God's grace and mercy, and your generosity!"

SPRING IS UPON US

By Ron Gunderson

It is almost time to convert stored up winter-energy into Springtime gardening activity. The Creation Care Team will begin cleanup of the winter plant debris as soon as the weather allows, followed by scheduled work sessions on Saturday mornings in April and May.

Stay tuned for more details as dates draw closer and the weather forecasts predict good conditions for garden projects. This will be the sixth season of our significant reclamation and restoration projects on our diverse church grounds, including our woodland sanctuary and adjoining meadow areas.

We also will have an opportunity to further develop the new gardens at the labyrinth, pavilion, and columbarium. Interested in being a part of the Creation Care Team? Please contact Ron Gunderson at cinron.md@gmail.com.

SESSION MEETING Highlights from February

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 February 2, 2022.

- Following the action at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to dissolve the separate Board of Trustees and absorb the functions and responsibilities of the Trustees into a Building & Grounds Committee of Session, the Session voted to designate former Trustees President Andrew Glennan as Acting Chair of the new Building & Grounds Committee, with Ron Gunderson as Acting Vice Chair, and the former members of the Trustees as Committee members, with all to serve until new officers assume office in May 2022. Ruling Elder Stephanie Stevens will assist in the transition of the Board of Trustees into the Building and Grounds Committee of Session.
- Session will send a representative to the meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore on February 10, 2022 to vote on concurrence with an overture to the PC(USA) General Assembly from the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy (St. Louis, MO area) entitled, "An Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy."
- The Finance Committee reported on the financial results for the year to date in 2022, with a surplus of income over expenses of \$20,371, primarily due to the pre-payment of annual pledges by some members.
- The Opening Up Task Force has developed a system to rank to rank the ongoing COVID threat with a red/yellow/green color-coded scale based on the published COVID metrics for the state of MD. The threat level will be determined and published each week on the CPC website and via email to members and friends, to advise the status of in-person vs. virtual worship.

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!

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

Income as of	
February 19, 2022	\$ 95,775
Expense as of	
February 19, 2022	\$ -78,487
Total	\$ 17,288

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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 Catonsville, MD 21228
 (P) 410-747-6180, (F) 410-747-7263
www.catonsvillepres.org
Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb
Twitter.com/catonsvillepres
www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres
 Church Office Hours:
 Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

WEST SIDE SHELTER Food Ministry

By Dorothy Boulton

Since our youth couldn't host a SouperBowl luncheon at the church this past month, we're inviting church members to donate to this ministry through our Local Hunger initiative. Checks made out to the church (with West Side Shelter in the memo line) or online through the Local Hunger link will fund this monthly meal at the Catonsville shelter. (All donations made in March & April through the Local Hunger link will be dedicated to the West Side Shelter food ministry.) Thanks to the kindness of Tom and Alison Enokian, food is purchased each month and delivered to the shelter, ready to be turned into a delicious & nutritious meal for the over-100 residents. Catonsville Presbyterian has been part of this effort for many years and we are happy to contribute to caring for our neighbors. Thank you for your donations and for your prayers. We hope to see you in fellowship hall on Superbowl Sunday in 2023!



March 2-April 17, 2022

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGH5 to 91999 to give

