

May 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



Credit: First Fruits Farm www.firstfruitsfarm.org.

Spring 2022 Envision Awards

By Michelle White

Each year, the Envision Board awards grants from the Envision Fund 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 Catonsville Presbyterian Church (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

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Envision Awards: Seven Funded Projects

Local and Abroad. See *pages 2 and 3*.

Heroes for Housing: CPC receives the

Building Bridges Award. See *page 4*.

Adult Education Conversations that Matter:

Join us in May at 9 a.m. in the Library.

See *page 5*.

Godspeed, Chris: Leaving Baltimore at the

end of May. See *page 7*.

Spring 2022 Envision Awards

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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 Spring 2022, the Envision Board had \$128,805 available to distribute. During this round, the Envision Board recommended funding seven projects totaling \$128,805. Under the approval of Session, all seven projects were funded at the Envision Board's recommended funding levels. Below are descriptions of each, including the Envision Board's funding categories that best align with each application, the amount of funding granted, and a synopsis of the intent and reach of the projects.

FIRST FRUITS FARM, GREENHOUSE INITIATIVE (Service in the Community; Local, \$20,000, Full funding). Located in Northern Baltimore County, the project will expand First Fruits Farm's food ministry. The farm works with thousands of volunteers to grow and distribute over 2 million pounds of fresh produce to Marylanders in need every year. Envision funds will go towards the construction of a 6,000 square-foot commercial greenhouse, to provide an eco-friendly way to expand the farm's capacity. This application was submitted by Erin Adams-Ports, Director of Development, www.firstfruitsfarm.org, and sponsored by Bob and Tricia Cooper.

CPC MISSION COMMITTEE, MISSION COORDINATOR (Ministry Development; Local, \$15,000, Partial Funding). This project will support the creation of a Mission Coordinator, a part-time staff position internally at CPC. Throughout the course of the pandemic the Mission Committee was called to serve in new and different ways. Now that we are all emerging from the pandemic, the Mission Coordinator will guide the Committee and the church through a period of discernment and outreach to coordinate with partner organizations and increase opportunities for members at CPC to explore their calling to service. This application was submitted by the Mission Committee of the CPC.

IMA WORLD HEALTH, MOBILE CLINICS PROVIDING HEALTHCARE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN YEMEN (Service in the Community, International, \$42,00, Full Funding). The ongoing civil war in Yemen is now in its eighth year and remains the world's worst current humanitarian crisis, with over 20 million people lacking reliable access to food, clean water, and healthcare. Eleven (11) million of those people are children. The mobile health clinics will operate primarily in refugee camps across the country and will provide much-needed primary care, reproductive health services, and nutritional interventions to the most vulnerable impacted by the war. The application was submitted by Jennifer Bentzel, Outreach and Engagement Manager, <https://imaworldhealth.org>, and sponsored by the CPC Mission Committee. This is the first Envision Award supporting a project in the Middle East.

CPC CHILDCARE COUNCIL, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) Training (Social Justice Advocacy; Local project; \$12,200, full funding). The CPC Childcare Council will work with the Catonsville Presbyterian Church Family Child Care Center (CPCFCCC) to hire a consultant to provide DEI training to the childcare center staff. Additionally, the DEI Trainer will support the Childcare Council over the coming year in evaluating the center's policies and practices and make recommendations to ensure that the center is welcoming and responsive to the needs of all members of our community. The application was submitted by the CPC Childcare Council.

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS, 25TH ANNIVERSARY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

(Social Justice Advocacy; Local project; \$7,000, full funding). The Covenant Network is a longtime partner of CPC and has been working tirelessly since 1997 to encourage Presbyterian churches to become more inclusive of LGBTQ persons. The Envision award will be used to support training that will equip a new generation of congregational leaders to create more inclusive faith communities. The application was submitted by Brian Ellison, Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, <https://covnetpres.org>, and sponsored by Rev. Ken Kovacs.

INTERSECTION OF CHANGE, STRENGTH TO LOVE II: URBAN YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

(Service in the Community/Social Justice Advocacy; Local project; \$20,000, partial funding). Intersection of Change is a nonprofit community organization in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore. They operate an urban farm with multiple greenhouses on 2 acres of reclaimed vacant lots, employing ex-offenders while providing much-needed fresh food to the community. They are launching a youth program which will educate and train dozens of youth in urban agriculture as well as entrepreneurship and community development. Our award will be used for the construction of a hydroponic greenhouse and purchase of additional supplies necessary for the program. The application was submitted by Brenna O'Grady, Resource Developer, <https://s2l2.intersectionofchange.org>, and sponsored by Ann Quinn.

SANTI SCHOOL, SANTI SCHOOL PUBLISHING 2022

(Service in the Community/Social Justice Advocacy; International project, \$12,605, partial funding). Envision funds will support the Santi School Project for their children's book publishing initiative. The Santi School is another longtime partner of CPC that is dedicated to improving educational opportunities for school children in impoverished areas of rural Nepal. This program will promote reading in early childhood education by engaging local school teachers in the creation and publishing of original children's books, written in Nepali, featuring content that is age- and culturally-appropriate, which is something that is still relatively uncommon in that part of the world. The application was submitted by Chris Heun, Founder, www.santischool.org, and sponsored by Laura Parkhurst.

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



Credit: Santi School Publishing 2022.



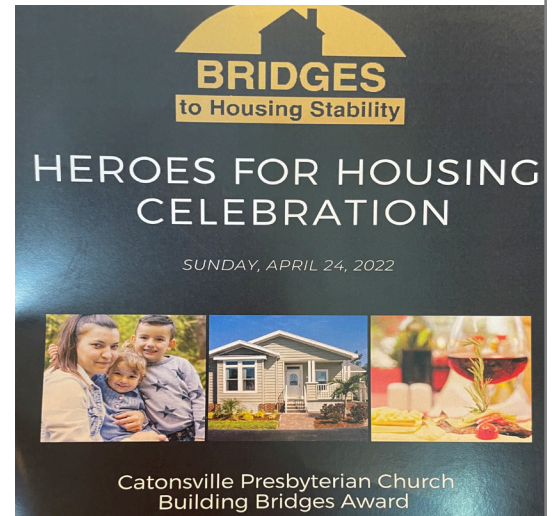
Credit: Strength to Love II.

Heroes for Housing

By Kenneth Kovacs

Each year Bridges to Housing Stability honors organizations and individuals working to end homelessness and provide affordable housing in Howard County. On Sunday, April 24, Catonsville Presbyterian Church was recognized at the Annual Heroes for Housing Celebration and presented the Building Bridges Award for community organizations who have committed time and resources to prevent and end homelessness. Several church members attended the special evening event, including Reid Spearman, Cynthia Schwanz, Vickie Lord, Glenda Johnson, and Ken Kovacs, to represent Catonsville Presbyterian. And a special word of appreciation to Dr. Reid Spearman who serves on Bridges' Board of Directors.

To learn more about Bridges to Housing Stability visit <https://bridges2hs.org>.



GROWING IN GRACE IN MAY

Adult Education: Conversations that Matter

By Kenneth Kovacs

JOIN US Sundays in the Library at 9 a.m. on May 1, May 8 and May 22.

MAY 1: The Pandemic and Mental Health. The COVID-19 Pandemic has triggered a significant increase in anxiety and depression worldwide. Psychologists and social workers are witnessing a rise in mental health issues among teens. And many therapists have long waitlists. What is going on here, and how can the church be a helpful resource? May is Mental Health Awareness Month, so it's an excellent time to engage these issues and questions. Here are three articles to generate discussion:

- 1) [COVID-19 Pandemic Triggers Increase in Prevalence of Anxiety and Depression Worldwide](#)
- 2) ['It's Life or Death': The Mental Health Crisis Among U.S. Teens](#)
- 3) [People are Developing Trauma-like Symptoms as the Pandemic Wears On](#)

MAY 8: RECOVERING FROM THE BLOWS: This week we discuss Rowan Williams' op-ed piece from earlier this year, "[The world feels fragile but we can recover from the blows we're suffered.](#)" He argues that science, art—and religion—can all help us build toward a new conception of humanity in the wake of the pandemic. Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, is one of the leading theologians of our day. He never fails to make us think, enlarge our hearts, and help us imaginatively engage with the world.

MAY 15: NO CLASS.

MAY 22: AFTER BABEL. We conclude this series with a discussion of Jonathan Haidt's provocative essay that has generated much debate over the past month: "[Why the Past 10 Years of American Life Have Been Uniquely Stupid.](#)" He begins the article with the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis and suggests that it's the "best metaphor I have found for what happened to America in the 2010s, and for the fractured country we now inhabit." Haidt is a social psychologist at the New York University Stern School of Business. He is the author of *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* (Vintage, 2013) and the co-author of *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure* (Penguin, 2019).

SCOUT NEWS

By Glenda Johnson

Cub Scout Pack 306 is sponsoring their first Spring Seedling Sale on the front Church grounds (same area as the Troop Christmas tree sales) beginning Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m.-noon. Sales are being held each Saturday in May (unless all are sold out). The seedlings were planted by the Scouts in a biodegradable egg carton and will be ready for you to transplant to your own garden or large container. You will be able to purchase five different types of plants: Roma Tomatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Sweet Bell Peppers, Zucchini Squash, and Cucumber. Price: \$3 for

one seedling, \$5 for two seedlings, \$10 for ten seedlings and the more seedlings you purchase the less expensive they are each. You may mix and match your purchases. Credit cards or cash will be accepted.

Through this activity, Cub Scouts have learned about the importance of community gardening and gardening as a source of food. By supporting this sale, you are supporting the Pack's ability to fund varied activities and experiences to the members of our Cub Scout Pack.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

By Dorothy Boulton



BIRDHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS

Our middle school youth set out these amazing birdhouses in the church woodlands—after a two-year pandemic delay! Come for a walk and see how many you can find.

MONTHLY YOUTH GATHERING

It's Memorial Day weekend, but for middle and high school youth who are in town, please meet us at Opies located at 1603 Edmondson Ave in Catonsville on Sunday, May 29 at 4:30 p.m. The ice cream is on us! We'll hang out together till 6 p.m.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Letters of John

By Kenneth Kovacs

Join us on Thursdays in May at 10:30 a.m. (in person and Zoom) as we continue to 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 is Raymond Brown's, *The Gospel and Epistles of John: A Concise Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 1998).

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

By David Hutton

Your Session is glad to have returned to in-person monthly meetings, although a few members have attended via Zoom due to travel requirements. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on April 6, 2022.

- The Finance Committee is glad to report that most of the data on the stolen office computer has been reconstructed with no major impact, other than the large amount of effort required. For the Operating Budget in the year to-date, the budget surplus has been reduced by increased expenses over the past month.
- The new Building and Grounds Committee performed a walkaround of the church grounds and buildings in order to determine the priorities for their efforts as they take over for the former Board of Trustees.
- The Personnel Committee has reactivated the Organist Search Committee due to the upcoming loss of Organist/Assistant Music Director Dr. Chris Keenan, as he moves to Pittsburgh to continue his medical studies.
- Session approved the recommendations of the Envision Board to award a total of \$128,805 to seven applicants in this year's grant cycle. The awards will be announced at the Easter Sunday worship service.
- An ad hoc committee presented a draft policy for the use of church facilities and grounds to formalize the procedures for approving and keeping records on the use of church facilities by outside organizations. Session voted to approve it as a "living document" that will be amended as needed based on experience with its use.

GODSPEED, CHRIS!

By Kenneth Kovacs

Last June we welcomed Dr. Christopher Keenan to the staff as organist and assistant director of music. Chris, a Peabody alum, moved back to Baltimore in May to begin a Post-baccalaureate Premedical Program at Goucher College, a one-year course for those called to medicine but lack the undergraduate science prerequisites for medical school. When Chris started the Goucher program the University of Maryland was his first choice for med school, but there was no guarantee that he would get in. We knew then that there was the possibility that he would only be with us for one year, but it was worth the risk, hoping that his studies would keep him in Maryland. Over the past year, it became clear to Chris that Maryland wasn't the best place given his interests. The program at the University of Pittsburgh seemed to be a better fit. In February, Chris was accepted into the Pittsburgh program. And so this means that Chris will be leaving Baltimore at the end of May. While we are really happy for Chris, we are sorry to see him go. An exceptionally gifted organist and musician, we are grateful for all that he has shared with us this year. Chris's last Sunday

with us is May 22. Thank you, Chris. Congratulations on all that you've accomplished so far and God's continued blessings as you follow your call to be a healer, to bind up the wounds of God's people. Godspeed!



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

Income as of
April 23, 2022 \$ 228,417

Expense as of
April 23, 2022 \$ -212,758

Total \$ 15,659

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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www.catonsvillepres.org

[Facebook.com/catonsvillepres](https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepres)

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www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

It is sad news to share that Nancy Scheneman Riley died on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at the age of 74. Nancy was a long-time member of CPC. Her parents, Ernest and Wildred Scheneman were members, and Nancy and her husband, Joseph, were married here in 1970. There was a Memorial Service in the church sanctuary in April. Please remember Joe, and their children Lisa and Jennifer, in your prayers.

REMEMBERING FORMER CPC ASSISTANT PASTOR

Former CPC Assistant Pastor Ronald Creager passed away in November, 2021, and his family will be having a Zoom memorial service for him on June 18, 2022 at 7 p.m. His family has asked that any CPC members who remember Ron are welcome to attend the service. They also would welcome recorded audio remembrances of two minutes or less to be played at the service. A format in *.wav is recommended and submissions by May 15 are requested.

For further information and to receive a Zoom invitation to the service, please contact the CPC office and leave your email address for contact.

