



# Age of the Spirit

Will we join in the divine dance?

**Meet a Mission Co-Worker:** Meet our Presbytery's mission co-worker who supports theological education in Guatemala. *See page 4.*

**Session Highlights:** Read about how this cohort of elders is getting underway and diving into ministry. *See page 5.*

**Christian Education:** Youth, children, and people of all ages are invited to major events this month. *See page 6.*

**Connecting with Pastors and Friends:** This is a great time to catch up with pastors and find support for life's challenges. *See page 7.*

**“Come Creator Spirit, visit the souls  
of Thy people,  
Fill with grace from on high the  
hearts which Thou hast created.”**

**“Thou Who art called the Comforter,  
gift of the most high God,  
Living fountain, fire, love and  
unction of souls.”**

*Veni, Creator Spiritus*  
(Ninth century C.E.)



# Age of the Spirit



By Kenneth Kovacs

**L**ATE IN HIS LIFE, Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth (1886-1965) spoke of a coming Age of the Spirit when the church will require a theology of the Holy Spirit to meet the demands of the times. I believe we are living in such an age (and have been for a while), and that the turbulent times we're facing as a church with rapid decline might have less to do with the fact that we have lost our way (as some suspect), and more to do with the fact that the Holy Spirit is shaking our foundations, forcing us to get off our butts to move, to go where Christ wants to take us, enticing us to give up old patterns of knowing, old ways of being, and opening us up for something radically new, creative, bold. I'm not talking about a free-wheeling movement of the Spirit doing whatever she wants, but the work of the Holy Spirit, which is firmly grounded, connected, and committed to the ongoing power of Christ's resurrection.

The Spirit of the risen Christ is pulsating throughout the universe, a Spirit who is working deep against the defensive structures of the human ego, yearning, struggling, groaning to realize something within us and among us that we could never achieve nor imagine on our own.

And it should not be surprising that the same Spirit—who searches the depths of God's own nature, as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2, a God who reveals the depths of love through the power of resurrection—would be at work in the world in ways that are startling, disturbing, conflict-producing, and even chaotic.

Decades ago, at worship in a Catholic church in St.-Germain-en-Laye, outside Paris, on Pentecost, I heard the priest talking about *L'esprit audace*, the audacity of the Spirit. I love that image.

The Holy Spirit is daring, audacious, uncontainable, recklessly bold, intrepidly daring, adventurous. The Holy Spirit is risky, sportive, and playful. Michael Mitton writes,

“The Holy Spirit is not a tame bird, kept in a clean cage, to be released for short bursts of charismatic meetings... The Holy Spirit makes his habitation in some of the wildest, darkest places this world has to offer... The Holy Spirit is wonderfully free, able to go to the dark places of our own lives, for healing to the dark unvisited places of our churches, and to the dark and demon-infested places of our society.”

But we need to trust where these experiences are taking us and not pull back in fear.

On June 16 and 17, the Session will have a retreat facilitated by pastor, writer, coach, and consultant, Roy Howard. We will gather to pray and listen and discern and explore what the Holy Spirit is calling us toward as a congregation post-COVID. We will be digging deep into Acts 2:42-47 and Ephesians 4:1-15, asking the questions, “Who is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do?” We invite you to keep the Session in your prayers during this time.

One of the oldest prayers of the church is *Veni, Creator Spiritus*. “Come, Creator Spirit.” It's one of my favorite prayers and I say it often. It's a prayer, as one theologian put it, of “open surrender to the absolute creativity of God.” When the church trusts in the movement of the Spirit, open to where the Spirit wants to take it, then the church will be free, truly free to be as revolutionary and as radical as we know the gospel to be. The church will be liberated to be as creative and imaginative as the age demands.

The Holy Spirit is continually creating and recreating the world and our lives from within the generative power of God's redeeming love, inspiring us to imagine new ways of being the church. Trusting in the work of the Spirit, the church will be unshackled – infinitely swift – and free to move down whatever road the Spirit wishes to take us!

## Thank you, Jeff and Rosa!

By **Glenda Johnson** | Jeff Scharf joined Troop 306 in 2006 with his son, later stepping into leadership as the Scoutmaster in 2011. During his tenure, Jeff led over 100 weekends of camping, summer camps, and 4 High Adventure trips. He led fundraisers, community service projects, and an expansive array of Scout activities. The Arrowhead District recognized Jeff for his outstanding leadership skills in 2016 and awarded him the District Award of Merit in 2022. Jeff and his wife, Rosa (who served as the treasurer for 15 years) worked to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all Scouts. Thank you, Jeff and Rosa, for your outstanding service!

# The Spirit Knows No Borders

**What is a mission co-worker? It's not as obvious as you might think.**



The Presbyterian Church (USA) sends mission co-workers at the invitation of organizations who seek additional support from the church. The title of “mission co-worker” is embedded with a theological conviction of the Presbyterian Church (USA): true mission partnership is about building relationships, learning from one another and walking together in faith and friendship. Around the world, teachers, church planters, doctors, public health specialists, chaplains and human rights advocates serve alongside Christians in fifty countries. From teaching theology and English to preaching and evangelizing, mission co-workers accompany, listen, work in partnership the global church.

## Discuss the Spirit's audacity and adventure

Betsey Moe is one of these mission co-workers, laboring in Guatemala in partnership with the Presbytery of Baltimore. She will be spending time in the Presbytery from June 12-15, and the mission team of Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church has invited our congregation to attend a dessert meet-and-greet on Wednesday, June 14 at 6:00 p.m.

At this meet-and-greet, Betsey will share about the programs and activities of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (also abbreviated in Spanish as CEDEPCA). The non-profit educational organization is headquartered in Guatemala City and provides training in disaster ministry, women's ministry, intercultural ministry, and biblical/theological studies. As a long-time Presbyterian World Mission partner, the center has close ties with congregations and presbyteries across the United States.

Betsey serves as a facilitator for the intercultural training program at CEDEPCA in addition to supporting seminarians, churches, and university students from the United States, planning their educational programs, interpreting for these groups, and leading them in spiritual and missional reflection.

Spend time with Ark and Dove and Betsey on June 14 and discover the ways in which we accompany and listen to mission partners around the world!



## Session Highlights

By David Hutton

**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 from the Session meeting on May 4, 2023.**

**In response to a request from Boy Scout Troop 306, the Session voted to prepare a certificate of thanks** for Scoutmaster Jeff Scharf in appreciation of his many years of service to scouting and Troop 306. The certificate will be presented to Jeff in worship on May 14, 2023.

**The Session approved changing to the summer schedule** of 9:30 am worship in the sanctuary on June 4, 2023, and to move to Fellowship Hall for summer worship beginning on June 11, 2023.

**The Finance Committee reported that for the year to date as of April 30, 2023, the Operating Budget continues to show a surplus of income** versus expenses as some members have paid their annual

pledge all at once, while some expenses have not yet been incurred. A balanced operating budget for the full year is still expected.

**Communications and Operations Manager Michael Cuppett reported on the communications audit he prepared**, reviewing our communications and recommendations for maximum effectiveness. Those recommendations include adjusting our focus from informing toward engaging members, using photos of church events and members rather than stock photos, delineating internal versus external communications, and more effectively using social media based on data and demographics.

**Tentative committee assignments were distributed to members of the Session**, and each person was asked to prayerfully consider their assignments and discuss changes with the moderator. Once finalized, a list of committee chairs will be available on the CPC website.

**Before adjournment, members of the Session each drew a name for “prayer partners,”** for whom they will pray over the next year. Partners will communicate their prayer requests with each other so they may receive support on an ongoing basis.

*The Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with the congregation and we welcome your suggestions for feedback. Contact information for Session members is listed in the church directory. Take a few minutes to send a message to a Session member, the pastors, or the church office to let us know what your thoughts. We want to hear from you!*

# Ministry With Young People

By Jenny Hutton

The Christian Education Committee wants to thank everyone that volunteered for our Second Sunday ministries: Mark and Debbie Davis, who led the “Cocoa and Conversations” for our middle and high school youth; all the volunteers that led multi-age church school; all of those who helped to provide childcare for children 0 to 5 years; and to our youth group leaders, Laura Parkurst, Jenny Hutton, and Dorothy Boulton. We will break from these ministries for the summer months and will resume all of them in September.

During the summer months, June, July, and August, instead of offering childcare for 0-5 years in the childcare wing, we will provide a “Kids Corner” in fellowship hall. We will have a mat for little ones and provide toys, books, and coloring supplies.

## Upcoming events

04

### Kindness Rock Painting

After worship | Pavilion

JUN

Following the 9:30 a.m. service on June 4, head over to the pavilion for a Kindness Rock Painting activity. This is a craft for all ages that will center us for this upcoming summer season and bring us together through affirmation.

10

### Catonsville Family Pride

3:00 p.m. to about 6:00 p.m. | Pavilion

JUN

We’re excited to share our grounds with Catonsville Family Pride on June 10! Join our neighbors, friends, and youth for this joyful, family-friendly event.

20

### Christian Ed Listening Sessions

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

JUN

The Christian Education committee is holding conversations with parents to solicit feedback on our ministries. How are we doing? What can we do better or differently? Each group will have approximately thirty minutes to share feedback, and parents only need to stay for the applicable session(s).

**7:00 p.m.** Parents of middle/high school youth.

**7:30 p.m.** Parents of children from five years old through and including fifth grade

**8:00 p.m.** Parents of infants and children up to and including five years old

24

### Party in the Parking Lot

Noon to 6:00 p.m. | Grace A.M.E.

JUN

Pop over to Grace A.M.E. for their Party in the Parking Lot fundraiser! The event will raise funds for their youth ministries and feature live music, crafts, food vendors, face painting, and balloon animals. Come deepen the connection to our siblings in ministry.

25

### End of the Year Party

Starting at 3:00 p.m.

Joel and Jenny Hutton’s Home

JUN

Middle and high school youth are celebrating the end of the year with games, food, and sun!



## Come, Creator Spirit, with Healing and Love

By Charre Symms

There are times full of burdens, there are times full of levity, and there are times full of both. Whether in those valleys, mountains, or somewhere in between, Stephen Ministers and pastors will accompany you along the path.

Maybe you are caring for a sick or aging family member, dealing with your own illness, experiencing a significant change in your life, or struggling with tough decisions. Stephen Ministers receive training to

be there for you in one-on-one, confidential meetings. Since our first group of Stephen Ministers was commissioned in November 2022, we have felt blessed and grateful for the opportunities to journey alongside others.

Please reach out to Dorothy Boulton, Reid Spearman, or Charre Symms if you would like to connect with a Stephen Minister.

**“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)**

## Let’s Get Together

By Dorothy Boulton | As schedules lighten up a bit, why not join your pastor for a walk, cup of coffee, or dish of ice cream? Please contact the church office, Ken, or Dorothy to schedule a time to get together. We’d love to see you and hear how you’re doing. Let’s chat a while on the journey.

**Feel the Spirit  
enticing you to care  
for others?**

For those who feel compelled to care for the range of emotions and experiences that weigh on others, we will be actively recruiting candidates to become Stephen Ministers later in the year. We are planning to start training our second class of Stephen Ministers early 2024. Consider if Stephen Ministry might be a place for you to join in God’s work by helping to lighten someone’s load. You can learn more about our Stephen Ministry on the church website and through the national organization at [StephenMinistries.org](http://StephenMinistries.org).

## Financial Update

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Actual Income . . . . . | \$ 330,874       |
| Actual Expense. . . . . | \$ -301,757      |
| <b>Total. . . . .</b>   | <b>\$ 29,117</b> |
| Per Capita . . . . .    | 1,660            |

Updated 05/26/2023

## Pastors and Staff

**Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.**

**Pastor**

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**Greg Knauf, D.M.A.**

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**Kristy Herring**

**Mission Coordinator**

kherring@catonsvillepres.org

## Upcoming events

### Saturday, June 10: Catonsville Family Pride

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. | Pavilion and Church Grounds

Celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ people at Catonsville Family Pride! Tickets are available at [tinyurl.com/21228-pride-tickets](https://www.tinyurl.com/21228-pride-tickets). Enjoy food, vendors, pony rides, and activities. Be sure to stop by the table of open and affirming churches!

### Saturday, June 24: Party On the Parking Lot

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Grace A.M.E. is throwing a “Party On the Parking Lot” event with food, live musicians, and vendors. The event is free to attend, and any proceeds from food and activities will support youth ministry at Grace A.M.E.

### Sunday, June 25: End of the Year Youth Party

Starting at 3:00 p.m.

Middle and high school youth are celebrating the end of the year with games, food, and sun! On June 25, youth will gather at Joel and Jenny Hutton’s home for this fun time and to unwind after the conclusion of the school year. Contact Jenny Hutton ([jenhutton2010@gmail.com](mailto:jenhutton2010@gmail.com)) with questions.

### July 27-29: Charlestown Treasure Sale

Learn more at [CcciCharlestowne.org](https://www.CcciCharlestowne.org)

On Thursday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to noon, residents of Charlestown can shop for clothing, decorations, and more. The general public can shop the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Treasure Sale proceeds go towards the Benevolent Care Fund at Charlestown.

THE  
*Messenger*

**Catonsville Presbyterian Church**

1400 Frederick Rd • Catonsville MD

**Church Office**

Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
(410) 747-6180 • [catonsvillepres.org](https://www.catonsvillepres.org)

