

***THURSDAY
MAILING***



NATIONAL CAPITAL

P R E S B Y T E R Y

Missional • Pastoral • Prophetic

December 1, 2011

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The Acts 16:5 Initiative

*sponsored by NCP's Transformation Team & Church Development Cmte
January 17-18, 2012 – on-line registration available now!*



Birthday Greetings for the Month of **December**

Roxana Atwood, HR

Carroll Bastian

James Brassard

Beth Braxton, HR

Ann Davie, HR

Holly Davis

David Douthett

David Ensign

Ruth Everhart

Henry Ferry, HR

Larry Goleman

John Gravely, HR

Mark Greiner

Ed Harding

Curtis Kearns, HR

Ruth Kent

Michael Koppel

Tamara Lara Leonard

Kenneth Liu

Bill Lowrey, HR

Joyce Mercer

Carol Howard Merritt

Judith Michaels

Bryan Mickle

George Pera, HR

Todd Sutton

George Taylor, HR

Bill Teng

Peg True

Chuck Booker-Hirsch

From
the staff of
National Capital Presbytery
carla, debbie, dick l., dick m., howard, janet,
jeannie, lajuan, and wilson





NATIONAL CAPITAL
PRESBYTERY
Missional · Pastoral · Prophetic

Announcements

National Capital Presbytery and the Session of the Church of the Redeemer invite you to a **worship service celebrating the installation of Rev. Todd Sutton as Pastor of The Church of the Redeemer**, Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 5pm. Repast to follow. The Church of the Redeemer, 1423 Girard Street NE, Washington, DC 20017. (Fifteenth and Girard Streets, NE)

Free Concert at Berwyn Presbyterian Church

Berwyn Presbyterian Church invites the community to a musical treat on Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 PM. Jose Sacin, baritone and Gabriel Ruiz-Bernal, pianist will perform a concert of the art songs of Francesco Paolo Tosti. This Italian composer is known for his light, expressive, melodic and sentimental music. A portion of the concert will be seasonal music.

Jose Sacin is known for his expressive "liquid gold" voice and is considered one of the leading South American baritones of our time. He has performed and collaborated with the leading figures of the opera and music world, including Placido Domingo and Gregory Buchalter of the Metropolitan Opera. Gabriel Ruiz-Bernal is the Music Director at Berwyn Presbyterian Church and is also an active pianist in the Washington Metropolitan area. He is a Senior Faculty member at the Levine School of Music and has been recognized in numerous piano competitions. Berwyn Presbyterian Church is located on 6301 Greenbelt Road, Berwyn Heights, MD. For further information, please call 301-474-7573.

CHEVY CHASE CONCERTS-41st SEASON: Sunday, December 11, 2011, 4:00 PM, A CHEVY CHASE CHRISTMAS, Admission Free, An offering will be accepted. This annual tradition of the singing and ringing choirs of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church is sure to enhance your Christmas season with music of the season, including the Durante *Magnificent* and audience carol singing. The Christmas spirit is sure to follow you and yours out the door. Following the concert, there will be a reception to meet the artists and greet one another. For more information, call Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music, 202-363-2202. The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, Washington, DC.
www.chevychasepc.org

Meadowkirk is ready to book your events for the ALL of 2012! Plan your session retreats and church officer retreats with us! Summer Camp 2012 is planned! Blessings to you! Merry Christmas wishes from Shannon and the Meadowkirk staff!

Hold the Date: January 7, 2012 - Paul Fromberg & Sara Miles Workshop on Radical, Experiential Liturgy at Church of the Pilgrims - Paul Fromberg is Rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, known by worshipers as the "Church of the One True Sack of Groceries." He blogs at "[Eating with Jesus](#)". Sara Miles is Director of St. Gregory's Food Pantry and author of two books about her adult conversion to Christianity, "[Take This Bread](#)" and "[Jesus Freak](#)". For more information, contact Ashley@ChurchofthePilgrims.org



December 1, 2011

Our Presbytery has sponsored dynamic, effective congregational transformation support systems for the last twenty years or more. The next chapter in the Presbytery's transformation opportunities is coming up this January 17-18, 2012 with "Seminar 1" of the Acts 16:5 Initiative. I invite you to read more about this opportunity at <http://thepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/trifold-brochure-102711-natl-cap-presby.pdf>.

If you are seeking a renewed sense of vitality for your ministry I hope you will sign up now at <http://thepresbytery.org/around-ncp/evangelism-events/acts-165-registration-form/>.

As you will see this initiative is being led by our own minister member Stan Ott who has an impressive record of leading other Presbyteries in this initiative. This window of opportunity starts with the January seminar then the window closes. Churches cannot wait a year and then join in later. If you are considering the changes every church needs to make to be purposefully engaging ministry in the context of the cultural shifts we are experiencing all around us, now is the time. I myself will be leading some of the events over the three years of the initiative. I believe in this and it is worthy of the time and the energy involved as we discover new depth in our spiritual journeys and the means to invite others into increased spiritual depth and vitality in theirs. I urge all teaching elders, ruling elders and others in leadership roles in congregations to make the commitment to explore this initiative January 17-18 and then, based upon what you learn about the dynamics and invitations of this initiative, consider whether your congregation has the heart for the transformation that we as a Presbytery encourage our congregations to embrace. This first session is free and lunch is provided!

Grace and Peace,

Wilson Gunn

CLERK'S CORNER—NOVEMBER 2011

If you're working on an overture to General Assembly, read this now!



I'm aware that individuals and Sessions may be thinking about submitting an overture to General Assembly which meets Jun 30-July 7 next year. Here is information which is vital to that effort.

There are three kinds of overtures and accordingly three different deadlines for those overtures to be sent to Louisville from our presbytery.

First, overtures which want to amend the Book of Order (which has three parts—Form of Government, Directory for Worship, and Rules of Discipline) or seek an authoritative interpretation of it. The submission deadline is **March 2**, which means that our presbytery must vote on this type of overture at the January meeting. Prior to that, our Bills and Overtures Committee needs to take a look at the overture and arrive at a recommendation. Bottom-line: Session needs to get this to me immediately.

Next are overtures which have financial implications—you want to add a GA staff person who will focus on urban ministry or evangelism with college students, or you want a church wide study on human trafficking in the United States. The deadline in Louisville for this kind of overture is **May 1**. Working backward, the March presbytery meeting is our deadline.

Third and finally would be “all other overtures”—not amending the Book of Order, not costing money to accomplish. For example you might want General Assembly to call all Presbyterians and their churches to a recovery of baptism as the sacrament of initiation into the life of faith. The deadline in Louisville is **May 16**. So again, the March presbytery meeting is our deadline.

Reminder—by long-standing policy, our Bills and Overtures Committee does not accept overtures from individuals. So you must get Session to buy into your idea. Questions? I am at 240-514-5352 or rmcfail@thepresbytery.org.

November 29, 2011

A letter to the congregations, pastors and all those in ordered ministry in the National Capital Presbytery: Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A number of congregations, pastors and individuals in the National Capital Presbytery are troubled by the recent vote to approve Amendment 10-A, removing *Book of Order* language concerning ordination standards that we held to be important (this should not be a surprise to anyone). We realize that throughout the decades-long debate on this issue, many within our denomination have voiced a variety of concerns about changing our ordination standards. We know that we are by no means unique in our feelings of disappointment regarding this matter.

Some congregations, pastors and individuals have been attempting to discern appropriate strategies for how we can best bear witness to our understanding and interpretation of Scripture and the Reformed faith in this matter. We strive to both respect our colleagues and sister churches in the National Capital Presbytery who are of a different mind, while continuing to faithfully serve our congregations and effectively reach those who are seeking to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Our desire is to be faithful to God and the promises we made at our ordinations; to pastor, nurture and lead the congregations to which we have been called to serve in the National Capital Presbytery.

We recognize that every elected and installed person in ordered ministry in the National Capital Presbytery has affirmed the same ordination questions, one of which is to “sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do.” We have all additionally promised to “be instructed and led by those confessions” as we lead the people of God (W.4-4003).

As we seek to serve the particular congregations of our Presbytery that have called us, we the undersigned wish to identify some essential tenets that we feel led to affirm at this time in our ordered ministry within the PC(USA) and National Capital Presbytery. Among those tenets are:

1. The unique and singular saving Lordship of Jesus Christ as the eternal and living Word of God (John 14:6) (*Heidelberg Catechism*, 4.029-034; *Scots Confession*, 3.09; *Theological Declaration of Barmen*, 8.10-12).
2. The reliability and sufficiency of Scripture as God’s written Word, authoritative for all matters of faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17) (*Scots Confession*, 3.19; *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.001-003; *Westminster Confession*, 6.001-010; *Confession of 1967*, 9.27).
3. The missional call of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ proclaiming God’s unchanging Word to an ever changing world, calling all people to repentance and teaching them to obey all to which God calls us (Matt. 28:18-20) (*Confession of 1967*, 9.31; *Westminster Confession*, 6.187-190).
4. An ecclesial unity based upon our desire to live in obedience to the Word (John 15:1-14, 17:20-21; 1 John 5:2-3; Philippians 2:2) (*Confession of 1967*, 9.03; *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.141).
5. The Lordship of Christ is over every dimension of a disciple’s life. In the area of sexual practice, Scripture holds up the value of fidelity within marriage between a man and a woman and chastity in singleness. All other sexual relations fall outside of God’s intention for humanity are therefore

considered sin (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Acts 15:28-29; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) (*Confession of 1967*, 9.47; *Heidelberg Catechism*, 4.108-109; *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.245-246; *Larger Catechism*, 7.247-249).

We acknowledge that neither every congregation nor every ordered minister in our Presbytery—or in our denomination for that matter—would emphasize this specific constellation as the “particularly essential” tenets they have promised to be instructed and led by; however, we do. We the undersigned sincerely believe that we will be most effective in our mission and witness in reaching the world with the gospel by emphasizing these key aspects of our theological heritage.

We are not entirely sure what our association with one another means at this time, or precisely what it will look like in the future, for those of us who choose to stand collaboratively in affirmation of these particular confessional and biblical standards within the National Capital Presbytery. We do though sense that God is leading us to explore precisely this and to discern a way forward during this new season in our Presbytery and denomination.

Toward this end we wish to embark on a journey together with any individuals in our Presbytery who would like to join us. To mark the beginning of our formalized association to stand and witness together, we are planning to gather for worship, celebration, confession, discernment and fellowship on **Sunday, January 8, 2012 at Vienna Presbyterian Church, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located at 124 Park Street NE, Vienna, VA 22180. We invite you to join us January 8, and to consider journeying with us in commitment to the above biblical and confessional standards as we seek to be faithful Reformed, Presbyterian witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Eric Beckman	Pastor	Neil Manausa	Elder
Scott Bollar	Elder	Deborah Mateer	Elder
Greg Bonifield	Elder	Andy Nagel	Pastor
Ed Brogan	Chaplain	Charles Nelson	Clerk
Almir Dantas Dias	Pastor	Katie Oakes	Elder
Holly Davis	Pastor	Yinka Olaniyan	Elder
Van Davis	Elder	John Peterson	Pastor
Marsha Doescher	Elder	Sylvia del Carmen Ross	Elder
Robert A. Edmunds	Pastor	Peter Della Santina	Pastor
Jim Feather	Elder	Terry Schlossberg	Elder
Charles Glausier	Elder	Scott Slawson	Youth Dir.
Norm Gordon	Pastor	Todd Skemp	Elder
Austin House	Elder	Chris Stirewalt	Elder
Charisse Huppert	Elder	Dennis Stuessi	Elder
Pete James	Pastor	Bill Teng	Pastor
Michael Jones	Pastor	Julie Throne	Elder
Pattie Krzywicki	Elder	R. Lee Watenpaugh	Elder
		Alan Wisdom	Elder

BE SAFE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Child Safety Seat Fair



PRINCE GEORGE'S CHILD
RESOURCE CENTER, INC



Every child in Maryland must be properly secured in an approved child restraint. A child restraint includes car seats, booster seats, or other federally approved safety devices.

Prince George's Child Resource Center wants to help you keep your child safe this holiday season by providing a brand new, low-cost car seat

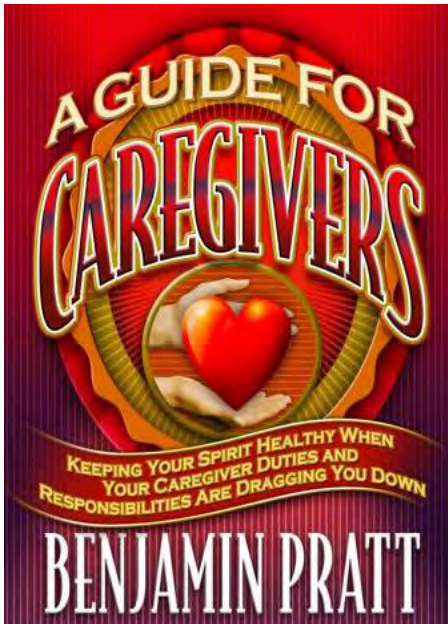
All size seats available while supplies last

When: DECEMBER 2, 2011 10am - 2pm

**Where: Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center
8908 Riggs Road, Adelphi, MD 20783**

301.431.6210

www.childresource.org



All Are Welcome!

An interactive free presentation on

A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

Keeping Your Spirit Healthy When Your Caregiver Duties and Responsibilities Are Getting You Down

with the author, caregiver

The Reverend Dr. Benjamin Pratt

United Methodist Pastoral Counselor (retired)

Saturday, December 10, 2011

10-11:30 am

Providence Presbyterian Church

9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031-3114

(703) 978-3934

In one out of three American households, someone is a caregiver who gives of body, mind and soul for the well-being of others. These people need more than financial and medical assistance. They need daily, practical help in reviving their spirits and avoiding burnout. Drawn from the wisdom of many caregivers, we have taken their advice to keep sections short and packed with wisdom and practical help! The book is designed to let readers jump in almost anywhere and explore at their own pace. Considering the millions of Americans who are caregivers, this book also is great for small-group study.

What's in this book? Among the many sections included are these topics: Talking Honestly, Listening Intently, Risking Love, Appreciating Time, Savoring Solitude, Balancing Our Labor, Living in Community, Grieving, Laughing, Forming a Group and Understanding Burnout. The book will be available at this event or at online book sellers.

<http://www.GuideForCaregivers.info>



Peace on Earth Goodwill to All!

A Fynesound **BENEFIT CONCERT**

With a special appearance by the Knox Choir!

Fyne Celtic music from a band whose music is described as 'stunning', 'sensitive' and 'graceful'. Experience a true family Christmas Concert with harp, cello, fiddle, dance and carol singing.

www.fynesound.com



Fynesound Annual Benefit Concert!

No admission charge.

All donations welcome for two wonderful causes:

1. FOHA – Friends of Homeless Animals (see www.foha.org)
2. FCS emergency food program (see www.fcswe care.org)

Sunday December 11th at 3:00 p.m

Knox Presbyterian Church, 7416 Arlington Boulevard, Falls
Church 22042



For more information contact 703 560 5288 or
www.knoxpreschurch@vacoxmail.com

Ingleside at Rock Creek

“Longest Night” Services

Acknowledging Grief and Loss

During the Holidays



Many people experience sadness during the holiday season because of the deaths of loved ones, the loss of health, work, or economic security, or broken family relationships. These services allow a time to acknowledge those feelings in the midst of the celebrations all around. Come, light a candle in the darkness.

Monday, December 19

At Noon in the Chapel

At 8 p.m. in the Lounge

3050 Military Road, N.W., D.C.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative

Seminar 1

National Capital Presbytery's Transformation Team and Church Development Committee invites all pastors and congregations to attend the Acts 16:5 Initiative Seminar 1. This is a stand-alone event for examining ways to reach people in your community and a launch event for the Acts 16:5 Initiative process in our presbytery.

E. Stanley Ott and the Vital Churches Institute have compiled materials and programs that can lead to increased vigor and growth among small, midsize and large congregations. We ask that your congregation prayerfully consider this exciting opportunity.

Date: January 17-18, 2012

Time: Tues & Wed, 10 am – 4 pm

Cost: Free, lunch provided

Location: Vienna Pres. Church
124 Park Street, NE, Vienna, VA



E. Stanley Ott, Ph.D., is President of the Vital Churches Institute. Stan has served congregations in transformation for over thirty years and understands well the dynamics of congregational transformation. He has taught the principles of congregational vitality and leadership and of missional engagement to thousands of people throughout the United States and abroad. Stan has degrees from Georgia Tech,

Purdue University, and McCormick Theological Seminary. Publications he has written include, *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*, *Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams*, *The Vibrant Church: People-Building Plan for Congregational Health*, and *The Joy of Discipling: Friend with Friend and Heart with Heart*.



NATIONAL CAPITAL

P R E S B Y T E R Y

Missional • Pastoral • Prophetic

In 2005 the presbytery committed itself to the primary work of "participating with God to strengthen and transform congregations to be missional, pastoral and prophetic." Acts 16:5 does that. I encourage every one of our congregations to come and be transformed.

Wilson Gunn, NCP Presbyter

QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING:

Who should come?

Pastoral leadership is vital to the success of this program. Yet, pastors are encouraged to invite elders and key lay leaders to attend as a team.

Should we attend Seminar 1 if we know we can't make the 3-year commitment?

Yes! Pastors and leaders will learn about transformation and take practical ideas and resources back to their church.

What if I can only come for one day?

Attend as much as you can, but try to arrange for at least one person from your church to attend both days.

Does Vital Churches Institute work with all kinds of churches?

Yes – large and small, urban and suburban, prospering and struggling, all churches across the theological spectrum of our faith.

Seminar 1

January 17-18, 2012
Vienna Pres. Church

All pastors and congregations are invited to attend the introductory Acts 16:5 Initiative Seminar 1. This is an exciting seminar on the dynamics of growing vital churches.

This seminar will provide great materials for use by attending congregations – even those that choose not to continue in the formal Acts 16:5 Initiative process. Attending congregations will be invited to continue the Acts 16:5 Initiative process, making the three-year commitment required. This permits each pastor and congregational team to make an informed decision about the proposed process.

The National Capital Presbytery's Transformation Team and Church Development Committee hopes that your congregation will prayerfully consider this exciting opportunity.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative

The Acts 16:5 Initiative

what the initiative offers

The Acts 16:5 Initiative invites congregations of all sizes to engage in a deliberate process of congregational transformation that is both communal and missional – serving both the congregation and its surrounding community and world.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative provides congregations of all levels of vitality with support through a three-year process of growing vigor. The Vital Churches Institute acts as a “coach” by offering content, encouragement, counsel, and graceful accountability to each congregation as it grows in vitality by God’s grace and works to accomplish missional goals.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative process brings together several major factors that influence transformation including a biblically-based vision, a commitment to the transformation process, coaching, and time.

The vision of the Vital Churches Institute is to lead the transformation of the mainline church and its missional engagement with the world. Our specific aim is to encourage Christians, pastors, congregations and presbyteries to discover new levels of vitality, faith and fruitfulness through the Acts 16:5 Initiative, congregational consulting, and a variety of published and online resources.



what the initiative involves

The Acts 16:5 Initiative process involves leadership from the pastor, Session, and congregation. The Session will be asked to commit to the three-year process of ministry assessment and new ministry development that honors the past and looks to the future.

The pastor and a team of up to six participants will meet regularly and will attend seven equipping events together over three years while working to develop specific ministry proposals for their congregation in cooperation with the Session. The pastor will meet regularly with other pastors for mutual encouragement and help in applying the concepts of transformation.

how to register

Register on-line at www.thepresbytery.org. Select “Around NCP” from the pull down menu, select “Presbytery Sponsored Events” and click on Acts 16:5.

For more information, contact: Geoff McLean at pastor@cpcfairfax.org or 703.278.8365.

Acts 16:5 Initiative Introductory Seminar 1 – Develop a Defining Vision
(Two-day Workshop)
Awaken a New Expectation
Refine Your Defining Vision
Ministry Design
Leadership Matters

Congregations commit to the three-year Acts 16:5 Initiative process between Seminar 1 and Gathering 1 in six months.

Acts 16:5 Initiative Six-Month Gathering 1
(One-day event)
The Missional Lifestyle
Ministry Design Using Action Learning

Acts 16:5 Initiative Six-Month Gathering 2
(One-day event)
Design a Transformational Ministry of Fellowship
Design Transformational Missional Endeavor

Acts 16:5 Initiative Six-Month Gathering 3
(One-day event)
Design a Transformational Ministry of Worship
Design a Transformational Ministry of Discipleship

Additional Acts 16:5 Initiative Gatherings
(One-day events spaced about six months apart will address topics such as stewardship, ministry design, leadership, ministry team leadership, mobilizing members for ministry, and discipleship systems.)

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily. Acts 16:5