

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
P R E S B Y T E R Y
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

January 24, 2019

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Is your church looking to begin a handbell ministry? When Unity Presbyterian Church recently closed its doors, they left three octaves of handbells that have sounded out God's praise over the course of UPC's ministry. Made by Schulmerich prior to 1985, these 37 bells cover three octaves: C4 to C7. The bells are housed in 4 padded carrying cases. *The Unity AC is looking for an NCP congregation that would be enriched by these bells.* To find out how to have your congregation considered, please contact Diane Walton Hendricks, chair of the Unity AC at dhendricks@fallschurchurchpresby.org.

The Reformed Institute's annual convocation is January 26 at National Presbyterian. Please see publicity in this Thursday Mail. Note: To reserve childcare contact Mary Hill (mhill@reformedinstitute.org) by Jan. 20.

Earth Care Congregation Applications now being received! Earth Care Congregation annual enrollment/recertification period is January 1-February 15. First Year Application (excel form) and Recertification (excel form) are to be submitted by email to jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org. To become a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation, a church tracks its commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. For information go to: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/> National Capital Presbytery Earth Care Network members are ready to assist. Meet us in the foyer at the next Presbytery meeting.

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church has been participating with eight (the number keeps growing) other Capitol Hill congregations in an interfaith group supporting refugees. To learn more about the accomplishments and activities of Good Neighbors Capitol Hill (GNCH) please see our website: <https://www.goodneighborscapitolhill.org/>. This past fall, seeking to respond to what seemed like an onslaught of hate-filled and bigoted news, actions, and policies, GNCH agreed upon the wording of the statement (**included in this TM**) and submitted it our respective congregations to endorse. The CHPC Session approved the statement in a recent meeting. In January, the statement was published in The Hill Rag, a monthly neighborhood newsletter, with all GNCH congregations as well as additional congregations and faith communities on Capitol Hill and beyond endorsing. Since publishing, still more have endorsed, for a total of 19, including a wide range of faiths. In continuing to enlarge the circle of those endorsing the statement, GNCH seeks to affirm our faith traditions' shared values and speak out against divisiveness, bigotry, and hate. We seek to focus on what unites us and enlist other faith communities and individuals to endorse these words as well. We are encouraged by the growing number of individuals and congregations who have joined with us. We welcome both individuals and faith communities to support our Statement and encourage any with questions to contact info-gnch@googlegroups.com. **Statement is included in this TM**

DR. ANNA CARTER FLORENCE TO VISIT, TEACH, PREACH AT ROCK SPRING CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - The Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Seminary, will visit Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA the weekend of February 15-17. She will lead worship on February 17 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Friday, February 15 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. as part of Rock Spring's series on "Rituals of the Church," Dr. Florence will discuss the purpose of the sermon in worship and facilitate a conversation about how listeners can best prepare to listen to sermons.

Saturday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dr. Florence will lead a workshop on "Preaching the

Verbs.”

Sunday, February 17 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Dr. Florence will lead worship at each of Rock Spring.

Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Her books include *Preaching as Testimony*, *Inscribing the Word*, and *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God’s Word in Community*; her current project is ‘A’ is for Alabaster: A Preacher’s Alphabet. She has also published numerous articles and chapters in books and journals, including a year's worth of lectionary text commentaries for www.WorkingPreacher.com.

When *some* things stop working...



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the church has work to do!

Many of our congregants are feeling the impact of the partial-government shutdown.

Many of our congregations are responding to that need.

As a connectional church – let us support one another.

1. One-time Hunger Grants (from the Centsibility fund) of up to \$1K for churches until the fund runs out (first come, first served). Send an email to kchamis@thepresbytery.org with response to the following questions:

- How do you intend to use the funds? (food pantry, dinners, etc.)
- If this is a one-off request (no long-term hunger programming in place), is there a partner agency that you can give any remainder of funds to?
- What amount (up to 1K) do you need?

2. Scott Winnette and Rockville United are interested in finding ways to make Bridge-Loans for workers who are concerned about mortgage payments utilizing congregational funds and donations. If you're interested in partnering with this model, please contact him at 202-390-7693.

3. Follow the Presbytery on Facebook and share other ideas. Rose from Takoma Park has suggested that churches might offer a half-day retreat for those impacted, or offering to open the sanctuary for an hour or two for folks to come for peace and quiet. Others have suggested beginning pop-up book groups, Bible studies and prayer circles. What is your church doing?

Together, we are making a difference.

January 24, 2019



Dear Ones in Christ,

A couple of years ago on a warm February afternoon I toured the sanctuary of what had been Faith Chapel - one of our small churches that faithfully concluded its ministry and closed its doors.

On December 23rd (Christmas Eve 'Eve') in Lucketts, Virginia, Gary Mears reopened the doors for to the church not quite knowing what to expect. Several dozen folks from Riverside had made the trip to 'round out' the congregation.... so that if only a few local folks came it wouldn't be awkward for them.

The folks from Riverside were certainly welcome, but they weren't needed.

The small church was packed. Folks stood. Some folks couldn't even get in the building. Months of developing relationships in the community, spending time listening to the needs of those in the new housing development as well as those who have lived in Lucketts all their lives translated into people who wanted to come together and hear and sing the Christmas story.

Some came because they were curious. Some came for nostalgic reasons. Some came because Gary asked them to. Some came because their child was asked to read a passage of scripture.

But all heard the story.

What happens next? What we do know is that as someone involved in mission development, Gary will listen to what folks say they need.... and he'll also try to parse out what they are really saying they need. That's his calling in that place.

We as a Presbytery have our role as well. Through Unified Mission Giving and the Resurrection Fund we have supported and will continue to support this new community. We've done so in partnership with the denomination and with Riverside, Leesburg and other partners and congregations.

What you need to know is that ***we've done so at great risk.*** There are no certainties in this calling - except the certainty that if we did nothing.... if we did nothing, not all would have heard the story that Christmas Eve 'Eve'.

What happens next? Won't that be a wonderful thing to find out?

Blessings -

Karen

Re-Envision Your Ministry

2019 Bridges Evangelism Workshop

How has God called you to engage your community?

What is your vision for your social network?

During this workshop,

- ❖ **create a vision board that visually captures the direction of your ministry beyond the walls of the church,**
- ❖ **see what others are doing, and**
- ❖ **get re-inspired to do God's work in the world!**

Saturday, January 26, 2019, Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

610 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD

9 am – 12 pm - \$15 per person - Lunch provided with registration at noon

Register now at: www.bridgesus.org/re-envision-your-ministry-2019

“Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. Habakkuk 2:2:3 (Message)

THE REFORMED INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

PRESENTS ITS SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Still People of the Book? — Protestant Identity in Our Time

Does it matter whether Christians know anything about the Bible? Does it matter whether they understand the claims their churches' creeds make? For most of their history Protestants assumed the answer to questions of this sort was obvious. Not only did they seek to make the Bible as widely available as possible, but they also made a concerted effort to enable people to understand the basic doctrines of their churches. They valued, in other words, an educated laity, out of a conviction that religious literacy is important to the practice of discipleship, and that is a reason why Protestants were so effective in influencing the wider culture. In our time, however, that appears to be less and less the case — in the industrialized world, at least. In other parts of the world Protestants often exhibit today some of the same zeal for Biblical and theological knowledge that past generations did in this part of the world. But even in the United States, the level of Biblical knowledge among Protestants (including evangelicals) appears to be quite low, and the churches seem to be unable to do anything about it. What is the meaning and significance of this development? Does it portend a fundamental change in Protestant identity? If so, of what sort? Where is it taking us?



Dr. R. Bruce Douglass

*Outgoing Director of the Reformed Institute
Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Government
Georgetown University*

Dr. Bruce Douglass, a ruling elder in the PCUSA, was the Director of the Reformed Institute from its inception in 2003 until 2018. He is Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Government, Georgetown University and Dean of the Faculty, Georgetown College 1994–1998. Bruce is the author of *The Iron Cage Revisited* (Routledge 2018) (among other works).



REFORMED
INSTITUTE of
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON

Saturday, January 26, 2019

National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016

Continental breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Presentation and Response, 9:30 a.m. to Noon

*No charge for this event; registration is helpful but not required
Books will be available for sale.*

Snow Date: Saturday, March 23

To register: www.reformedinstitute.org or contact
Mary Hill, program coordinator, 703-518-5125, mhill@reformedinstitute.org

From the director of
*BONHOEFFER, The Power of Forgiveness, and
An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*

BACKS AGAINST THE WALL

The Howard Thurman Story

A film by
Martin Doblmeier

February 5, 2019, 6:30 pm
New York Avenue
Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005

*Panel discussion with the filmmaker and
local DC pastors immediately following*

Free and open to the public
RSVP at

www.howardthurmanfilm.eventbrite.com

*Sponsored by the McClendon Scholar Program at
New York Presbyterian Church and
Howard University School of Divinity*

www.journeyfilms.com





*Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters . . .*

—Isaiah 55:1a



2019 APCE Annual Event
February 6–9, 2019

Consider a piece of sea glass or driftwood. Each time the item is washed out to sea and washed back in to shore it is changed: the rough edges are refined, and the grain is softened. Each has the potential to become something new. Just as objects are changed by the ebb and flow of the tides, so our ministry is reshaped by the changes in the world around us.

Change is all around us: in the church, in our communities, and in the world. New understandings of how disciples are formed lead us to examine and try new models of ministry, involving education, mission, and worship.

This **2019 APCE Annual Event** is for your entire team. Pastors, educators, musicians, mission advocates, youth workers, lay leaders, and volunteers of every kind: **“Come Now to the Waters”** to be enriched, empowered, connected, and sustained!

Meet our Plenary and Worship Leaders!



Dr. Lisa Kimball will lead us in a discussion of the changing language of Christian Education and Faith Formation.



Dr. Tom Long’s two plenary presentations will explore the role worship plays in faith formation and show how participating in mission and service shapes faith.



Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long will design and lead worship services.



Hugh Donnelly will be our event music leader and will offer an opportunity to experience a different “style” of worship each day.



Karen DeBoer, Dr. Tori Smit, and the **Rev. Tony McNeill** will share their experiences and insights about the strengths that intergenerational ministry offers the church.



Pre-events—3 Reasons to Come Early!



Silent Retreat at Villa de Matel

Spend four hours in silence (numerous prayer spaces within the center, a labyrinth on the grounds, and trails for walking)

and debrief the experience led by a spiritual director. Lunch will be provided and eaten in silence.



Visit to Space Center Houston

Encounter the exciting future and remarkable past of America's space program. This experience is designed to engage adults and children alike.



Hotel Registration is open NOW!

This year there are three hotels to choose from: Hilton Hotel, San Luis Hotel, and Holiday Inn Resort. All are within walking distance to the Galveston Island Convention Center, where worship, plenaries, marketplace, and most workshops will be held.

Over 70 Workshops will be featured—for the brand-new educator as well as seasoned educator. Special tracts will be offered for church musicians and youth workers.

Bonus Workshops will be offered on Wednesday morning at no additional cost!

Welcome to the 2020s: Envisioning the Future of Faith Formation

The arrival of a new decade is a good time to create an “agenda” for the future of faith formation. Presenter John Roberto will explore seven areas for the future development of faith formation in congregations.



Opening night will
kick off with a
Mardi Gras celebration.

A taste of Texas • Mardi Gras beads •
Michael Deacon and Texas Heat Band •
photo booths • Texas displays • and more

Certification Class will be a hybrid model of Worship and Sacraments led by Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski.

Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) partners with APCE in 2019. Many new enriching options will be offered, such as a hymn festival, conference choir, reading sessions, and an operetta.

Presbyterian Youth Workers Association (PYWA) continues Partnership with APCE for 2019.

Registration will open in mid-September. Watch for the announcement! You'll want to sign up early for best selections.

Church of the Pilgrims to Host Public Affairs Series: “What’s Going On?” Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne First Guest Speaker, February 2019.

In February [Church of the Pilgrims](#) (PC/USA) begins a public affairs series called “What’s Going On?” (WGO). WGO’s inaugural program will be “The First Amendment Crisis Series,” a three-part program focusing on Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Religion, and the Freedom to Assemble in the age of Trump and during creeping authoritarianism worldwide.

Author (“One Nation After Trump”) and Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne is the series’ first speaker. He will make a timely presentation on the status of journalism under the Trump administration on **Thursday , February 28, 2019, 7:00 pm.**

Since President Donald Trump has called the media “the enemy of the people,” and the public has witnessed the administration’s pulling of a CNN reporter’s White House press credential, as well as the assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Americans are beginning to wonder about some of their basic freedoms, especially the right to participate in governance by being informed by a free and independent press.

In March the series will host a second presentation, which will address Freedom of Religion. In April the series will follow with the third event, focusing upon Freedom to Assemble.

“Church of the Pilgrims has always been on the forefront of advocating for rights,” observes Rev. Jan Nolting Carter, Transitional Pastor at Pilgrims. “In these days, there are few things more important than talking about and acting on protecting freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly.”

“We thought that Pilgrims, known for its activist history, could play a unique role in regard to keeping the community and those beyond it informed,” added Norman Kelley, the project’s coordinator. “The church wants to encourage democratic conversations about what’s going on. Democracy works best when neighbors and strangers can ask questions and seek answers.”

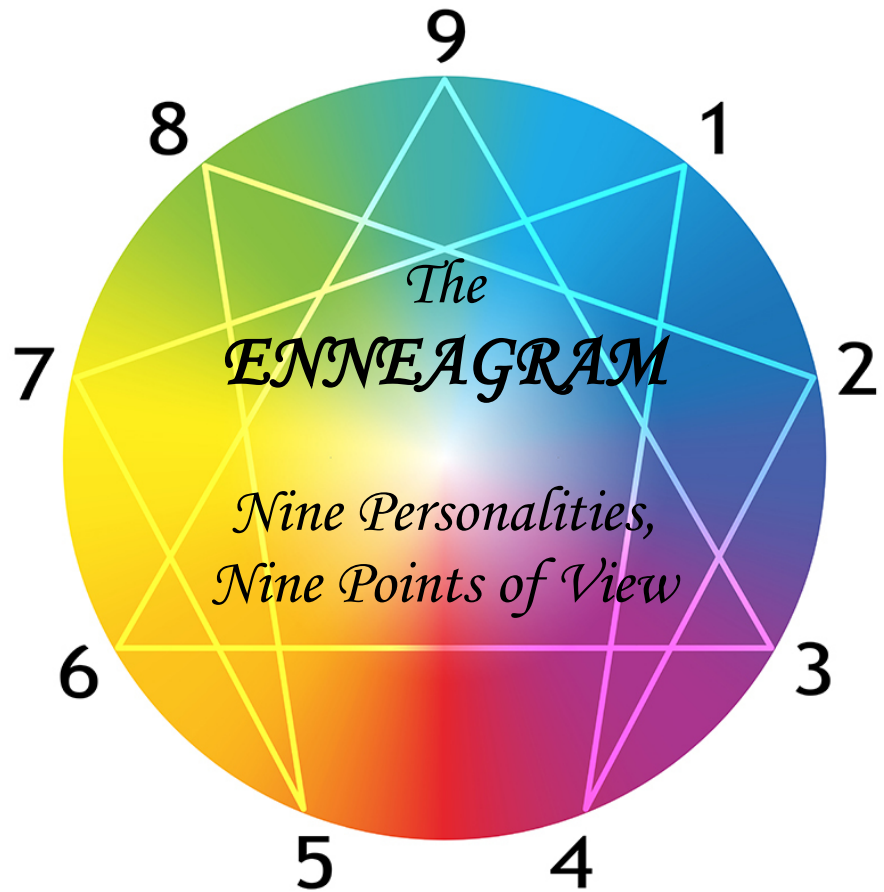
All three events will be held at the **Church of the Pilgrims, 2201 P Street NW in the District**, three blocks away from the Dupont Circle Metro Station. Following the presentation by each featured speaker, there will be a ‘question and answer’ period allowing participants to raise questions or points for discussion,

[Church of the Pilgrims is a Presbyterian Church.](#) The congregation was founded in 1903 as the Second Southern Presbyterian Church and took its current name in 1919.

The Enneagram is a powerful tool for self-discovery. It is based on the theory that each of us is a variation on one of nine core personality types.

In discovering our type, we gain access to the underlying motivation and focus of attention to which each of us is predisposed. By observing our motivation and attention, we can broaden our experience of life.

Over time we have become “blind” to our automatic behaviors and ingrained motivations. The Enneagram helps us to look at our “blindness” in an accepting way and move our individual lives into a more humble and effective balance.



A Workshop for Clergy

February 28th, 2019

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

-lunch provided, \$10 donation suggested -

Registration is required, but the workshop is free.

Please contact: kchamis@thepresbytery.org



About Barbara Jaquette, MSW

Enneagram: Studied and taught the Enneagram for 30 years. Certified to teach by the Helen Palmer / David Daniels school of the Enneagram in the narrative tradition. (Narrative tradition means that it is in telling our story and listening to the stories of others that we come to know the Enneagram.)

Professional: High school teacher – home economics, family life, child development, relationship communications, independent living. Leader of program that was part of a Maryland Drop-out Prevention initiative. Pastoral Counselor with a small interdenominational agency that partnered with churches to become part of their community mission commitment.

Presbyterian: All my life. Baptized at Church of the Pilgrims. Member of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church for 60 years – deacon, elder, Stephen Ministry leader.



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2019 NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING

March 11–13, 2019 || Seattle First Presbyterian Church



Tali Hairston



Jennifer Harvey



Mary Ellen Azada



Kelle Brown



Eliana Maxim

The NEXT Church National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors, lay people, seminarians, educators, youth workers, and more) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers us around God's presence. And multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about particular aspects of ministry foster new and deeper connections. We hope you will make plans to join us!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER: WWW.NEXTCHURCH.NET

The Spiritual Formation Team of NCP IS offering scholarships!



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE
Dismantling Racism

NCP Confronting Racism Task Force Listening Project Open Space March 26, 2019

The NCP Confronting Racism Task Force is beginning phase II of its three-phase process, which ends with three or four strong recommendations to Leadership Council to address the Presbytery's five-year Mission emphasis to "Bear public witness to the love, truth, and justice of God in Jesus Christ specifically in the areas of racism and reconciliation," by listening first to each of our own congregations, and following to listen as broadly as possible throughout the Presbytery at three opportunities offered at Open Spaces, two opportunities remain, January, and March, and listening to our elders at retirement centers throughout National Capital Presbytery.

Our sessions will consist of a focus group of 10-12 members, facilitated and recorded by two members of the NCP Confronting Racism Task Force. If you are interested in participating in one of these listening sessions, please show up on time (4:00PM) at one of the three Open Spaces listed above. We will accept the first 10-12 persons, creating the most diverse group possible. Please arrive having considered the following four questions:

- 1)As a child, what have you heard adults around you say about people of other races?
- 2)What are your basic thoughts/beliefs about people who are a different race than you?
- 3)How does your faith impact how you understand race?
- 4)What has been your experience of race in the church?

We look forward to hearing from you!



Bearing public witness to the

love, truth and justice
of God in Jesus Christ



**The
Sargent
Gospel-Aires
38th
Anniversary
Concert**

**Saturday,
March 30, 2019
at 4:00 p.m.**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church
5109 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 20019
Rev. Juan P. Guthrie
(202) 396-1710



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2019
July 16-20, 2019 • Purdue University

NCP REGISTRAR:

Doug Mar, member of Immanuel PC, 703-350-1665

Looking for adult leadership—please contact Doug

AUDIENCE:

High School age youth and accompanying adult advisors.
(Entering freshmen through graduated seniors; adult advisors must be 21 yrs+)

THEME:

"Here's My Heart"

REGISTRATION:

Registration will be open late 2018 and conclude May 2019

REGISTRATION
FEE:

Youth: \$555.00

18yrs & Older: \$575.00

Work Crew: \$475

(Registration fee includes all programming, food, & lodging.
Everything but travel to the event)

Interfaith Statement of Unity and Solidarity

As members of the religious congregations listed in circle, we stand together in spirit, word and deed to welcome and embrace all of God's children, regardless of their citizenship or how they choose—or do not choose—to worship. We welcome and stand in solidarity with refugees from around the world. We commit to creating a safe environment in which all people, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other attribute, can live, love, and freely realize their full human potential.

We unequivocally condemn hatred and bigotry. We stand against any action that mocks, defames, or commits violence against our brothers and sisters. We wish to speak out in the face of attacks by forces that represent injustice, intolerance, and division.

We affirm our commitment to a nation and world where all can live in harmony with each other. Our congregations have and will continue to work together to support this core value and to vigorously oppose discriminatory measures at the local, national, and global level.

Our communities remain a bastion of acceptance, generosity, and compassion. We affirm and work to practice love and care for all of God's children—all people on earth without regard to faith or other attributes. We are determined to strengthen these values and stand together against any action that weakens them.

- Christ Church-Washington Parish • Hill Havurah • Lutheran Church of the Reformation • St. Marks Episcopal Church • Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
- Calvary Episcopal • Shirat HaNefesh • The Nation's Mosque, Masjid Muhammad
- Mt. Moriah Baptist Church • Washington City Church of the Brethren • St. Monica's and St. James Episcopal • Kagyu Drukgyu Chodzong • Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
- Raj Khalsa Gurdwara • St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church • Capitol Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community of Greater Washington • Jewish-Islamic Dialogue Society of Washington

