

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

July 12, 2018

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hosted by the Stewardship Committee of NCP

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Application Deadline – September 30

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October 20 – Westminster Presbyterian Church

Calm to the Waves Retreat – SAVE THE DATE

January 28-30, 2019 – Ocean City, MD

PASTORAL CONCERNS



Service for the Rev. Margaret "Peg" True is Saturday, July 21, 11 AM at First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont Street, Arlington, VA 22205. Plenty of parking, plenty of room. Reception afterwards there.

Cards can be sent to the family at: 7890 Steadman St, Alexandria, VA 22309. Donations can be made to the Girls Scouts National Capital or to the Culmore Clinic in Peg's name:

culmoreclinic.org/donate/4589456887

<http://www.gscnc.org/en/donate/ways-to-give.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Potomac Presbyterian Manse available for rent: It is four bedrooms and located near the intersection of I 270 and Falls Road. Rent would be \$3,000 per month. We would prefer to rent this to a member of the clergy and it will be available July 1st. Contact, Gregg Johnson, Finance Chair, Potomac Presbyterian Church, greggejohnson@msn.com



Birthday Greetings for the month of **July**

Eric Beckman	Norm Gordon	Truman Nabors, HR
John Boyles, HR	Anita Hendrix	Walt Owensby, HR
Nancy Clark	Connie Jordan-Haas	John Peterson
Sara Coe	Gene Kendall	Bill Phillippe, HR
Jane Duffield	Gyeong Mok Kim	Suzanne Rudiselle
Robert Erickson	Derek Longbrake	Knox Swayze
George Forner, HR	Chris Looker	Nancy Thornton
Ben Garris	Tara Spuhler McCabe	Charles VanGorder
Mark Gaskill	J. Riley McDonald, HR	Robbie Wellington
		Susan Wilder

From
the staff of
National Capital Presbytery
colette debbie, jan, karen,
lajuan, sara, todd, wilson





Paul and Barnabas stayed on in Antioch, teaching and preaching the Word of God. But they weren't alone. There were many teachers and preachers at that time in Antioch.

After a few days of this, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit all our friends in each of the towns where we preached the Word of God. Let's see how they're doing."

Barnabas wanted to take John along, the John nicknamed Mark. But Paul wouldn't have him; he wasn't about to take along a quitter who, as soon as the going got tough, had jumped ship on them in Pamphylia. Tempers flared, and they ended up going their separate ways: Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus; Paul chose Silas and, offered up by their friends to the grace of the Master, went to Syria and Cilicia to build up muscle and sinew in those congregations.

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(The fourth of six installments on the work of the Presbytery leader.)

Here we see the primary work of the Presbytery leader: to encourage congregations with presence and affirmation. This is the essence of a Presbytery as an institution in service to God's mission. In that respect we bring two things:

1. We are a network of relationships where we encourage one another, remind each of other of God's missionary calling and God's love. Indeed, these relationships are the incubator for the Spirit's continual movement among us. Zora Neale Hurston, at the end of her book "Their Eyes were Watching God" describes Love: "Love is lak de sea. It's uh movin' thing, but still and all, it takes its shape from de shore it meets, and it's different with every shore."

Together we are that front edge of water and together we discern the shape we will take as we meet the shore, wave after wave after wave. The changes Paul brought to the church in response to his ministry with the Greek speaking Gentiles, evidences that love meeting a different shore. His love set his feet in motion to visit these churches across Asia Minor. Our love drives us to visit our churches, to encourage them in their singular unique calling to the Mission of God in the world.

2. And Second, we are an institution that constrains sin. We constrain sin through regulations, standards, and discipline. Boundaries such as these are also loving. But we are often chafed by the discipline of life together. Paul was chafed by the oversight the Jerusalem church. He was chafed by the oversight of Barnabas with whom he disagreed concerning the need for early Christians to observe the cultic rituals of Judaism as well as embrace Christ.

There has been quite a movement in the church to eschew regulation imagining we can then better be missional. False. Eschew regulation and we just embolden sin. One reason Jesus wants us in community is that we tend to be blind to our own self-seeking. We need others to point it out and keep us in line. This polarity between freedom and restraint is one we are called to master as Presbytery leaders. Paul himself was on one end of this polarity, but believed it was important to keep the unity of the church intact so he submitted himself to the regulations and restrictions set by James and the Jerusalem Church.

Power still has its temptations. I am remembering a COM member whose sole reason to get on COM was to get rid of his pastor. I recall several candidates seeking ordination to Word and Sacrament who sought to avoid an open search. Our Presbytery has suffered for lack of robust financial policies. Our congregations have suffered because the Presbytery failed to regulate appropriately. It chose to satisfy their immediate desires rather than provide prudent wisdom and caution. I can also point to a congregation where the Presbytery did say "no" which in hindsight were profoundly thankful. They were not happy at that moment however. Presbytery regulation chafes. I even worked with a church in Texas that had mineral rights they shared with the Methodists down the street. They trusted the Methodist lawyer was representing them on the cheap since they would share in the proceeds 50/50. We insisted they secure their own attorney and even pre-approved whatever they decided, but they had to listen to their own attorney's counsel. Grudgingly they did. They shelled out \$1,500 but made \$100,000 more than they would have going with the Methodist's lawyer. And to this day they are still mad with "the Presbytery" for interfering. No good deed goes unpunished in this line of work folks.

Seemingly we are just in the way. But we have a vital role to play for the congregations. We keep them from doing stupid things sometimes. Often, we provide a range of expertise unavailable to them. We offer some distance on a decision made in the sway of group think. We keep the treasurer from disappearing with the Building Fund. We hope to provide safe sanctuary for that hormonally possessed teenager. We make sure our pastors hold theological commitments that are within the reformed theological boundaries. We oversee the spiritual formation of inquirers and candidates. To use a ranching metaphor, we ride fence. We repair the fence. We sometimes reconfigure the fence. Riding fence is also loving. There are appointed boundaries even for the ocean. It's a moving thing. It meets the shore differently every time a wave breaks. But it needs to not be coming up over the dunes here if we can help it.

So off we go into our congregations, encouraging, blessing, but also constraining and regulating all because we love them and call them to be faithful to the gospel and the Mission of God in the world. Off goes Paul, the first Presbytery leader, to encourage and bless, but also to correct and restrict.

G. Wilson Gunn
General Presbyter



EST 2018

ART MINISTRY NETWORK

NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY

**We're
getting
organized.**

Visual Art. Music. Woodworking. Dance. Theatre.

You name it. Let's collaborate.

JOIN US. July 14 @ 1 PM

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310



Harvey Houston Hope

Volunteer Rebuild Trip with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders



Trip Details

Who: Adults and Youth (16 years and older).

What: Volunteer work trip to help rebuild after Hurricane Harvey

When: Sunday, July 22, 2018 – Saturday, August 4, 2018

(1 week, 2 weeks, or any combination over that time frame)

Where: Houston, TX

Cost: \$100/week (includes room/board and meals!)

Transportation: Own expense - however, carpools may be arranged.

How do I sign up?

It's easy! Register online at:
<https://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>

Each individual must fill out the online registration form and enter NCP under:
"Group or Team Name."

Please email Tom Hull at constructivellc@gmail.com once you have registered
with your dates of arrival and departure.



SMALL Capital Campaign

Join Online



Date: **Sept. 11, 2018**
Time: **1:00 – 1:50pm**
Venue: **Webinar**
Cost: **No charge**

Register [HERE](#)

T h e B a s i c s

When suddenly we have a surprise or an opportunity well above the capacity of the budget... maybe it's not enough to call for a massive capital campaign. So what do we do?

The Stewardship Committee of the National Capital Presbytery brings you a webinar on *small capital campaigns in the local church*. We'll answer these questions and more:

- What is a small campaign?
- What size should we do on our own?
- When should we hire someone? How?
- Are there steps we follow? A checklist of practices?
- Who do we talk to?

Presenter: John Wray. John is a seasoned professional in church capital campaigns. He is currently consulting with the Presbyterian Foundation on how churches can conduct a small or mini- capital campaign.

NCP'S Stewardship Committee is offering scholarships to this event! Email lquander@thepresbytery if interested!

TRANSFORMING THE FACE OF generosity

ROMANS 12:2



September 24 - 26, 2018

St. Louis, MO

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac



Keynoter

Diana Butler Bass
Author of "Grateful, The
Transformative Power
of Giving Thanks" due
out April 2018.



Keynoter

Chick Lane
Author of "Ask, Thank,
Tell: Improving
Stewardship Ministry in
Your Congregation"



Worship Leader

Larissa Kwong Abazia
Vice Moderator
of the 221st
General Assembly of
the PC(USA)

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

To register and for more information visit:
www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

TRANSFORMING THE FACE OF generosity

ROMANS 12:2

Who should attend?:

Pastors, lay leaders, judicatory staff, and anyone who is looking to learn more about stewardship in today's church context.

Conference Fee and Location:

\$275 on or before August 1, 2018

\$300 after August 1, 2018

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac in St. Louis, MO

Conference Room rate of \$112/night

Conference includes:

Four plenary sessions

Four workshops (30+ to choose from)

Two worship services

Dinner Monday

Breakfast and lunch Tuesday & Wednesday

Conference schedule:

Monday, September 24

Registration (12-2 p.m.)

Conference begins (2 p.m.)

Plenary 1, Workshop Session 1

Dinner, Worship

Tuesday, September 25

Breakfast

Plenary 2, Workshop Session 2

Lunch

Workshop Session 3, Plenary 3,

Free Evening

Wednesday, September 26

Breakfast

Workshop Session 4, Plenary 4, Closing Worship

Conference ends with Boxed Lunch to go

Workshops:

(This list is just a sampling of the 30+ workshops that will be offered.)

Fundraising as Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Care

J.C. Austin, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, PA

Creating a Culture of Generosity

Robert Hay, Jr., Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation

Vulnerability and Courage: The Practice of Stewardship

Roy Howard, Pastor for Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD

Planned Giving: 25 Ideas to Get You to the Next Level

Karl Mattison, Director of Planned Giving Resources for the Presbyterian Foundation

Understanding Stewardship in Racial and Ethnic Communities

Jim Reese, Minister for Specialized Interpretation with the Presbyterian Foundation

Electronic Giving: Using Digital Tools to Grow Ministry

Richard Rogers, Vice President at Horizons Stewardship, and author of The eGiving Guide For Every Church (Abingdon Press, 2016)

Understanding Stewardship and Family Systems

Steve Oelschlaeger, Stewardship Project Coordinator, ELCA Stewardship Staff, Domestic Missions Unit

Funding Innovative and New Ministries

Mieke Vandersall, Founding Pastor of Not So Churchy and Principal Consultant at the Vandersall Collective

To register and for more information visit:
www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

FUNDING AVAILABLE SPEER FUND

Is your church engaged actively in supporting ministry that helps the poor and oppressed to gain power and to take responsibility over their lives, or ministry which addresses root causes of poverty? Be aware of this funding opportunity!

Ministry examples:

- Community development
- Training / job placement associated with transitional housing
- Cooperative enterprises: worker-owned business
- Voter registration and voter education
- Self-help: tutorial, life skills training, job training
- Advocacy: efforts congruent with aims of the Bequest (see Funding source and purpose)

A typical grant would be \$3,000 to \$5,000 and proposals should put forward clearly defined and measurable goals.

DEADLINE for application(s)

Applications must reach us *no later than 30 September 2018*. We announce grant awards in *January, 2019*.

Application and Funding Guidelines

<http://www.synatlantic.org/funding/speer-fund/>

Rev. Beth Braxton

NCP Representative on Speer-Fund Committee



Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2018

A Mini-Festival of the Arts, Awareness, Healing, and Justice

October 20, 2018, 10:00AM-5:00PM | Check-in begins onsite at 9am

MUSIC, DRUMMING, KEYNOTE, WORKSHOPS, EMOTIONAL EMANCIPATION CIRCLES, INTERPLAY, INTERGENERATIONAL, CAUCUSES, MULTIRACIAL, CHILDREN'S TRACK, FREE LUNCH, A LEARNING COMMUNITY



Keynote: Author/Scholar
Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
"How to Be An Anti-Racist"

For more information on Dr. Kendi, please visit www.prhspeakers.com

Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 I Street SW, Washington DC 20024

Register online: <https://2018-racial-awareness-festival.eventbrite.com>

Potter's House Books will be present.



SAVE THE DATE

2019 CALM TO THE WAVES RETREAT

When: January 28-January 30

Where: Dunes Manor Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland

For: For NCP Parish Clergy, Educators, and Parish Associates and Their Spouses

Theme: *Psalms of Lament in the Season of Lent*

Keynote and Worship Leaders:

Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Biblical Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Eric Myers, PCUSA minister, Frederick PC

Billy Kluttz, Evening Worship Leader, Immanuel PC

Hosted by NCP CARE TEAM

Registration begins September 25