

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

July 11, 2019

In this edition

July Birthday Greetings

Pastoral Concerns/Announcements

Jottings . . .

John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter

Quill of the Clerk

Sara Coe, Stated Clerk

Meet our Moderators

Miriam Dewhurst, Moderator

Michael Rankin, Vice Moderator

The Parable of the Presbyterian – Luke 15:11-32; Genesis 33:1-4

*Sermon – former Moderator, Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox
from the June 25, 2019 Presbytery Meeting*

Nomination of Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly June 20-27, 2020 – Baltimore Maryland

Deadlines for Submission of Overtures for 224th General Assembly

Sara Coe, Stated Clerk

Meditation & Music Hike @ Zachary Taylor Park

July 13 – Community Event hosted by Church of the Covenant

Discussion with Missionaries on the Mexican Border

July 14 – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington

New Story Leadership Class of 2019

A Forum Jointly sponsored by Bradley Hills PC and Bethesda Jewish Congregation

July 14 – Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Convocation for Communities of Color

Big Tent - PCUSA

July 31 – August 1 – Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD

Vulnerability and Courage: The Practice of Stewardship

A Stewardship Presentation- led by Roy Howard & Shelby Etheridge Harasty

sponsored by the Stewardship Committee of NCP

September 11 – Saint Mark Presbyterian Church (registration required)

BIG SING with John Bell, hymn writer & social justice leader

Sponsored by the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program

October 2 – New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2019

"The Pulse of Generosity: Vital Signs of A Healthy Steward

September 30-October 2 – San Diego, CA

NCP Stewardship Committee is offering Scholarships to attend this conference!

Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2019

Join Us for ALLYSHIP TRAINING – Led by Whitney Parnell

*October 19 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC (**registration required**)*

Healthy Congregations – Led by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

Sponsored by Ministry Relations Team of NCP

*October 25-26 – Saint Mark Presbyterian church (**registration required**)*

The Exchange

NCP Communion Service Display at Dumbarton House

Adaptive Change Apprentice

PneuMatirx – Jim Kitchens & Deborah Wright, Principals



Birthday Greetings for the month of **JULY**

Eric Beckman
John Boyles, HR
Nancy Clark, HR
Sara Coe
Robert Erickson
Ben Garriss
Mark Gaskill
Norm Gordon
Juan Guthrie
Garrett Hoffman

Lynn Johnson, HR
Connie Jordan-Hass
Gene Kendall
Gyeong Mok Kim
Derek Longbrake
Chris Looker
Tara Spuhler McCabe
J. Riley McDonald, HR
John Molina-Moore
Truman Nabors

Walter Owensby, HR
John Peterson, HR
Bill Phillippe, HR
Suzanne Rudiselle, HR
Knox Swayze
Nancy Thornton
Charles VanGorder
Robbie Wellington
Susan Wilder

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



PASTORAL CONCERNS



We continue to grieve for **Rev. James Gary Campbell (1933-2019) who died Monday, June 24** at his home at the age of 86 years old. A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, Rev. Campbell was ordained at Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, VA in July 1959. Gary served as a Parish Associate, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. We pray for Chess Campbell, grandsons David Mahler and Daniel Mahler (Silver Spring, MD), granddaughter Lyz Mahler Rovira and grandson Jon Mahler (Centreville, VA), for son David Campbell, daughter in law Marise and granddaughter Sofia (Los Angeles, California). We pray as well for three surviving sisters and two brothers living in east Tenn. Gary was predeceased by daughter Elizabeth Campbell (June 2013) and son-in law John Mahler (October 2013).

Cards of support and love may be sent to Chess, David and Daniel at 9410 Warren Street Silver Spring, MD 20910-1353. The memorial service for Rev. Campbell will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2019 following the 11:00 AM service, in the sanctuary at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church together with its interfaith partner of 51 years, Bethesda Jewish Congregation, will host a joint event to welcome New Story Leadership 2019 program. NSL brings young people -- from Israel and Palestine -- to DC for two-month summer internship experiences. There is a tradition that all the interns come to tell their stories to a packed house in Bethesda. This year it will take place as follows.

Program: New Story Leadership welcomes 2019 summer interns from Israel and Palestine to tell their stories

Date: July 14, 2019

- **Time: 3:00 PM**
- **Place: 6601 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda MD 20817**

Hosted by Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and Bethesda Jewish Congregation. Included in this edition of the TM is more information about this unique covenant between Bethesda Jewish Congregation and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

The 2019 PC(USA)'s Pre-Big Tent Convocation for Communities of Color will center around the theme Seeing Red: Movements to Wholeness. Drawing inspiration from Luke 8:43-48 (a woman suffering from hemorrhages) this event will center the voices of people of color in the PC(U.S.A.) and our collective journey to wholeness.

We will uplift the varied experiences, struggles, joys and triumphs of those in our denomination, who are often on the margins experiencing the "issues of blood" in our lives, and through the leading of the Spirit, share stories, deepen relationships and draw on the strength of our collective tenacity as we move towards wholeness and healing. *(See flyer included in this TM)*

HOLD THE DATE! The Mid Council Financial Network Planning Team has been working very hard to secure a location for the 2019 conference. We wanted to share this information with you to get it on your calendar, with the hopes that you can attend. This event is a continuing education and training opportunity for synod, presbytery, and church financial persons. We are working with presenters and various others to bring you the most up to date

information for this conference. **Details are as follows:**

Dates: November 20-22, 2019

Location: Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(Group Room Rate \$69 + tax)

Hotel Reservations: Select the link below and enter requested information:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/2019-mcfn-conference-of-the-presbyterian1>

If making reservations by phone, please call the hotel at (757) 428-7025 and reference the “2019 MCFN Conference of the Presbyterian Church” for the reduced rate. Online Registration will open in July. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (888) 728-7228, extension 5542.

July 11, 2019

Greetings!



If you're keeping track, it's officially been 4 weeks on the job.

I've had the chance to preach and worship with the congregations at Trinity in Herndon and 15th Street in DC. I've had one-one-one meetings with over a dozen people in our presbytery. I've gathered with groups in DC for breakfast and over coffee in Virginia to share stories about their ministries. In the midst of what has been an amazing 26 days I've only found one surprise:

...so, what do I do next?

I wouldn't say this question haunts me, but it sure does jump out from the unexpected corner here and there. I tell myself that it's par for the course with any new job. It takes time to learn the ropes. You need to let the dust settle. Those are all easy things to say, but hard to live into. I find it hard because my outlook for what this position will look and feel like in two years is clear. The grandiose dreams of what could be often loom larger than the scheduled appointments for the second half of this week. As you probably already know very well, turning vision into reality takes time and work. And that's what has me the most excited thus far! I get to put in that time and work with all of you. Your energy for what this presbytery can become is very palpable. I've felt it in the countless texts, emails, and phone calls that I've gotten from many of you. I trust that Christ has already laid the foundation for the shape of what our ministry together will look like in the hours, days, months, and years to come.

John

Quill of the Stated Clerk

The National Capital Presbytery met on June 25, 2019 at National Presbyterian Church. During the meeting, National Capital Presbytery, led by Moderator Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox:

- Elected committee and commission chairs for the coming year.
- Approved the request of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry for distribution of scholarship funds to four seminary students.
- Recognized the Young Adult Volunteers who have served so faithfully over the past year in National Capital Presbytery.
- Recognized the work of the NCP staff, and especially Acting Head of Staff Karen Chamis, for their work during the interim between General Presbyters.
- Worshipped under the leadership of Moderator Quinn Fox and heard his sermon, The Parable of the Presbyterian
- Participated in the installation of the new Moderator, Ruling Elder Miriam Dewhurst, and Vice-Moderator, Ruling Elder Michael Rankin
- Celebrated the Lord's Supper administered by Rev. Fox and Rev. Perzavia Praylow.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at National Presbyterian Church.

Peace and blessings, Sara

Sara M. Coe
Stated Clerk
National Capital Presbytery
scoe@thepresbytery.org
240-514-5352

Quill of the Stated Clerk

The National Capital Presbytery met on June 25, 2019 at National Presbyterian Church. During the meeting, National Capital Presbytery, led by Moderator Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox:

- Elected committee and commission chairs for the coming year.
- Approved the request of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry for distribution of scholarship funds to four seminary students.
- Recognized the Young Adult Volunteers who have served so faithfully over the past year in National Capital Presbytery.
- Recognized the work of the NCP staff, and especially Acting Head of Staff Karen Chamis, for their work during the interim between General Presbyters.
- Worshipped under the leadership of Moderator Quinn Fox and heard his sermon, The Parable of the Presbyterian
- Participated in the installation of the new Moderator, Ruling Elder Miriam Dewhurst, and Vice-Moderator, Ruling Elder Michael Rankin
- Celebrated the Lord's Supper administered by Rev. Fox and Rev. Perzavia Praylow.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at National Presbyterian Church.

Peace and blessings, Sara

Sara M. Coe
Stated Clerk
National Capital Presbytery
scoe@thepresbytery.org
240-514-5352

Meet our Moderators – National Capital Presbytery 2019



Miriam Dewhurst, Moderator, is an Elder and long-time member of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where she has served two terms as a Deacon and several terms on the Session. She has served on several committees including Finance, Nurture, Planning and two Pastor Nominating Committees. She currently serves as Clerk of Session. Miriam has also served two terms on the Commission for Preparation for Ministry and is serving a third term as Synod Commissioner.

Michael Rankin, Vice-Moderator, Elder, Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. Elder Michael Lee Rankin is an Elder and an active member of the Church of the Redeemer where he has served three terms on the session. He has chaired Redeemer's Personnel Committee, served as a member and secretary of the Strategic Planning Committee and served as clerk of session for six years. He is also a member of the Chancel Choir. Michael is a member of the NCP Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of September 2019. He has served as an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court for 33 years; he will assume the status of Senior Judge in September 2019.

The Parable of the Presbyterian
Luke 15:11-32; Genesis 33:1-4
Quinn Fox, Outgoing Moderator, National Capital Presbytery
25 June 2019

This sermon was interrupted a few sentences shy of the conclusion by a medical emergency. Thankfully, the person was released from the ER later in the evening and is recovering at home under the care of her physician. By request, here is the sermon in its entirety.

The Prodigal Son has captured the fascination of more painters, composers, writers, & preachers, than any of Jesus' other parables. From Rembrandt to the Rolling Stones, the image of the wayward son returning home, finding the welcoming embrace of his waiting father, has been portrayed in countless settings. It may be the most beloved story our Savior ever told. But it's not about an only child. Jesus clearly says, "there was a man who had *two* sons." Prayer.

Two sons. The younger demands his inheritance: by custom, one-third of the estate when his father died. Could there be a worse insult? As if to say, "Dad, hurry up and die." Off in the far country, he blows it all! When a famine leaves him destitute, the hungry, desperate, young man returns home; to a wonderful surprise!

Most of us have heard a sermon or Bible study—many of us have preached or taught—on this well-known narrative. We also know that there are other "two son" stories in the Bible: Cain & Abel; Ishmael & Isaac. And there are younger son stories: Joseph in Egypt; and the shepherd boy David, who became Israel's greatest king.

I

The Bible's most important two son story is arguably Jacob and Esau. It's also a great youngest son story. Wily Jacob... tricking father Isaac into giving him the inheritance of his older brother. Esau's fury, causing Jacob to flee for his life to a distant land—a far country if you will. After Jacob wrestled with God, there was a reconciliation. And God gave Jacob a new name, establishing the core of Hebrew Identity. Jacob's new name of course was Israel! So picture it. A group of Scribes and Pharisees—Bible experts—hearing a parable about a man with two sons. Wouldn't the prototypical story of Isaac's two sons, Jacob and Esau, have come to mind? To hear that the younger son made an outrageous, conniving move to get the inheritance... well, what else would you expect? That's what younger sons do—what Jacob did. (So... a guy walks into a bar... The way the parable begins is a kind of formula, like when we tell a joke). A man had two sons... The Scribes and Pharisees knew these characters—they knew the story line: Two sons: the younger, a scoundrel; the elder, resentful. The plot turning on an ill-gotten inheritance.

But this story is also *unlike* the Bible's other "two son" stories. Jesus' parable features a most remarkable *father*. As predictable as the behavior of the ne'er-do-well younger son and the angry older brother might be, *nothing* about the father's behavior is expected. When the Father saw his son returning he ran to meet him at the edge of the town, threw his arms around the son, kissed him, and welcomed him back home. The boy had hoped to sign on as a hired hand. Instead he was received as a son, but more: a robe placed on his shoulders, his father's signet ring on his finger. "Get the fatted calf and let's celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" Amazing Grace! But there are *two* sons.

II

A CNN.com survey a few years ago noticed some interesting patterns in birth order. Those born first are often treated more strictly by their parents. As a result, the study claimed, firstborn children tend to be more extroverted and confident; younger siblings are more rebellious and open to new experiences. Youngest children are usually the more creative... and manipulative, the study said.

Firstborns were found to be ambitious, assertive and disciplined. Determined to succeed, they often pursue vocations that require higher education... like medicine, engineering, law—or ministry. I'm an elder brother. I imagine many of us in this sanctuary tonight are eldest born (hands?). I sympathize with how the older brother felt. In the survey firstborns reported working in jobs in government, pharmacy and science. There are a lot of these kinds of jobs in our region. Indeed, it strikes me that Washington, DC is the consummate “older brother city.” Almost every U.S. President was a firstborn son. All of our early astronauts sent into space were firstborns. I imagine all of us have a high proportion of older brothers and sisters in your congregations; and regardless of birth order, I'm confident that National Capital Presbytery has more than our fair share of older sibling types in our congregations.

The Greek word for “elder” is familiar to us: *presbuteros*, which gives us the word that describes our polity. We have a body of ruling *elders* (The Session), which is responsible for making sure that all aspect of our church's ministries are conducted decently and in order; pastors are understood to be *teaching elders*. But more than this, most of the Presbyterians I know are more like the older brother in the Parable. He was a rule keeper. Whatever few sins he committed... I'm sure they were rather boring. He didn't have time to be a creative reprobate; he worked too hard – “like a slave.” Sound familiar? The elder brother in the parable is us. We go to work even when we're not feeling well. We maintain stable relationships. We keep our promises. Show up on time. We hold down jobs we don't always like. We're responsible. And we are preoccupied with keeping our property! In so many ways this elder brother is a Presbyterian!!

III

When he learns that his younger brother has returned—music and dancing in the house—there is outrage. Simmering with anger, the older brother spurns the celebration. Refusing to enter a dinner party is a *dishonorable* way to behave toward any host; how much worse an insult when it's your own father. Yet there he remains, outside the door, casting a vote of “no-confidence” against his father's mercy. At this point in the story **both** sons have shown their father disgrace. What happens next is remarkable.

The father leaves the party, goes outside, and pleads with his older son to join the celebration... The loyal, hard-working, stay-at-home and obey-the-rules son; the sole heir to everything the father has—the remaining 66% of the estate. One day this is going to be his house. (It's in the property clause.) When the father puts the robe around the prodigal and the ring on his finger, there is a real sense in which these gifts belong to the elder brother. “Hey! That's my robe; that's my ring; those are my sandals (well, OK—he can have the sandals). That's my fatted calf. You've never even given me a puny little goat for a party. I've done everything to earn what I've got coming. This gallivanting slacker of a kid of yours doesn't deserve a thing.” Thus the elder son refuses to acknowledge his prodigal brother. “He's not *my* brother—my brother took his inheritance and threw it away. My brother is dead.”

IV

Elder siblings among us... we have insight. Nothing annoys us more than for the younger to get away with this kind of thing. The elder son felt like justice had not been done. And he wasn't wrong; the younger son *didn't* deserve the father's love and forgiveness. Teaching and ruling elders know what it is like to work like slaves in our Father's house—obeying the rules and keeping our promises while so many other members of the family of faith take a more lackadaisical approach. We have felt that resentment at Christmas and Easter watching scores if not hundreds of younger siblings returning from the far country for their bi-annual appearance at the Father's celebration.

We older siblings might need to remind ourselves of the older brother's fundamental misunderstanding. He thought that his good behavior—because he was so much better, that his moral superiority and sense of responsibility—made him worthy of the father's love. But in working so hard to earn his father's inheritance—like a slave, day after day—the older brother lost his relationship with the father, and ended up diminished, angry and self-righteous. Even though the father reminds his more responsible son that he has always been home—“All that is mine is yours,” he says—in spite of this, the son is blind to what has been his all along. Obsessed with his own good behavior, he forfeits intimacy with the father, wandering in the distant country of his own interior self-sufficiency. Jesus told this parable because the Scribes and Pharisees did this very thing in their relationship to God. And this is the perilous trap those of us who are *Presbuteroi*—elders and ministers—must avoid.

But despite the display of self-righteousness and anger, the father responds to the “presbyterian” the same way he had to the prodigal: with incredible mercy. “I still want you at the feast—because we’re celebrating *what I found*.” You see, the party wasn’t *for* the prodigal son. The Father threw the party for himself, to celebrate *his* delight in finding what was lost. This becomes especially clear when we see the parable as the third in a set of three parables in Luke 15 where the one who finds throws a celebration: a woman finds a lost coin; a shepherd finds a lost sheep. The Father’s banquet celebrates his unimaginable joy at finding a lost son. Indeed, that is what the ministry of Word and Sacrament is all about.

V

The younger brother's lost-ness is clear enough—he finds himself utterly bereft in a pigsty. It isn't difficult to make the case that those in such situations are wise to realize that they have lost their way—that they need to turn from their foolishness—what Scripture calls repentance—and go in God's direction. But the situation with the hard-working, rule-abiding elder brother is less obvious. He is also lost, even though he doesn't leave home. Indeed, the parable teaches us that it is possible to run away and get lost without being wayward, to be far from the father without ever leaving. The younger son's bad behavior alienated him; for the elder son, it was his diligence and good behavior that caused separation. It is a much more subtle, much more dangerous spiritual condition. This is a vivid picture of the anger and resentment of a dutiful, hard-working “religious” person who is so focused on what he or she does—good as it may be—that they are completely turned in on themselves. This spiritual circumstance is the one most of us elder sibling types must deal with every day. The elder brother's behavior is a picture of how the Pharisees and Scribes needed to turn from trying to be their own lord and savior and to embrace the grace of a God who longs “to seek out and to save the lost.” The point of this

parable is the generous love of a father who goes out to welcome—outside the town, and outside his house—and welcomes home two who are lost, one of them a Presbyterian.

VI

The parable ends leaving us wondering about the far-better behaved but equally alienated elder son. He has been given a gracious invitation to receive the embrace of his Father's arms. We know the younger son joins the feast. Does the elder brother come inside as well? Just who is the elder brother, anyway? In the parable he is every bit as lost as the younger son. But in the prototypical story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis the older son has a different role. This is how the story goes:

¹Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ²He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

The grumbling Scribes and Pharisees to whom Luke tells us Jesus' addressed this parable would have no doubt heard it in light of that most important of two-son stories in the Old Testament—Jacob and Esau. They'd have recalled that Jacob feared for his life because of his deceit in stealing Esau's inheritance. They would also have been mindful that it was the older brother who ran to meet Jacob, but not to kill him. Do you remember how that story ends?

⁴But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

The Pharisees couldn't have helped comparing Esau's action to that of the father in the parable: Esau threw his arms around the neck of the younger son and kissed him, just as the father did in the parable. What a contrast.

The narrative leaves the rule-keeping Pharisees with a choice: would they embrace their older brother responsibility to go out looking for prodigal sons and daughters, to seek reconciliation with wayward younger brothers and sisters? Surely they would have understood that Jesus was exhorting *them* not to stand indignantly outside the celebration of the dawning Kingdom of God, consumed by their own rule-keeping self-righteousness, but to join the Father's celebration of the lost.

Conclusion

We don't find God on our own. Not in a distant country. And not in the dark interior labyrinth of our own self-sufficiency. We are only ever found. Someone comes after us. We have an elder brother who has come looking for us—the true elder brother—The firstborn son of the Father—Jesus Christ. Taking on human flesh and foregoing his heavenly inheritance, he came from heaven to earth—to a distant country if you will—where he was stripped of his robe and his dignity in order to give us a standing and dignity that we never could merit. On the cross Jesus Christ is cast out that we might be brought in to the family of God, freely by grace. And he now invites us to join him in his ministry, as we celebrate the seeking and saving of the lost.

Nomination of Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly
National Capital Presbytery
June 20-27, 2020 – Baltimore, MD

Grace and Peace, brothers and sisters of the National Capital Presbytery!

The General Assembly is coming to Baltimore next June! The Nominating Committee will be nominating a slate of ruling and teaching elders to become commissioners and a young adult to be an advisory delegate to the Assembly. We encourage all those eligible to consider applying for one of our slots.

Nomination forms for Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly to be held in Baltimore, MD, June 20-27 are now available on the NCP website. You can access from the link provided or from the homepage, see **“224th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020)”**. There you can also find nomination forms for the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs). These forms can ONLY be submitted electronically. No paper copies will be accepted. Criteria for nominations from NCP to the General Assembly can be found [here](#).

It is the mandate of the Presbytery to nominate commissioners who reflect the theological diversity as well as the social diversity that exists in our presbytery. The information provided on these forms helps the Nominating committee assure an appropriate balance of theological diversity; clergy and lay people; male and female; all ages; racial/ethnic groups; geographical area; and congregation sizes.

- All applications should be emailed to nominating@thepresbytery.org, attached as a word document or pdf. The file should be named [LAST NAME] GAapp. All candidates must also attach a picture. [LAST NAME] GAPic
- Clergy may submit forms on their own. Letters of recommendation are not required but may be submitted if desired.
- Elders and those seeking to be YAADs will complete the form and send it electronically to their Clerk or Moderator of Session. The Clerk or Moderator shall complete and submit the form electronically after the Session has endorsed the nomination.
- At least one (and up to three) reference forms for Ruling Elders and YAADs are to be submitted electronically by the person writing the recommendation.

Transportation to the General Assembly, and room and board are reimbursed for commissioners and YAADS in accordance with General Assembly policy. A [Dependent Care Reimbursement Policy](#) was developed for commissioners and advisory delegates to the General Assembly – beginning with the 222nd GA (2016).

All forms are due by Saturday, September 28, 2019. The Nominating Committee will post the slate of commissioners and delegates online by October 29, 2019. Anyone who is not nominated at that point and wishes to be nominated from the floor must submit a completed form to the Presbytery office by November 5, two weeks before the November 19th presbytery meeting.

If you have questions about this process, please contact me at RLV@gtownpres.org or contact Sara Coe, scoe@thepresbytery.org. We anticipate a larger than usual number of applicants this year, so whether you are selected, we thank you for your willingness to serve the church in this special way.

God's Peace,

Rev. Rachel Landers Vaagenes,
NCP Nominating Committee Chair
202.644.3447 cell





**Submission of Overtures for 224th General Assembly
June 20-27, 2020
Baltimore, Maryland**

Deadlines for Submission to the Bills and Overtures
Committee of Overtures and Requests for Concurrences with
Other Presbyteries' Overtures for the 224th General
Assembly:

- a) November 30, 2019 for
 - a. amendments to the Book of Order,
 - b. overtures seeking an authoritative interpretation of the Book of Order, and
 - c. all requests for concurrences with other presbyteries' overtures amending the Book of Order or seeking an authoritative interpretation.

- b) January 31, 2020 for all other overtures and for all requests for concurrences with other presbyteries' other overtures.

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
INVITES YOU TO A**

MEDITATION & MUSIC HIKE @ ZACHARY TAYLOR PARK

**SATURDAY, JULY 13 2019
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM**

Music and meditative practices add new meaning to experiencing the outdoors. Enjoy a short hike combining simple musical and meditation exercises to enhance your connection with nature, the Divine, and your fellow hikers. No prior musical, meditation, or outdoor knowledge required. Meet at Covenant's parking lot at 3:00 pm to park and walk over.

All community arts events are free and open to the public. People of all ages and abilities are invited. People of all faith traditions and people of no faith are welcome. Our goal is to have fun making music and to foster deeper community with our neighbors.

**Church of the Covenant
2666 N Military Rd,
Arlington, VA
covenantchurcharlington.org**



Discussion with Missionaries on the Mexican Border

July 14th at 3:00pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church (5533 North 16th Street, Arlington, VA 22205)

Please join us on Sunday, July 14th at 3pm in the Trinity Presbyterian Church (Arlington) sanctuary for a conversation with Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado who currently serve as PC(USA) mission co-workers at the US/Mexico border.

Mark coordinates the Presbyterian border ministry, Frontera de Cristo, and is in D.C. as part of the Southern Border Communities Coalition's delegation to introduce their New Border Vision to congressional offices. The New Border Vision is a framework for positive and compassionate action that moves us from the myopic and harmful enforcement of the last few decades to responsive and responsible border governance for the 21st century.

Please come as you are, and invite a friend for what will be a needed discussion on a pressing issue.



BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION
BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 1, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

CONTACT:
rabbi@bethesdajewish.org
paul@newstoryleadership.org
myla.williams@gmail.com

Eight Young Israeli and Palestinian Leaders Tell Their Stories
At Forum Sponsored By
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church/Bethesda Jewish Congregation

Demonstrating the strength of their Covenant as spiritual siblings, the longest-lived of its kind in the United States, encouraging insight and understanding into the faiths of others, Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) provide a forum for sharing the stories of the eight members of the New Story Leadership Class of 2019. New Story Leadership is a US-based non profit organization that selects and trains teams of young Israeli and Palestinian leaders through workshops, seminars, cultural immersion, and team training to become agents of change, and build a better future for their communities through the power of telling their stories together.

Marking the 8th year of co-sponsorship, the free event takes place at 3:00 pm on July 14th at BHPC at 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda. Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer of BJC and the Rev. David Gray from BHPC will address members and guests and then turn the floor over to the young leaders as they share their experiences and engage in discussions with the audience.

"We are so pleased to continue our focus on, and support for, this program, bringing together young people from Israel and Palestine to engage in the difficult conversations they cannot have at home. Here, they learn from each other, share their experiences with Washington leaders, and take their knowledge back to effect change," said Rabbi Schnitzer

Associate Pastor BHPC Chris Foster underscores the church-synagogue partnership as providing a living example of proactive tolerance in an increasingly intolerant society. "We welcome these young leaders and the courage they display in sharing their experiences; not

Page two

only to help inform decision makers, but to develop and implement initiatives to find peaceful solutions to their conflicts," she declared.

The eight NSL students are: Eran Nissan, Israel; Hiba Yazbek, Palestinian citizen of Israel; Lana Shaheen, Gaza City; Gilad Sevitt, Jerusalem; Mohammad Arafat, Gaza; Thawra Abukhdier, Palestinian American from Jerusalem; Dana Amir, Israel; Mohammad Ahmad, Palestine. Reservations are appreciated to 301-469-8636 or www.bethesdajewish.org.

BJC is more than a synagogue. It is an inspiring, inclusive community that welcomes all. BHPC is a vibrant, caring community that draws and energizes people to grow in faith, serving together to help heal the world, including through interfaith witness. BJC and BHPC are unique in sharing sacred space and providing a welcoming environment for people to come together to listen to different perspectives.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The 2019 PC(USA)'s Convocation for Communities of Color at the Big Tent

Join us for a celebration filled with
worship, music, conversation, and prayer!

Wednesday July 31, 12 noon to Thursday August 1, 1:00 p.m.
Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD

The Convocation theme *Seeing Red: Movements to Wholeness*, will focus on the varied experiences, struggles, joys, and triumphs for people of color in our denomination. This is an event designed by people of color to focus on people of color as we journey to wholeness.

Register Now

Participants are encouraged to wear red attire to the
Heritage Dinner and Celebration on July 31!

For more information contact:

Rev. Shanea D. Leonard, Associate for Gender & Racial Justice
Shanea.leonard@pcusa.org



Presbyterian Mission
**Racial Equity & Women's
Intercultural Ministries**



SEPTEMBER 11

A STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION

Vulnerability and Courage: The Practice of Stewardship

This is an introductory workshop that explores the practice of stewardship through the lens of researcher Brené Brown. Dr. Brown, a practicing Christian and professor of Social Work, has published her research on shame, vulnerability, and the practice of courage that leads to “wholeheartedness”. Her data conclude that persons who experience “wholeheartedness” strengthen the communities to which they belong, including congregations.



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC



**Led by the Revs. Roy
Howard and Shelby
Etheridge Harasty,
pastors, Saint Mark
Presbyterian Church**

**Registration
Required**
([click here](#))

**September 11, 2019
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Saint Mark
Presbyterian Church,
North Bethesda, MD**

Join us for a

'BIG SING!'



With John Bell, hymn writer & social justice leader



Explore songs familiar and unfamiliar from around the world!

What we sing shapes what we believe. For example, the image of Jesus as 'gentle, meek and mild' is a hangover from Victorian hymns. But song can tell the full story of Jesus - and inspire our faith and our work for social justice.

The Big Sing is meant for everybody, especially those who were told in their early days that they 'couldn't hold a tune.' A great opportunity to feed your soul and learn from this energetic, enthusiastic faith leader!

John Bell, a minister in the Church of Scotland and a resource worker for the Iona Community, works throughout the world on liturgy, spirituality and social justice. His music has been translated and published across the globe. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Hymn Society of the USA and Canada, and last year was awarded the Thomas Cranmer Medal by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7 – 9 pm

Refreshments available at 6:30 am

at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program



The
**NEW YORK AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Expressing God's Love, Engaging in God's Justice

1313 New York Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-393-3700



THE PULSE OF

generosity

VITAL SIGNS OF
A HEALTHY STEWARD

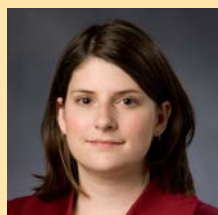


Stewardship
Kaleidoscope
Real Tools for Real Ministry

September 30 – October 2, 2019

San Diego, California

Catamaran Resort



Keynote

Melissa Spas
*Managing Director for
the Lake Institute on
Faith & Giving*



Keynote

Eric Law
*Author of "Holy Currencies:
6 Blessings for Sustainable
Missional Ministries"*



Worship Leader

Diane Moffett
*Executive Director of
the Presbyterian
Mission Agency*

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



generosity

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:

\$300 on or before August 1, 2019

\$325 after August 1, 2019

Catamaran Resort in San Diego, CA

Conference Room Rate of \$169/night

Conference includes:

Four plenary sessions

Four workshops (30+ to choose from)

Two worship services

Dinner Monday

Lunch Tuesday

Conference schedule:

Monday, September 30

Registration (12-2 p.m.)

Conference begins (2 p.m.)

Plenary 1, Workshop Session 1

Dinner, Worship

Tuesday, October 1

Plenary 2, Workshop Session 2

Lunch

Workshop Session 3, Plenary 3,

Free Evening

Wednesday, October 2

Plenary 4, Workshop Session 4, Closing Worship

Conference ends at 12:30

Workshops:

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

Teaching and Preaching Biblical Stewardship

Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Asset-Based Stewardship in the Small Church

Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation

Practicing Generosity of Body, Mind and Spirit: Loving Kindness

Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter with The Presbytery of Carlisle and Certified Yoga Instructor

Stewardship Across Cultures: A panel discussion

Neil Bullock, Stewardship Project Coordinator, Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA and Jerry Cannon, Pastor of C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC and Jonah So, Lead Pastor of the English Ministry of Korean Presbyterian Church of Winchester, NY

AirBnB and the Early Church: a Theology of Possessions for the Sharing Economy

J. C. Austin, Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of 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, Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD

When enough is enough: the sufficiency of God's blessing

David Loleng, Director of Church Financial Literacy and Leadership at the Presbyterian Foundation

Active Community Stewardship for Hunger and the Environment

Phoebe Morad, Lutherans Restoring Creation

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



**YOU ARE
INVITED TO**

RACIAL AWARENESS AND MINDFULNESS 2019

JOIN US FOR ALLYSHIP TRAINING

**"ALLYSHIP" AS AN ACTIVE WAY OF LIFE, THAT UTILIZES BRIDGE-BUILDING TO
ENSURE EQUALITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND INCLUSION FOR EVERYONE.**

**10.19.19
10AM-5PM**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
400 I STREET SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20024**

**A DAY OF NETWORKING,
TRAINING AND EMPOWERING.**



TRAINING FACILITATOR

WHITNEY PARNELL

WWW.SERVICENEVERSLEEPS.ORG

**SERVICE NEVER SLEEPS
CEO & CO-FOUNDER**

REGISTER: [HTTPS://RAF2019ALLYSHIP.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://raf2019allyship.eventbrite.com)



HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

This workshop will help you . . .

- Learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation – how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community.
- Learn how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious.
- Gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities.
- Learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, manage reactivity, and overcome sabotage.
- Discover how leaders can function as the congregation's immune system.
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, options, and the future.
- Based on the insights of family systems theory developed by Dr. Peter Steinke & Dr. Edwin Friedman

Registration Details:

Cost: \$75/person (\$60 for each additional person from the same congregation.)
Registration fees will increase by \$20 on October 17, 2019.

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

Friday: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Light Dinner, Breakfast & Lunch included

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Road

North Bethesda, MD 20852

Sponsored by

NCP Ministry Relations Team

Led by Richard Blackburn, Executive Director
of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

Who Will Benefit...

- Pastors and other church staff, lay leaders, all congregation members.
- Anyone interested in enhancing their capacity to manage self in a non-anxious and responsible way, whether in the church, the home, the workplace, or the community

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Contact Rev. Juli Wilson-Black at 703.931.7344 if you are unable to register online.

National Capital Presbytery Communion Service Display at Dumbarton House

National Capital Presbytery has lent its historic silver communion service to Dumbarton House, the Headquarters of the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America to be part of an exhibition series this summer. The communion service was donated in the early eighteenth century by a Presbyterian elder, Ninian Beall, to the Presbyterian church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. It ultimately found its way to the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church. When that congregation dissolved, the service became the property of National Capital Presbytery. Dumbarton House is located at 2715 Q St., N.W., Washington, DC. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Here is a link to its website: <http://dumbartonhouse.org/>.

THE EXCHANGE



An exciting exhibition series, *The Exchange*, is designed to present two items from history in a way that engages visitors and helps them reflect on issues over time.

The Exchange 2019|2, the sixth in the series, features a rarely-exhibited silver communion service (1707) that help start the Presbyterian Church in America – on loan from the National Capital Presbytery, and a printing of *The Old Silver of American Churches* (1913) in which the NSCDA documented this service over a century ago. They will be on display until August 18th, 2019.

Job Description: Adaptive Change Apprentice

Your Presbytery is launching a 12-month program focusing on the development of Adaptive Change Leadership skills, in service to the adaptive challenges of our congregations. Initially eight of our congregations will be going through a brief assessment process, after which Jim Kitchens and Deborah Wright, consultants from PneuMatrix, will guide these congregations through the discernment and implementation process based on each congregation's assessment results.

We are looking for eight members of presbytery interested in serving as Adaptive Change Apprentices. Each apprentice will be assigned to one of the congregations, for an on-the-job year of training in Adaptive Change Leadership and Positive Deviance skills. The apprenticeship is offered without pay, but all study materials will be supplied. For a one year cycle the apprentice will meet with and help guide their assigned church toward a decision about the nature of its future. The apprentice will: (estimated at 4-6 hours/month time commitment on average, avoiding undo commitments during Lent or Advent)

- Submit MBTI results- if you know them, or take a short online version.
- Meet with the church leadership team, engaging in each consult they have with a principal of PneuMatrix (generally one 90-minute meeting, monthly)
- Participate in a monthly cohort meeting (some on site, some by skype) with the other apprentices, building adaptive change skills using a modified case study approach
- Complete all assigned readings in preparation for apprentice cohort meetings
- Make one informal roundtable presentation to the cohort about your engagement
- Write a short case study summary of your engagement at the end of the year.

At the end of the Apprenticeship, you will be qualified for consideration to work solo as an Adaptive Change Agent on a new engagement of discernment within the presbytery. Authority for these potential assignments will rest with the Presbytery staff or appropriate committees.

What qualities make for a good Apprentice?

Emotional intelligence, adaptability, intuition, a clear sense of boundaries, and the ability to reside in the unknown for extended periods are all crucial qualities for an Adaptive Change leader. Adaptive Change and Positive Deviance practices require radical contextuality, clear honesty and transparency, as well as a high tolerance for risk and failure. It is hard, often intense and very rewarding work.

If you think you'd like to be considered as one of our Adaptive Change Apprentices please complete our one page application form (you can type it online or print/handwrite/scan the application). Please email it to Deborah Wright at avalondlw@aol.com. Note: If your own congregation is going through the Adaptive Change process, you can be an apprentice, but you will not be assigned to your church. This position is open to teaching and ruling elders.