

Pastoral Concerns

Prayers for the Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, co-pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon and his family – Stephens' mother, Carolynn, died peacefully January 19th, in San Antonio, TX, after years of living with Alzheimer's Disease.

Prayers for the **Rev. Patrick Jackson**, Chaplain, on the death of his father, Rev. Cal Jackson.

S. David Chambers, an honorably retired member of our Presbytery, passed January 15th. Dave is a truly historic figure in that he was a renowned Navy chaplain and, in his retirement, continued to be very influential in ministry. Please keep his widow, Betty, and their family in your prayers.

With sadness, we inform you of the death of **the Rev. Kermit Johnson, H.R.** Please lift the Johnson Family in your prayers. Kermit died early this morning, January 9th, in St. Paul, MN. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Please remember his wife, the Rev. Lynn Johnson, HR and their family in your prayers.

With sadness, we inform the Presbytery of the death of the **Rev. Tom Davidson (HR)**, age 96, passed into the Church Triumphant on Monday, January 6. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Libby, three daughters, Debbie, Linda and Kristine, and seven grandchildren. Daughter Susan predeceased him. Rev. Davidson pastored churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee and served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was Executive Presbyter for Guerrant Presbytery (now Transylvania) in Eastern Kentucky and Lexington Presbytery (now Shenandoah) in Virginia. He was the pastor at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in NCP before retiring and working as a substance abuse counselor. In more recent years Tom wrote extensively about the Holy Spirit. A celebration of life was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, VA, January 18th. Please remember the Davidson Family in your prayers.

Prayers for Western Presbyterian Church - from Pastor Laura Cunningham: ... with great sadness from the corner of 24th and G Streets to confirm an incident of violence (**January 14th**) yesterday afternoon. As you may have heard in news reports, a man was stabbed outside our 24th St. entrance just as Miriam's Kitchen was opening at 2:30 p.m.

We remain in prayer for the victim and the suspect and those who love them, for the Miriam's Kitchen and Western Church staffs, as well as for all who live, work, and study around this corner in Foggy Bottom. This incident particularly highlights the traumatic vulnerability of our neighbors experiencing homelessness and the significant impact of shelter in sustaining life.

I've been touched by the response of our community and presbytery reaching out in concern; the session moderator at Northminster Presbyterian Church let me know that they have been praying for us.

Western Church remains a space for God's life-giving, love-sharing Spirit. Although our sacred space has been desecrated by an act of violence, we remain centered in a God whose love is stronger than hate, whose light is stronger than darkness, and whose life is stronger than death. I have been in conversations regarding how other communities of faith have responded to acts of violence in their midst. We will act to reclaim our witness to God's love and peace at work, not just for ourselves as a church, but as an invitation and on behalf of those impacted in our Foggy Bottom community.

Joys



APCE Award Winner - SUSTAIN- Life Achievement Priscilla Andre-Colton

Priscilla began her career as a church educator before she even knew there was such a thing. While still in junior high she prompted the youth group in her small rural church to volunteer to serve as Sunday school teachers for the summer to give the regular teachers a season off. After moving to Florida and getting involved at Venice Presbyterian Church her pastor encouraged her to check out the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. There she reconnected with her passion and calling to Christian education.

Priscilla served churches in North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. She served on the Board of Trustees at Union Presbyterian Seminary; the PC(USA) Certification Committee; the Committee on Ministry of National Capital Presbytery; the Equipping Committee of Pittsburgh Presbytery; Youth Council of Suwannee Presbytery; the Educator Group of National Capital Presbytery. Service to APCE includes East Region Representative, the Advocate Committee, Secretary, and Annual Event Co-director.

In her words, “my greatest joy was spending a week with Sonja Stewart learning about Children and Worship and then implementing it in my church. I still enjoy telling and showing the stories to children and adults and watching the wonder.” She also loved organizing and writing curriculum for workshop rotation model Sunday school in two churches and designing intergenerational special events. She is the first to admit that none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her husband, Todd, and her two daughters, Caitlin and Erin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minister Members of National Capital Presbytery: Please complete the Annual Salary Report form if you haven't already sent it in. Reports should be submitted by February 28. Any terms of call that are part of another report or contract approved since October 1, 2019 does not need to be submitted using this form. **CHECK YOUR EMAIL, forms will be resent later this week. If you have not received a form, contact comadmin@thepresbytery.org.**

The deadline for clerks of sessions to submit their church's **2019 Statistical Report** to General Assembly is **Feb. 3, 2020**. Contact Jan Moody, Assistant to the Stated Clerk, at jmoody@thepresbytery.org, if you have any questions.

Travel to Israel and Palestine on a pilgrimage and study tour, October 9-19, 2020. Join others from National Capital Presbytery for this trip, led by Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick, pastor at Grace, Springfield, and Rev. Susan Wilder, interim pastor at Kirkwood, Springfield. Travelers will walk in the land of the Bible beside those who live in the land today. Visiting places of Jesus' life and ministry and having conversations with Israelis and Palestinians, the group will consider what it means to be faithful witnesses to Christ in this time. Price: \$3,650, double occupancy, includes round-trip airfare from Dulles, lodging, and meals. See flyer in this Thursday Mail; for more information and brochure, contact Susan at wildersus@gmail.com or Ben at ben@gracepresby.org.