

***THURSDAY
MAILING***



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

November 9, 2023



In this edition

November Birthday Greetings

Pastoral Concerns/Announcements

From the Desk of

David Baer, Stated Clerk

Inaugural Symposium of the Center for Excellence in Christian Education

*November 30-December 1 – **Union Presbyterian Seminary***

Concerts from Kirkwood Presents

The Commonwealth Brass Quintet

*December 16 – **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church***

A New Creation Bible & Church Music Conference 2024

July 21-27, 2024 - Registration opens December 1



November Birthday Greetings

Paul Bauer, HR

Bob Bell, HR

Jacob Bolton

Cameron Byrd, HR

Saul Cardona-Morales, HR

Hun Jung Cho

Carla Gorrell, HR

Chien Di Hung

Dave Jeltema

Madeline Jervis, HR

Mary Beth Lawrence

Stella Lee

Patrick McElwaine

Nancy Neal

Stan Ott, HR

Lisa Rzepka, HR

Jim Sirbaugh, HR

Tad Wicker

***From the staff of
National Capital Presbytery
david, dina, heather, john,
lajuan, tara and tempest***



Pastoral Concerns:

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of the **Rev. Dr. William F. May** on October 27, 2023. Dr. May founded and chaired the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University where he served from 1966-1980. Dr. May's wisdom, compassion, and scholarship will be long remembered. The Rev. Dr. May served as a parish associate at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church.

We report the death of **The Rev. Theodore Charles Sperduto "Ted"** was born September 26, 1925, in Somerville, MA and died, at 98, on October 11, 2023 in Springfield, VA. He lived a life of service, joy, and spiritual strength, with an uncanny knack for making others see the best in themselves. His charisma, hope, and equanimity in life inspired church members, friends, acquaintances, and even devout cynics, to view life's mysteries and exaltations as gifts to cherish. He is survived by his three sons, Gary (Susan), Kim (Marsha), and Paul (Jody); his nine grandchildren Adam, Sarah (John), Paul (Erica), Isabella (Andy), Charlie, Sophie, Luke, Maria, and Will (Claire), and seven great grandchildren. The family has not yet announced funeral plans.

Announcements:

The members of the **Church of the Redeemer** cordially invite you to join us for our 65th Anniversary, celebrating 65 years of ministry at 1423 Girard St, NE, Washington, DC 20017. The worship service and reception will be held at the church on noon **Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.** The service will also be streamed live on Zoom and YouTube. For further details please contact the church office at 202- 832-0095 or go to Redeemer's website at <http://www.redeemerpresbydc.org>

Northminster Presbyterian Church invites you to its Fall Bazaar on Saturday, **November 18, 2023, from 9 am to 3 pm.** There will be a large variety of items for sale, a silent auction, and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you.

Attention Specialized and Member-at-Large Minister Members:

It's that time of year to submit your Annual Report and Housing Allowance Request (if applicable). The deadline is Wednesday, November 1, 2023. You should have received an email with the forms from Dina Bickel, NCP's Administrative Coordinator. If you have not, contact Dina dbickel@thepresbytery.org

A parish associate is a specialized teaching elder, at-large, or honorably retired teaching elder member of National Capital Presbytery who wishes to associate with a particular congregation. Does your congregation have one? If so, the parish associate relationship requires approval and/or renewal every year. The form may be found here - https://thepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Parish_Associate_Policy-Form_NCP.pdf
Questions? Ask Dina Bickel – dbickel@thepresbytery.org

We reaffirmed that all Clergy and Certified Christian Educators must attend a “Healthy Boundaries” training within one year of being received by the Presbytery and renewed every three years. An Online Healthy Boundary Training through the Convergence Learning Platform FaithLead will be available in an on-demand format by which clergy and educators can access the course 24/7 and complete it at their own pace. To register: Complete the form [here](#). You will receive an automated response saying that I will send a link to register for the course. Once the course is completed, send your certificate to Dina Bickel. Questions? dbickel@thepresbytery.org

The Stewardship Committee of NCP is not hosting a planned giving or year-end giving event. GOOD NEWS! We have several offerings on our resource page from previous events. Visit - <https://thepresbytery.org/resources-for-congregations/stewardship-workshops-webinars-events/> for a complete list. You can also find all our taped events on NCP’s YouTube Channel - [National Capital Presbytery - YouTube](#)



Hanover Christmas

December 8 & 9

<https://www.camphanover.org/hanover-christmas/>

A candlelit trail winds through the woods, transporting you back in time. Along your journey, meet other travelers, shepherds, kings, and angels. Immerse yourself in the greatest

story ever told...Stay overnight and experience Camp Hanover's hospitality, which includes a holiday brunch the following morning.



Winter Camp

December 28-30

<https://www.camphanover.org/winter-camp/>

Sign up your child in grades 5-12 for this exciting two-night minicamp at Camp Hanover. Enjoy favorite camp activities—like archery, climbing wall, and crafts—in the winter. And no

Camp Hanover visit is complete without songs around a campfire. Campers will spend most of the camp outside enjoying creation and nature. From cookouts, to hikes, to our annual bonfire, this is a not-to-miss event with a winter twist! Campers will have a cozy place to sleep each night in our heated longhouses.



Confirmation Retreat

February 23-25

<https://www.camphanover.org/confirmation-retreat/>

Bring your confirmation class to Camp Hanover for a time of fellowship, fun, and faith at our Confirmation Retreat. Retreat leader Pastor Adam Bowling will guide participants in exploring

the theme Imagine, based on Romans 12:9-21, during this exciting event.



The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps.

- Proverbs 16:9

Dear Friends,

As the proverb I've quoted above reminds us, God has a way of co-opting or upending our plans. Moses had planned to live out his life as a shepherd in exile when God spoke to him from the burning bush and called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery to freedom. Esther expected to live out her days as queen quietly, but Mordecai helped her discern God's providential appointment of her to such a high position for the salvation of her people. Paul set out for Damascus to put the followers of Jesus to death, and God led him to join them instead. The witness of the scriptures shows us that it is foolish to assume human plans and expectations have the final word.

Someone recently asked me, "What does a typical week look like for a stated clerk?" I laughed as I replied, "There is no typical week! It's always different." I can testify that a pastor's life is much the same. You're called to the hospital or the funeral home. A colleague in crisis reaches out for your help. Your carefully prepared sermon is overtaken by world events. If God's surprises did not bring me fulfillment, I don't think I would have lasted in the church!

Nevertheless, much as I welcome this serendipity, I also value creating basic structures to guide and order my work. It is tiresome to feel as though you are always breaking trail, and it is useless to do so when you are repeatedly making the same journey. It is in that spirit that I offer the list below. It is adapted from a guide I developed with the clerk of session at the church I served, and it covers many of the basic tasks that sessions need to attend to each year. You may have to adapt it to your context—for example, if you use a fiscal year other than the calendar year, or if you elect officers at a special meeting, rather than the annual meeting—but it may help you as you plan the agenda for each month.

January & February: Approve annual statistical report, elect presbytery commissioners (including alternates), authorize celebration of the Lord's Supper through the following January, schedule annual congregational meeting.

March & April: Train, examine, and ordain/install officers elected by the congregation. Confirm completion of financial review for prior calendar year, and document insurance coverage in the minutes.

May & June: Organize session roles and responsibilities for the coming program year.

July & August: Quieter months. Business as needed, or special gathering for study, planning.

September & October: Approve church school curriculum and teachers. Review membership roll and identify those who need to be contacted about their membership status.

November & December: Review pastor's terms of call. Approve, document housing allowance. Remove inactive members from the active roll. Adopt budget for the coming year.

I recommend that moderators and clerks may develop their own local guide for the session with these and other tasks, to ensure that they are carried out regularly, and with a rhythm that members of the session come to learn and expect. God inevitably surprises all of us along the way, but we can and should make life easier for ourselves by planning for the routine guideposts we pass year in and year out.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk



**CONCERTS FROM KIRKWOOD
PRESENTS**

**THE
COMMONWEALTH
BRASS QUINTET**

Chuck Seipp (Trumpet), Gil Hoffer (Trumpet),
Rick Lee (French Horn),
Greg Hammond, (Trombone), and Jon Voth (Tuba)
performing a program of Christmas music

DECEMBER

16

3 PM

KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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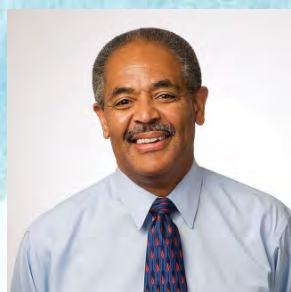
CONFERENCE 2024

JULY 21-27, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS ON OR AROUND DEC. 1, 2023



REV. SHANNON JOHNSON KERSHNER
SPEAKMAN CHAIR OF PREACHING



REV. DR. BRIAN BLOUNT
BIBLE STUDY LEADER