

***THURSDAY  
MAILING***



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

***January 25, 2024***



## **In this edition . . . .**

### **Announcements**

#### **Message from the General Presbyter**

*John Molina-Moore*

#### **From the Desk of**

*David Baer, Stated Clerk*

*Heather Deacon, Dir. Of Business Affairs*

*Tara Spuhler McCabe, Dir. Of Congregational Dev. & Mission*

#### **Letter from the Dismantling Racism Team of NCP**

*Survey for sessions and clergy of NCP*

#### **Dismantling Racism Training**

*led by Service Never Sleeps*

*February 6 & 7 – Zoom*

#### **NCP's Annual Continuing Ed and Gathering Retreat**

*"Leading with Imagination: Flexing your Ordination Vows*

*March 11-13, 2024 – Cambridge, Maryland*

#### **NCP's Annual Continuing Ed and Gathering Retreat**

*Fireside Chats with NCP Staff*

*March 11-13, 2024 – Cambridge, Maryland*

#### **Harmony for Humanity**

*Benefit Concert*

*February 4 – Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church*

#### **Crooked Steeple Literary Festival**

*Featuring Jeffrey Blout*

*February 24– Falls Church Presbyterian Church*

#### **2024 Inspiring Event – "the Chalk Guy"**

*February 24 – Vienna Presbyterian Church*

#### **Concerts from Kirkwood presents**

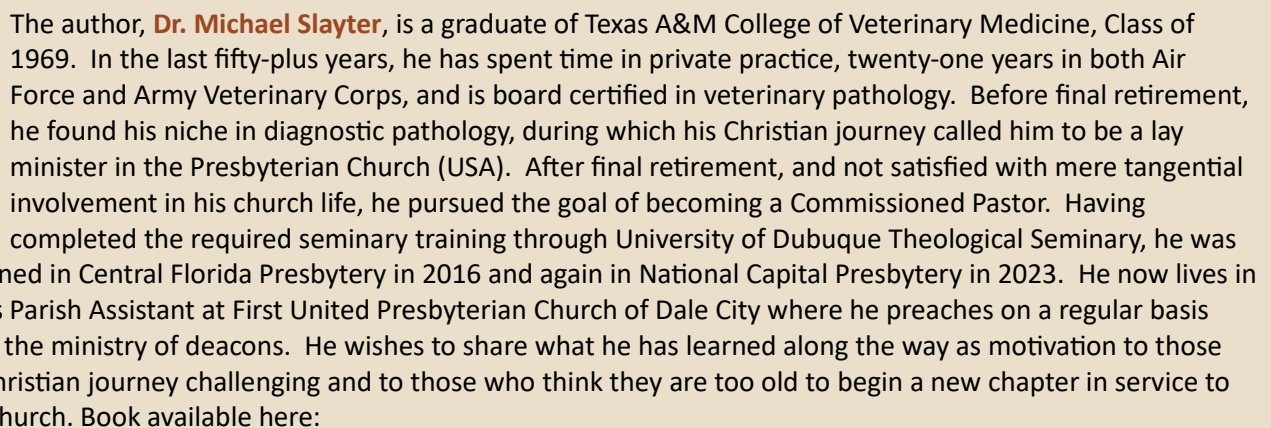
*John Bullard on Classical Banjo*

*March 2 – Kirkwood Presbyterian Church*

## National Capital Presbytery

**The Wilhelmina and Stanley Jashemski Memorial Scholarship Fund** - Wilhelmina and Stanley Jashemski, long-time members of ***Takoma Park Presbyterian Church***, sponsored a Sunday school forum in which young adults could explore their faith in an intellectually challenging environment. Their shared commitment to encourage the development of people with potential for inspired, enlightened leadership is reflected in the goals and purposes of the Fund. The Stanley A. and Wilhelmina Jashemski Memorial Scholarship at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church provide financial assistance for students of outstanding intellectual ability as evidenced by prior academic performance, and significant religious commitment as evidenced by formal membership in a religious body, regular participation in its worship life, and active involvement in its service ministry. Information about the scholarship and the application can be found at <https://www.takomaparkpc.org/jashemski-scholarship>. **Applications are due each year on February 15.** For questions, please contact [Jashemski@takomaparkpc.org](mailto:Jashemski@takomaparkpc.org)

This scholarship offers half-tuition during a student's freshman and sophomore years at R-MC and full-tuition during the junior and senior years. The Bailey Program includes weekly meetings for vocational discernment, creating a strong, supportive peer group. During a student's tenure in the program, there are many opportunities to visit with Theology School representatives, spend time with persons in a variety of professional ministry roles, and reflect on a personal sense of call. There are two internship opportunities, one for academic credit and one with a financial stipend. Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia enrolls over 1,500 undergraduate students who pursue their academic paths in fifty-five areas of study. The oldest United Methodist College in continuous operation, we are proud to be home to the Bailey Scholars program helping to prepare a new generation of leaders in the Church. Online Bailey Scholar applications are being accepted now, with a deadline of February 5, 2024. The program is open to Christian students of any denomination or Christian tradition. Learn more at <http://www.rmc.edu/academics/pre-ministerial> or by contacting the Rev. Kendra Grimes, Director of the Bailey Scholars Program, at [kendragrimes@rmc.edu](mailto:kendragrimes@rmc.edu) or (804)752-7374.



[https://www.amazon.com/dp/1917054580?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_em\\_ud\\_dp\\_ZEVZH4KWJEQY6QV1ND98\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1917054580?ref=cm_sw_r_em_ud_dp_ZEVZH4KWJEQY6QV1ND98_1)



**SAVE THE DATE - NCP LEADERSHIP TRAINING – April 27, 2024**



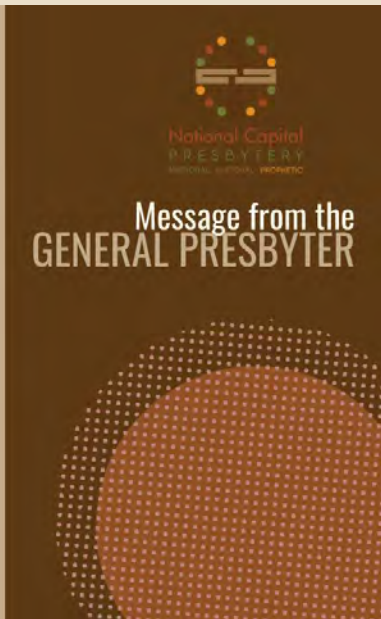
**Confirmation Retreat - February 23-25**

<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.



**John Molina-Moore**



## Summary of the 315<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of National Capital Presbytery

The National Capital Presbytery held a stated meeting via Zoom teleconference on January 24. The Moderator, **Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon**, convened the meeting, and the co-chairs of the Commission on Ministry, **Rev. Carla Gorrell** and **Rev. Juli Wilson-Black**, led the assembly in its opening devotions.

During the meeting the presbytery:

- Recognized transitions and milestones in our community:
  - New member of NCP, the **Rev. Koon Im Choi**, serving as Stated Supply Pastor of Wheaton Community Presbyterian Church.
  - The upcoming ordination of Candidate **Samuel Sarpong**, called to serve as Designated Pastor of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. The service will be held at Ebenezer on Saturday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m.
  - A celebration of NCP Director of Communications **LaJuan Quander's** 40 years of service to the presbytery, featuring a video with greetings from past colleagues.
- Approved a redevelopment plan for Clarendon Presbyterian Church that will provide affordable housing that is specifically welcoming to LGBTQIA+ seniors, as well as a gathering place for the congregation. Clarendon's pastor, the **Rev. Alice Tewell**, shared the congregation's excitement at discerning a faithful way to put its property in the service of mission in the community.

A video presentation summarizing the redevelopment plan can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/t2WeChz5J34>

Presbytery's final approval comes at the end of a thorough exploration over more than three years between Clarendon Presbyterian Church, NCP's Administrative Commission on Congregational Property, and the Congregational Development Commission, which facilitated discernment through its administration and interpretation of the Church Assessment Tool (CAT).

If your church would like to explore creative and faithful projects like this one, please contact presbytery staff, so that we can help your congregation to step out in faith in this way!

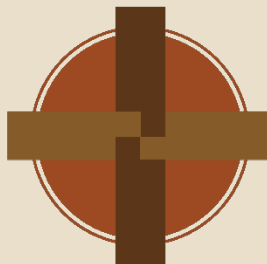
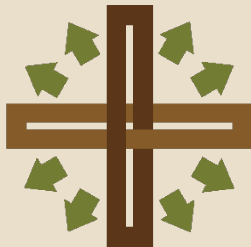
- Established an Administrative Commission for Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, whose session's members have become too few in number to govern the congregation. The Administrative Commission will visit with the outgoing and remaining members of the session and will exercise the authority of the presbytery in ways aimed at reconstituting the session.
- Approved an exception allowing the Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, currently serving as Stated Supply Pastor, to become the installed Pastor at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church (Book of Order, G-2.0504c).
- Approved a waiver of the minimum time period of two years for two persons under care of the presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Luke Bultena and A. R. (Flanny) Flannigan (Book of Order, G-2.0602, G-2.0610).

- Declined to forward a proposed amendment to the Book of Order to the General Assembly for consideration.

The NCP Leadership Council has adopted the following schedule for upcoming stated meetings:

- March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. – virtual, via Zoom
- May 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. – in person, at National Presbyterian Church
- September 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. – in person, at National Presbyterian Church
- November 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. – virtual, via Zoom

Grace and Peace,  
David Baer, Stated Clerk





Greetings!

The first month of the year is interesting. We spend our time reflecting on and closing out last year while getting excited about the possibilities of the year we are starting. Don't believe me? The evidence is in what is consuming our time right now: budgets, annual meetings, officer trainings, and statistical reports. One foot still in 2023 as 2024 gains momentum. If I'm honest, that 2024 momentum is what propels me to finish up 2023!

One of the things I am excited about is our ***Annual Continuing Education Retreat***. The theme this year of ***"Leading With Imagination: Flexing Your Ordination Vows"*** feels relevant for the moment so many in our congregations are facing. Our pews and our budgets repeatedly tell us that we can't keep doing business as usual – but we haven't all figured out exactly what that means for our specific ministry context. We've been busy planning a retreat that will equip you and your leaders for today and tomorrow and I'm specifically excited about two conversations our staff will be inviting attendees to participate in:

***Property: Facing What We Don't Say Out Loud with Imagination and Love***

This Fireside Chat provides an opportunity for honest dialogue around congregational properties. If you think this is another invitation to explore redevelopment, you're wrong. We'll be examining the tenants that hold up our properties and how imagination and our call to love our neighbor can shape the future.

***Flexing Intelligence and Energy: Responding to the Volunteer Leadership Crisis***

This Fireside Chat explores the implications of the volunteer shortage. How do we respond to a lack of people volunteering for our Sessions and Committees? What are the implications? We don't have the answers, but we invite you to flex your intelligence and energy by joining us in the conversation that impacts our denomination at all levels.

These topics are important, and they intersect with each other. I can't think of a single congregation in our Presbytery who doesn't have something to contribute to the dialogue. We are genuinely excited to engage with you around them! I hope you'll join us at these fireside chats taking place at the **NCP Continuing Education Retreat, March 11 – 13!** Registration is open: [NCP Events | National Capital Presbytery \(thepresbytery.org\)](https://www.thepresbytery.org/events)

Blessings,

Heather





Greetings People,

This past week 12 members of NCP attended and worked at the Matthew25 Summit in Atlanta, GA. We were hosted at New Life Presbyterian Church <https://www.newlifepresatl.com> This particular congregation is a current example of living out the Gospel through a lens of Matthew25.

The regular practices within the life of this congregation are Vibrant Worship that engages all generations, Lifelong Learning opportunities (in study and service), and constantly paying attention to the needs of the surrounding community and being flexible with connecting to those needs. I am highlighting this particular congregation because our denomination took a risk in having the Matthew25 Summit with a congregation! Rev. Dr. Diana Moffett (President and Executive Director of Presbyterian Mission Agency) stated in her welcome, “in-person attendance was so that, we as a connectional church could invest in ourselves”. By investing in ourselves, we were able to honor how a congregation of people SHARE their building CONSTANTLY. Our attendance required the children’s school at New Life to move to another church for the week. This happened because of their partnerships throughout the community. New Life and PCUSA took a risk in making this moment work TOGETHER.

The content was fulfilling. Worship was energizing. Seeing the collection of Presbyterians from all over the country was shocking in a good way. This was a SOLD OUT ticketed Presbyterian Conference! You will hear more about what the 12 have gained from this experience. For now, here is my question: What can we do together to INVEST in ourselves so that we are able to be an IMPACT of Jesus Christ with others?

I suggest THREE simple acts. First, please be sure your Clerk of Session and your Pastors have filled out the **Dismantling Racism Survey** (contact Dir. Of Communication LaJuan Quander if you have not seen this email). Your responses will impact how our presbytery organizes the resources for your congregations as we live in Matthew25. Second, in February the **HOLYCOW! Landscape** link will be sent to all current Minister Members of NCP and Registered Commissioners of our Presbytery Meetings. NCP participated in this survey 10 years ago. It supported how we organized priorities as a Presbytery. It is time to check in and update your input. Third, Clergy and church professionals attend our **Con-Ed Event** this March. We will Flex our ordination vows with Imagination, Energy, Love, and Intelligence facing how our properties and congregations are relevant today!

Congregational Vitality (Worship and Discipleship), Eradicating Poverty (Impact and Service), Dismantling Systematic Racism (Partnerships and Relationships) are the three legs lifted up in Matthew25. I am grateful to be with congregations who stand and sit well on this stool of ministry.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

January 25, 2023



Dear sessions and clergy of National Capital Presbytery,

The peace of Christ be with you!

I'm writing on behalf of NCP's Dismantling Racism Team (DRT). We are conducting a survey of the sessions and clergy of all NCP congregations to help gauge where congregations are in their antiracism efforts and what assistance they may need to further advance racial justice and healing. Responses to this survey will inform how the DRT will seek to support congregations in the coming year, including fulfilling the new Book of Order requirement (G-3.0106) that all sessions adopt an antiracism policy.

We appreciate that each congregation has its own unique context and makeup and invite each session and each clergy member on staff to respond to these questions as appropriate to your setting. We ask that each session and each clergy member submit their responses **by January 30<sup>th</sup>**. You can access the survey through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/a8KDi5ayg2>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me ([patjackson@interwovencongregations.org](mailto:patjackson@interwovencongregations.org) or 301-658-4457), DRT co-chair Miriam Dewhurst ([miriam.dewhurst@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.dewhurst@gmail.com) or 571-228-9551) or NCP staff LaJuan Quander or Tara Spuhler McCabe.

Thank you for your participation in this survey and the steps you are taking to promote racial justice and healing across our Presbytery.

Peace,

*Pat Jackson*

Rev. Pat Jackson  
Dismantling Racism Team Co-Chair

THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM  
OF NCP INVITE YOU TO

# ALLY TRAINING 2024

led by Service Never Sleeps



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE  
**Dismantling Racism**

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

(Training consists of TWO sessions.

Your registration confirms you will attend both)

**Tuesday, Feb. 6 & Wednesday, Feb. 7**  
**(5:30 pm to 9:00 pm)**

**via Zoom**

**Open to CLERGY and members of NCP  
congregations, communities and friends**

Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of Service Never Sleeps, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the CLAIM acronym: Care, Learn, Act, Influence, and Maintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our time together on Zoom will involve breakouts for practice together in pairs and small groups intermittently throughout our time of learning, so come ready to "try on" the Ally Training strategies of Service Never Sleeps.

**[Register HERE](#)**



# NCP'S ANNUAL CONTINUING ED GATHERING & RETREAT

## LEADING WITH IMAGINATION: FLEXING YOUR ORDINATION VOWS

**March 11-13, 2024**

*"Will you pray for and  
seek to serve the  
people with **energy,**  
**intelligence, imagination,**  
and **love?**"*

### Keynote Speaker: **LAKISHA R. LOCKHART**

Assistant Professor of Christian Education,  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

Lakisha R. Lockhart's research interests are in the areas of religious education; practical, liberation, and Womanist theologies; ethics and society; multiple intelligences; embodied faith and pedagogies; theological aesthetics' theopoetics; creativity, imagination, and play. Her teaching takes seriously the benefits and necessity of play, movement, aesthetics, creative arts, and embodiment. For Lockhart, the body is a locus for doing theology and theological reflection.

Boston College, Ph.D.  
Vanderbilt University, M.A.  
Wesley Theological Seminary, M.Div.  
Claflin University, B.A.



**National Capital  
PRESBYTERY**  
MINISTRIES - HISTORY - COMMUNITY

**Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf  
Resort, Spa and Marina - Cambridge,  
MD**

### **Cost:**

**\$350 per person (single occupancy)**

**\$225 per person (double occupancy)**

**Register [HERE](#) (Registration closes on  
February 13, 2024)**

# NCP'S ANNUAL CONTINUING ED GATHERING & RETREAT

## Leading with Imagination: Flexing Your Ordination Vows

### Schedule

#### Monday, March 11

4:00PM Official Check-in  
(welcome to use facility prior to check-in)

6:30PM Welcome Reception  
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

8:00PM Fireside Chats - Led by Staff



#### Tuesday, March 12

7:30AM Morning Vespers

8:00AM Breakfast Buffet

9:00-12:00PM Program w/Lakisha Lockhart

12:00PM Lunch - Sponsored by  
the Board of Pensions

1:00-3:00PM Free Time

3:30PM Afternoon Snack

3:30-5:30PM Program w/Lakisha Lockhart  
w/breakout rooms

6:30PM Dinner - Sponsored by  
Presbyterian Foundation

8:00PM Fireside Chats - Led by Staff



#### Wednesday, March 13


8:00AM Breakfast (on your own)

9:00AM Worship and Final Thoughts



**Dr. Lockhart will lead us in an interactive series where participants will learn about the theological, spiritual, and neurological benefits of play and imagination, while also engaging in pedagogical play practices. Participants will leave with a plan to implement play theory practices into their context with renewed vigor to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.**





# **LEADING WITH IMAGINATION: FLEXING YOUR ORDINATION VOWS**

**March 11-13, 2024**

## **NCP'S ANNUAL CONTINUING ED GATHERING & RETREAT**

### **FIRESIDE CHAT TOPICS**

These topics are important  
and intersect with each other.

**Property:  
Facing What  
We Don't Say  
Out Loud with  
Imagination  
and Love**

This Fireside Chat provides an opportunity for honest dialog around congregational properties. This is another invitation to explore redevelopment we'll examine the tenants that hold up our properties and how imagination and our call to love our neighbor can shape the future.

**Flexing  
Intelligence &  
Energy:  
Responding to  
the Volunteer  
Leadership  
Crisis**

This Fireside Chat explores the implications of the volunteer shortage. How do we respond? Bring your Intelligence and Energy by joining us in the conversation that impacts our denomination at all levels.



**National Capital  
PRESBYTERY**  
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • EDUCATIONAL

**Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay  
Golf Resort, Spa and Marina -  
Cambridge, MD**

**Led by NCP Staff**



# Harmony for Humanity

Benefit Concert for Building Equity and Community Through Homeownership

FEB  
4

**Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church**  
1 Chevy Chase Cir, Washington, DC 20015

4:00  
PM



Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is proud to host "Harmony for Humanity," an interfaith concert at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. Special performances by Jeremy Winston Chorale International and Gesher Chorale from Congregation Beth El.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tim Warner, Director of Faith Relations, at [timothy.warner@habitatmm.org](mailto:timothy.warner@habitatmm.org).

**Free-will offerings welcome. Net proceeds raised will help support HFHMM's Emory Grove project.**



**CLICK HERE OR SCAN  
QR CODE TO REGISTER**

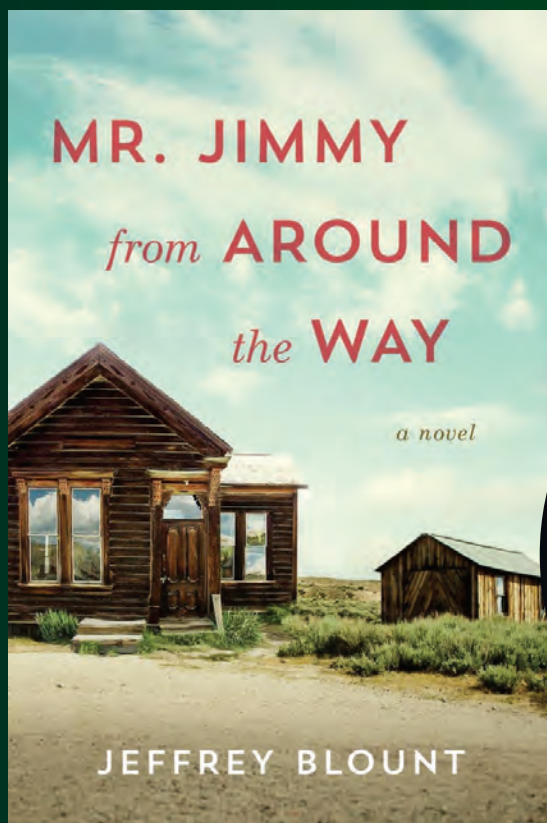






# CROOKED STEEPLE *Literary Festival*

FEATURING  
JEFFREY BLOUNT



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 AT 2PM

READING, RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING  
\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION

WITH SUPPORT FROM



National Capital  
PRESBYTERY  
MISSIONAL PASTORAL PROPHETIC



FALLS CHURCH  
PRESBYTERIAN

225 E. BROAD ST. FALLS CHURCH, VA



**24  
FEB**

# **2024 INSPIRING EVENT**

## **START AT 6PM**

**Vienna Presbyterian Church  
124 Park St NE, Vienna**

**Scan To Sign Up**



Vienna Presbyterian Church is hosting Ben Glenn and Youth Conference Ministries for an inspiring event.

Come hear The Chalk Guy's testimony and see his incredible art performance. You will also have an opportunity to partner with YCM by making a donation to support their mission to share the gospel with middle and high school students.



Concerts  
from Kirkwood  
*presents*

John Bullard  
*on Classical Banjo*

Saturday, March 2 at 3 pm

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church  
8336 Carrleigh Parkway  
West Springfield, VA 22152  
[kirkwoodpres.com](http://kirkwoodpres.com)

Bach, Banjos  
*and*  
the Hero's Journey



**Free Admission**  
**Donations Appreciated**