

## Announcements:

### National Capital Presbytery

and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Va, invite you to the ordination service of **Kenneth William Rathje, Jr.** on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at Calvary Presbyterian Church. Link to online service: <http://www.youtube.com/@calvarypresbyterianchurch8401>

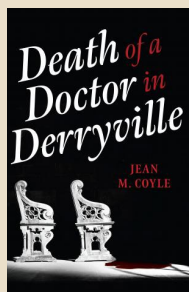
and Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, invite you to the installation service of **Rachel Vaagenes** on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church.

### How Welcoming Are We?: Reflecting on the Journey toward Inclusion

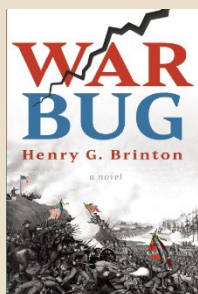
Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Colesville Presbyterian Church, 12800 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20904

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has made huge strides, as a matter of policy and intention, in its efforts to include LGBTQIA+ people in its life and leadership. So how are we doing? How is it going in congregations large and small -- including yours--in welcoming and affirming people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations? The Covenant Network of Presbyterians has been working for justice and inclusion in the church since 1997. Executive Director Brian Ellison will share reflections on the state of inclusion, considering scenarios and examples of where congregations are succeeding and struggling. He'll answer questions, offer resources, and update the group on how CNP can support your congregation in this new day. The Rev. Brian Ellison has served as executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians since 2012. He also serves as stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America.

The event is free. RSVPs would be appreciated at <https://forms.gle/DByNBkWTQYAigKmP9>



The Rev. Dr. Jean Coyle, HR, in 2023 published **Death of a Doctor in Derryville**. The novel's protagonist is a female minister in her first pastoral call. On her first day in her new pastorate the minister and her daughter find the body of a beloved church member on the first pew of the sanctuary. The story soon involves investigation of medical doctors and church staff. The book is available through July 31 from Politics and Prose Bookstore in D.C., [Death of a Doctor in Derryville by Jean M. Coyle | Politics and Prose Bookstore \(politics-prose.com\)](https://www.politicsandprose.com)



**Henry Brinton, pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian, has written another Mill Street Mystery, titled War Bug.** It explores the question: What hope do we have for the healing of our communities, shattered by a global pandemic and a toxic political environment? War Bug opens a window on the riverfront town of Occoquan, Virginia, and offers glimpses of social upheaval through chapters that alternate between the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries. In 1862, Quaker resident Ann Bagley fears that her sons will abandon their pacifism and join the newly established Confederate army. Troops march through the town and shots are fired, enflaming secessionists and Unionists alike. Many pledge their support to the South and send their sons to fight, while others favor the North and take stands as abolitionists. In 2022, Harley Camden, the pastor of struggling Riverside Methodist

Church, fears that civil war will return to Occoquan. Facing cultural and political polarization, he tries to care for his congregation and keep the peace, even as he lends a hand in the archaeological dig of a Quaker house with a mysterious grave. But when people begin to die in acts of brutal violence, he encounters an evil that is deeper than history and more deadly than partisan strife. Book is available online, including amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/War-Bug-Henry-G-Brinton/dp/B0CX3H78KY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/War-Bug-Henry-G-Brinton/dp/B0CX3H78KY/ref=sr_1_1) Henry is happy to offer free book talks to churches throughout the presbytery.