

## Pastor's Corner

Issue 37  
12/9/08



Bill Robinson, the President of my alma mater, Whitworth College, composes and sends out a monthly newsletter to alumni and donors of the college. The newsletter is titled "Of Mind and Heart," and details activities on campus in art, athletics, and academics. He reports on enrollment numbers, faculty appointments and also thanks folks for their support of the school. Bill always begins the synopsis of campus life with a thoughtful introduction: his version of a Pastor's Corner.

In the November newsletter Bill tells about dashing off to a Parent's Weekend Worship Service in the chapel. He admits to being a little on edge about the mood he would find. October's economic meltdown sent blistering losses in all directions. College isn't cheap and he felt that many families would be feeling that distress. But when he arrived in the auditorium, slipping in the side door, he found no signs of anxiety. He writes, "Families, reunited for a weekend worshipped with THE STEADFAST CERTAINTY THAT WHAT THEY DIDN'T LOSE IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN WHATEVER THEY DID LOSE." When he started his talk he said just that, and got a rousing ovation. Feeling that he might be on to something that resonates, he adds, "They say a recession purges an economy. I wonder if it could be said that a recession purges our values. When we feel the squeeze, weak values get weaker and strong values get stronger. We realize we can do without stuff. And we become more aware than ever that we can't do without relationships. The economic threats are scary and hard ... I don't want to minimize the pain ... but we need to keep them in perspective. I pray that all of you will be okay, and that you will feel God's peace, especially if your pain is relational."

Regardless of the bad news that arrives on our doorstep and bombards us when we turn on our computers, much of life is very positive. If we focus on the values and the faith that sustains us we can grow stronger and our relationships can become stronger. In times like this our faith in God's goodness and God's providence sustains us.

I will close this column by echoing Bill's conclusion, substituting CCPC for Whitworth, "Thanks for all you do to keep CCPC strong and vibrant. It feels especially generous in these trying times."

Grace and peace, **James Brassard**

## Christmas Families 2008—Update and Schedule

CCPC is providing gifts for **162 children** and food for **55 families** this year. This is a record number of families, which means we will be distributing more food this year than ever before. We have sixteen families consisting of an adult and one child and can still use some help in buying food for them including roasting chickens (that can be frozen until distribution). Thank you for volunteering to help in so many ways and for signing up to provide gifts for almost all the children.

**Christmas Families is in high gear with lots planned for Saturday and Sunday and then distribution on Thursday. There are still opportunities for you to join in the fun as we brighten Christmas for others.**



### Schedule

#### **FOOD SORTING: Saturday, December 13th, at 9:00 a.m. in Dodds Hall**

If you plan to help with food sorting, please bring a pen or pencil to check off the list, and a Sharpie marker, if you have one, to label the bags. **REMINDER:** We need paper grocery bags with handles for the food sorting on Saturday morning.

#### **GIFT SORTING: Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon in Dodds Hall**

Gifts should be brought to the church no later than **noon Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. Gifts should be unwrapped and marked with your name and the name of the child. A gift box or bag and wrapping paper, if you have it, are appreciated.

#### **GIFT WRAPPING: Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 p.m. in Dodds Hall**

We will be wrapping about **366** gifts. Please bring scissors, cellophane tape, and a pen to address the gift tags.

**DISTRIBUTION of GIFTS and FOOD: Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.)** Families are expected to pick up their food and gifts but some may not be able to do so.

## Worship Notes

### **Worship on December 14, 2008**

3rd Sunday of Advent  
(9:30 & 11 AM)

We hope for a lot of things at Christmas but what the gospel offers is something that most never thought of putting on our list. We will look at the dramatic hopes and fears that the prophet Isaiah foretold in chapter 35:1-10.

### **The Christmas Post Office is now open!**

Bring those Christmas cards that you would otherwise send to church members and friends and place them in the mailbox in the atrium. The youth will sort them and place them in the correct boxes. Please note: in order to keep better track of our donations, we have set up a small, metal lockbox that is attached to the table, right next to the mailbox. On Sundays we will place our customary donation jar on the table, but during the week please use the metal lockbox on the table. All donations go to the Youth mission of support for Compassion International.

Thank you for once again



## Events at CCPC ...

### **Adult Education Offering**

The season of Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. It is a season of hope, that God, however distant He sometimes seems, brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth, justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. This class looks at the historical and Biblical backgrounds of Advent as we make preparations for the season. Please join Gary Cox in the Conference Room during the second service. This course will conclude on December 21.

**Y Chromozone Paint Ball —Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: (11:30 AM)** Meet at CCPC at 11 AM.

**2008 Poinsettia for Christmas—Deadline for Orders: Sun, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas poinsettias will be ordered on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are located on the information table in the atrium. Please leave your order and payment in the Flower Committee mailbox in the church office.

Thank you.

**Youth Groups Christmas Caroling and Party—Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: (5 PM)** Meet in the Senior High Room

**Gadabouts Holiday Lunch (offsite)—Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: (10:45 AM)** Meet at CCPC

**Health and Healing—Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: Meets at 10 AM** in the Parlor.

**Family Night at CCPC—Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: (6:30 PM)** Dodds Hall

**Capital Area Food Bank—Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

(9AM-1PM) Downtown Washington, DC (Meet at CCPC at 8:15AM to carpool)

**Children's Christmas Pageant "Visions of Christmas"—Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11 AM worship**

### **Christian Community Presbyterian Church**



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CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community, and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*

**\* Next Caller Distribution: 12/16/08 \***

**Articles are due by Thursday, 12/11.  
THIS WILL BE THE LAST CALLER  
FOR 2008.**