



NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

19901 White Ground Road

Boyd's, MD 20841

phone: 301-540-2544

<http://www.boydspc.org>

E-mail: BPCmail@aol.com

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No. 11



Ponderments ...



Don't forget to **turn your clocks back** 1 hour on Saturday night, **November 3** (unless you want to stay up to 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning!). Also, this is a good time to change the batteries in smoke detectors.



Stewardship Commitment

Sunday is **November 11**. Come to church and join in the celebration, praising God for the church's rich history and joyful fellowship! After worship, we will gather in the James P. Kerr Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Elder Edna Reffit is coordinating the dinner. If you don't receive a call, simply bring a side dish or a type of salad to share. During the services, you will be asked to make a pledge toward the church's 2008 mission and ministry.



The **Children's Christmas Workshop** has been rescheduled. It will now be held on **Saturday, December 1** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Children can register for the workshop on Sundays, November 11 and 18th between the services in Pastor Merritt's office. Call Lisa Evans, 301-916-6861 or email her, blevans@comcast.net to volunteer your time and talent. Also, tables will be set upstairs for anyone who is interested in selling "White Elephants," crafts, or yard sale goods. Family members can mill around while their children are making crafts. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Meditation

Lesson: *The word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. But they refused to listen, and turned a stubborn shoulder, and stopped their ears in order not to hear. They made their hearts adamant in order not to hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. Just as, when I called they would not hear, so when they call, I would not hear, says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 7:8-13)*

Devising Good

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah had an influence on the New Testament; there are 43 citations and allusions to Zechariah in the NT. Nearly 600 years before Christ, Zechariah expressed thoughts similar to the gospel message of love and mercy; similar to the Christian code of behavior in the treatment of others - an enlargement on the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Fishermen who earn their living catching crabs say that you never really need a top for a crab basket. When one begins to climb out, the others will grab it with claws and pull it back down. Unfortunately, there are crabs like that in religious circles, people with low self-esteem, so low that they feel they must reach up, claw-like, and pull down any who seem to rise above them.

By pulling others down to size, they have perverted belief that they make themselves feel normal.

The way of the Lord, according to Zechariah and most Biblical writers, is to lift up, not tear down – to “render true judgments, show kindness and mercy ...” and so forth. Treat others in a manner that will elevate them, not tear down. For in doing so, both you and the other person will be better for it.

The word “devise” is usually associated with the word “evil,” as in the lesson, “let none of you devise evil ...” Devise means to plan, to invent, and can be applied as well to good things as to evil. Doing deeds of kindness and mercy takes some planning, ingenuity, creativity, just as evil deeds do. Good has to be worked at as much as if not more so than evil. Good just doesn’t come naturally!

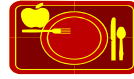
A harried mother offered her six-year-old son a choice. He could have a birthday party or twenty dollars. After some reflections, the boy broke into a smile and asked for the money. Relieved, the mother gave the boy the twenty dollars. He immediately asked if he could go to the mall. Permission was granted and he went from store to store until he had spent it all. With his secret mission over, wild with excitement, he burst into his home as the family was gathering for dinner --- chocolates for mother; a pen for dad; a doll for sister; a toy car for his brother.

“What did you buy for yourself?” asked his mother. Well, he had plumb forgotten! So mother offered him some chocolates. Dad said he could borrow his pen. Sister and brother offered to share as well. As the mother watched this unfold, she said softly to her husband, “And a little child shall show the way!”

Thought: *The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions --- the little soon-forgotten charities, a kiss, a smile, a kind look, a heartfelt compliment, and the countless infinitesimals of pleasurable and genial feelings.* (Samuel Coleridge)



Announcements



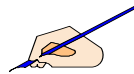
The **BPC Lunch Bunch** meets the second Tuesday of each month. They will meet on Tuesday, November 13 at 11:30 a.m. For time and location, call Betty Allnutt, 301-349-5304.



The **Mission and Merriment** group will meet Mondays, November 12 and 26th at 11 a.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. For more information, call Jane Mote or Ginger Gibson.



The annual community **Tree Lighting** in front of Boyds Post Office is scheduled for Friday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.



The **Writer’s Group’s** next meeting is Tuesday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. For further information, contact Libby Schleichert at epschleichert@yahoo.com or 301-540-2177.



A special **Advent Study Group** will meet on Thursdays, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. A daily devotional guide titled “Living in Hope” by Henri J.M. Nouwen will be mailed with the December Newsletter to help people spiritually prepare for the Christmas.

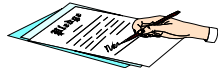


Congratulations to **Hammet and Jeri Hough** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 31.



Address Change

Woolcock, Michael, Connie, Jenna & Nathan
31 Victoria Road
Maccles Field, SK10 3JA
United Kingdom



Stewardship ... a partnership with God!



Appreciation and gratitude:

to **Mary Fitzwater** and **Sally Ertter** for cleaning the church sanctuary during October; to **Karen and Jenny Unruh** for hosting fellowship in October; **Celeste Kelly, Missy Lankler** and **Betty Allnutt** for the wonderful birthday cake; to **Arthur Virts** and **Hammett Hough** for putting top soil and grass seed on bare graves; to **Bob Schleichert** for taking down and removing dead trees in the cemetery.



November 11 is "Stewardship Commitment Sunday". Prayerfully consider making a pledge in support of the church's 2008 mission and ministry. A pledge is a faithful commitment to God; a commitment towards doing the Lord's work. Martin Luther, the great church reformer, once said: *There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind, and the purse.* Also he wrote: *I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess.* We are responsible for how we use God's resources (blessings). Wealth (mammon) is never neutral. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).



Christian Education



The **Sunday School** teachers met on October 23. They discussed the curriculum making suggestions for change; room assignments and supplies were reviewed; the Advent Family Program was scheduled for December 23 at 9:30 a.m. in Kerr Fellowship Hall; decorating the two church bulletin boards was assigned to each class (check them out!); plan for bad weather was adopted -- Rev. Ednie will put an announcement on the church answering machine before 8:00 a.m. on Sundays, as well as call some teachers who will call other teachers. Parents can then either call their

Sunday School teacher or the church office; the Sr. High Class plans to assist with the monthly Children's Worship Service, develop a puppet ministry, and sponsor Souper Bowl of Caring in January (the Middle and Senior High classes held a successful "Lock-in" on September 29 with 17 kids attending).



Since 1993, **Operation Christmas Child** (a Samaritan's Purse project) has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children all over the world through the simplest of gifts - shoe boxes. Filled with school supplies, toys, and personal items that are packed by caring people, these boxes introduce children to Jesus Christ. Kim Lockett is coordinating this effort. She will visit each class this Sunday, give the children a brief overview of the mission project and hand out shoe boxes with information (yes, shoe boxes are needed!). Over the next two weeks, children can fill their boxes and return them on Sundays, November 11 and 18th. They will be taken on the 18th to Central Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, a regional collection place and shipped throughout the world. Over 120 countries; 7.6 million children received shoe box gifts in 2006! The church will pay the \$7.00 per shoe box for shipping and handling from the Local Mission budget.



Confirmation Class: Rev. Ednie will conduct a class for 8th through 12th graders on four Friday evenings: January 25, February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. After receiving instruction, those who chose to confirm their faith, will meet with the Session on March 3. They will be confirmed on "White Sunday, March 30th Let Rev. Ednie know if you are interested, have questions, and plan to attend.



Session, Trustees, and Deacons

The **Session** met on October 1. They planned for World Communion Sunday, reviewed the final draft for the new church information packet; reviewed the fall Christian Education program; discussed the Stewardship program; appointed the Budget Committee of Marj Turbyfill, Everett Shupe and Todd

Jewell. The next Session meeting is Monday, November 5 at 7:30 in Pollock-Williams Hall.

The **Board of Deacons** met October 8. They reviewed the 4th quarter usher schedule, made plans to set communion for Dec. 2 and 24th; evaluated the church picnic; discussed future fellowships for Jan. and Feb.; reviewed the new church information packet. The next meeting is Monday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall.

The **Board of Trustees** met October 16. They approved a contract to repair the manse chimney (\$4,500); decided to stay with PNC Bank who bought Mercantile Potomac Bank; discussed items for capital improvements in the 2008 Budget -- they noted the need to remove the baseboard heating in the education bldg along with repairing and painting the walls, and replacing the carpet and fans. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in P-W Hall.



Prayer List

Prayers for those who grieve: the family of **Kenneth Palko**, Christine DeReggi's father, who died on September 29; the family of **Nancy McKenna Schmidt** who died on October 13; the family of **Chris Moore**, 19, who died in October.

Prayers for those who need comfort:

Henri Dassen; Jennie Broadwell; Betty Hartline; Marianne Glass; Margaret Jordan; Gwen DuBois, Karen Rhea's mother; Catherine Hoffmann, Tom's mother; Annette Hale; Sam Renfrew; Helen Owens; Dolores Jeter; Ann Schmidt; Lydia Rock; Helen Epting; Juanita Ward; Matthew Sloane; Sandra Jadlocki; Judy Gottleib; Tammy Ertter; Judy D'Olympia, Bill Neeb's sister. **Military personal:** Keith Brownell; Jeffery Speanburg, Michael Watkins, and John Robbins deployed to Iraq; Bill Virts deployed to Kuwait; David Jones, deployed to Bosnia; all military and civilian personal serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; those recovering from their wounds; particularly Christopher Claude. **Global Prayers:** the people along the Gulf Coast, in the Midwest, those communities affected by the fires in

CA; the people of Darfur, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and Dominican Republic.



Dear Members of Boyds Presbyterian Church:

We thank your wonderful congregation once again for your generous contribution to Victory Housing. Your ongoing financial support is very much appreciated and helps us to provide more affordable and quality housing for seniors and families in Montgomery County. I'm pleased to report that Victory Housing is a minor partner in a new apartment community for moderate-income seniors in Germantown, adjacent to the Washington New Covenant Fellowship Church, a Korean congregation that is our partner. Covenant Village is visible from I-270 near the Middlebrook Road exit.

Very truly yours,

John D. Spencer, vice president



We want to thank Boyds Presbyterian Church for helping our son, Justice, adopt a dog through 4 Paws. Your donation will help Justice in the many years to come. (see card and picture on vestibule bulletin board)

Sincerely,

Mark and Laura Lambert



The **Mission and Merriment** group is again preparing boxes to be sent to soldiers in Iraq. Our efforts in 2006 were well received and we want to repeat the opportunity for church members to participate. Please provide items from the following list and leave in the vestibule of the church by **November 15**: toothbrushes, jump ropes, coffee and cups with covers (non-breakable), twin bed sheets, bar soap, hand sanitizer, floss, handheld games, water heaters, inflatable pillows, gold bond foot and body powder, school supplies, greeting cards, DVD's, water bottles, drink mix, (for 16-20 oz water), headphones for MP3 or CD players. Contact Marj Turbyfill 301-972-0265 with your questions



Christmas Alternative Giving:

Each year Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives requests for alternative Christmas giving ideas and as we have done in years past, PDA has identified areas where additional funds are needed and has provided a realistic estimate of the cost to respond to disaster survivors' needs. This information is available online <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiving.htm>.



Worship Attendance

Oct	Adults	Child	Teens	2007	2006
7 th	77	0	5	82	86
14 th	74	2	4	80	82
21 st	70	2	1	73	78
28 th	100	4	1	106	78

Monthly Newsletters and calendars, as well as sermons, can be found on the church's website: www.boydspc.org



Smiles

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray " Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...but please don't shove me either."

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instruction for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

