

# Tidings

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HOWARD COUNTY

MAY 2014  
ISSUE 5

*Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr.*  
Co-Pastor

*Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris*  
Co-Pastor

*The Rev. Ruth Bell*  
Parish Visitor

*The Rev. T. Webster Brenner*  
Parish Associate

*The Rev. Stephen Mann*  
Parish Associate

*Virginia Callegary*  
Director of Christian Education

*James Galdieri*  
Director of Music Ministries

*Caroline Smith*  
Executive Assistant

*Patricia Travers*  
Bookkeeper

*Woody Collins*  
Church Sexton

*Marla Youkers*  
Child Care Coordinator

*Kathy Moore*  
Godly Play Coordinator



*Saturday, May 10, 2014  
at 10:00 a.m.  
at Hopewell Park,  
Columbia, MD*

Run, walk or help — or just come to cheer! Food, fun and a good cause!

The *Fifth Annual 5K Run for Coffee* benefits the FPCHC Guatemala Mission Project, which uses the proceeds to pay to clear the land owned by church members in FPCHC's partner presbytery in Guatemala, and provide coffee plants to be planted once the land is cleared.

Your gift helps more than the land owners; others in the community (typically other church members) are hired to help clear the land.

Sign-up to run or sponsor a runner! Come spend the day cheering everyone and enjoying each other's company!

For more information contact [letsrunforcoffee@firstpreshc.org](mailto:letsrunforcoffee@firstpreshc.org).

## Appreciation Sunday

On *Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>* we'll celebrate all the energy, intelligence, imagination and love our congregation shares as we hold our Third Annual Appreciation Sunday, at noon. We'll give thanks for everyone who makes First Church a vibrant, active place to be part of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in the world today.

Please stay after the 11:00 a.m. worship service to be graced with our many "Thanks to you" and "We couldn't do it without you". Members of the Session and Deacons will have tables spread with good things to eat. We really couldn't do without you.

Have any questions please call the church office.



is now available  
online!

from the menu bar of  
[www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org)  
and on



[http://www.facebook.com/  
firstpreshc](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreshc)

## *Worship, Arts & Music News*

### Liturgist Lunch

Have you considered serving the congregation as a liturgist or reader? Liturgists assist in leading worship at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Readers read the lesson at the 9:30 a.m. service. WAM – the Worship, Arts and Music Ministry Area – invites all current liturgists, and everyone interested in hearing more about this opportunity for ministry, to a Liturgist Lunch on *Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at noon in Room 258.*

We'll cover the basics of leading public worship, introduce and read scripture lessons, and talk about where to find resources for prayers and how to handle "stuff that happens." Speak with Pastor Sue if you have questions about the session.

Please let the church office know if you are planning to attend – so we can plan for lunch.

### *John Bell Weekend—Thanks to All!*

During the last weekend in March we were pleased to welcome the Rev. John Bell, a minister in the Church of Scotland, who is widely known and respected for his work in the Iona Community and the Wild Goose Resource Group.

Saturday was a wonderful day with a presentation in the morning on "The Bible as the People's Book." We considered the Bible as printed word in a book, in comparison to the Bible as imprinted Word in the memory and hearts of people living in community.

In the evening, we gathered for song and sang many pieces old and new, reflecting on the place of music in the Christian life.

On Sunday morning we eagerly welcomed Rev. John Bell to the pulpit to hear more stories and enlightenment on the Bible and our Christian lives.



### Summer Worship Schedule

*Begins on Sunday, June 15, 2014*

*9:00 a.m.—First Worship*

Thirty good minutes of hymns, prayer, & a Bible lesson—especially friendly for families with young children. Everyone is welcome!

*10:00 a.m.—Summer Worship*

Neither "traditional" nor "contemporary"—just the best of First Presbyterian's worshipping tradition! A gathering of the whole church to enjoy God together through hymns and songs, prayers and praise, scripture lessons and a sermon.

Mark your calendars and plan to be part of a wonderful summer experience!

### **"After Church"**

Pastor Sue is now planning the Summer series we call "After Church" - conversations about places, ideas, projects in our common life, and summertime fun activities that take place after the 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service. If your group wants to sponsor a conversation or activity *After Church* – please let Sue know right away so we can space them out for everyone to enjoy! Thanks everyone!



## *Pentecost Geraniums*

First Presbyterian has a tradition of decorating the sanctuary with red geraniums in honor of Pentecost each year. **Pentecost Sunday is June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Desk in the Upper Commons. The deadline for ordering will be *Sunday, May 18, 2014*. The cost this year will be the same as last year, \$5 per plant. You may pick up your flowers after the last service on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> or leave for delivery by the Deacons or to have them planted on the church grounds.

If you have any questions please contact the church office.

Thanks  
 Many Thanks  
 Thanks  
 Thanks  
 Thanks

### *Thank You!*

The Worship, Arts and Music Committee would like to express it thanks to the many members that participated in the recent online survey and focus groups relating to Worship here at First Presbyterian Church. We appreciate your taking the time to express your ideas and opinions on this important aspect of our Church Community. The Worship Subcommittee formulated a report based on your wide ranging inputs that was formally shared with the Session at the March meeting. We would like to thank the members of the Sub-Committee (Syd, Barb , Louisa, Craig, Barb and Janet) for their hard work and service and look forward to the opportunity to work with you to move our Church forward.

*Blessings to All,  
 Doyle, Chair, WAM*

First Presbyterian Church will be honoring  
 High School Graduates  
 on Sunday, May 11, 2014



## Discipleship & Caring Ministries News

### *Lunch Bunch Invitation*

An invitation for retirees and empty-nesters...

Introducing the Lunch Bunch

Join some church friends for fellowship and good food.

The next gathering will be at *Wegmans'*  
on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

More details and sign-up information will be in an upcoming First Day!

If you would like to receive announcements via email,  
please contact [discipleship@firstpreshc.org](mailto:discipleship@firstpreshc.org)



### *Care Givers Support Groups*

The following support groups meet at Holy Cross Resource Center in Silver Spring. They print a nice news article you may want to sign up for. Call Kathy Weber at 301-754-7152 or contact the church office.

#### *Support Groups for Adult Children*

Mondays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

#### *Support Groups for Spouses*

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Fridays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

#### **Adults with Early Stage Alzheimer's or Mild Cognitive Impairment**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1:30-2:45 p.m.

#### *Telephone Support Group for Spouses & Adult Children*

301-754-7152 in advance to obtain access numbers for  
conference call

#### *Support Group for Caregivers of Seniors*

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Don't forget to call and get on the distribution list for the  
very informative Caregivers News.  
A great resource for you! Call 301-754-7152.



Dear Friends at First Pres,

The line, "With a little help from my friends, I get by" now has new meaning for me. You have shared my journey in so many ways these past months of recovery from surgery. Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits, meals, and the hand crocheted lap robe. Your presence and your friendship have surrounded me and I am so grateful.

In Christ's Love, *Ruth*

## The Green Page

*Going Green and living more sustainably are becoming increasingly necessary as well as more attractive and satisfying. This "Green Page" will look at one sustainability topic each month, with ideas to consider and steps to use individually and as a congregation to care for and honor God's amazing creation.*



### *The Health of the National Parks*

Ken Burns has called the National Parks "America's Best Idea." However, the national parks are currently under threat from causes ranging from climate change to other problems of modern life. As Earth's climate continues to change, the national parks are being impacted with the rest of the planet. Fire seasons are growing in length, changes in temperature and precipitation are pushing native plant and animal species out of their previous ranges, and glaciers are melting away. For example, in 1968, there were 38 glaciers in Glacier National Park; now, U.S. Geological Survey scientists count only 26 ice bodies that could still qualify as glaciers. At this rate, scientists anticipate that all of the park's glaciers will be gone by around 2030. In addition: coral reefs are dying in Biscayne and Virgin Islands National Parks due to increased heat and disease; insect pests are thriving and are devastating forests from the Great Smoky Mountains to Yellowstone National Parks; and rising sea levels and more powerful hurricanes threaten dozens of historical parks along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

However, there are other threats to the national parks besides climate change. Some parks are already feeling drier these days, as increasing human demand shrinks supplies on which aquatic species depend. For example, ten parks are touched by the Colorado River and its tributaries, which are being drained of water by the growing cities and farmlands of an increasingly thirsty West. Many parks are also seriously affected by the problem of air pollution which originates outside the parks and is carried by winds into the parks, where it chokes off views, poisons plants, and fouls water. Water pollution is also a growing problem due to multiple causes, including air pollution precipitated as rain and snow. In parts of the central and southern Appalachian Mountains, forest streams have become so acidic they no longer support aquatic life. It is becoming more obvious that the national parks do not exist in splendid isolation, as a slice of nature available to us all when we wish to escape from the problems of modern life, but are subject to those same problems, and in need of our concern and protection.

*Jeff*

## Earth Forum will return for the 2014-2015 season

and will present topics on the theme:

### *Roots and Streams*

Fall 2014: October 19, November 16

Spring 2015: January 8, February 15, March 15 & April 19

Enjoy the beauty of nature this summer!

Please mark your calendars for the fall and plan to join us at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Earth Forum.



## *Mission Opportunities*

### ***JUST ONE CAN .... PLUS!***

#### ***May: "Spic and Span"***

As part of the Deacons' continuing campaign against hunger in Howard County, we are asking for specific supplements to our on-going initiative called Just One Can. Our featured category for May is donations of cleaning supplies.

Food stamps do not cover any paper or cleaning products, so such non-food items as cleansers and paper products are especially welcomed according to the Howard County Food Bank.

Recommended items are:

- o Dish Soap
- o Laundry Detergent
- o Clorox
- o General Household Cleaners

Please leave your donations for this campaign and any **canned or boxed donations** in the "Just One Can" cart across from the Welcome Desk in the Upper Commons.

Thank you on behalf of the Deacons and the Food-Stressed of Howard County.

~ The Deacons



Neighbor Ride is seeking volunteer drivers to transport local seniors to various destinations in Howard County and neighboring jurisdictions.

We are a door-to-door service; so volunteers are free to run errands, grab a bite to eat, catch up on work and more between pick-up and return-trip times. It's easy to fit two monthly rides into your schedule and our passengers are so appreciative. Many trips are for grocery shopping, exercise, senior center activities, faith-based services and medical appointments; and the stories shared on the road are priceless. Please call 410-884-7433 or email [volunteers@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteers@neighborride.org) for more information.

## *Help our Rain Gardens Grow!*

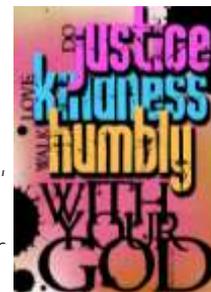
*"The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till and keep it" Gen.2:15*

The beauty of Spring is unfolding in our gardens. Come, enjoy the rain garden and help it flourish.

Be a Rain Garden "Tender and Keeper" and help nurture and weed the garden. Look for the Rain Garden display on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Commons for more information and to sign up for a time slot to work in the garden.

Get to know and enjoy this lovely addition to the vitality and sustainability of First Presbyterian and the Chesapeake Bay. To sign up on line contact [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org)

## Report on Ecumenical Advocacy Days



### Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Two of our members attended the Ecumenical Advocacy Days three-day event in Alexandria, Virginia last month, entitled: *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace*.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual national gathering of men and women of faith who want to be a force for change for the betterment of all met March 21 to 24, 2014, at the Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, for a very high-impact weekend packed with workshops, films, plenary presentations and workshops. It was sponsored by the ecumenical Christian community and was grounded in Biblical witness and shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of Creation. The goal was to strengthen the Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on specific U.S. domestic and international policy issues.

Plenary sessions featured speakers from Roman Catholic, Orthodox Catholic, Quaker, Muslim and Protestant faiths, including the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, the Director of the Office of Public Witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Workshops followed several “paths”, including reducing gun violence, domestic violence, policies in the Middle East, immigration policies, global economic justice, Eco-justice and U.S. foreign policy. Workshops also focused on activities of Christian groups in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as here at home.

On Monday, March 24, attendees from around the U.S. met with staff members of their Senators and Representatives. Attendees from Maryland met with the staffs from the offices of Senator Cardin, Senator Mikulski, and the representatives from their legislative districts to ask for support for several bills pending to reduce gun violence (such as closing loopholes in gun sale and trafficking laws and supporting evidence-based nonviolent methods for prevention and intervention in youth violence) and to rebalance funding priorities from military spending to human security (such as eliminating the use of budget gimmicks to circumvent budget caps for the military budget while keeping non-military discretionary spending deeply constrained and cleaning up Pentagon contracting by requiring review of contracts). Our members were unable to attend the meetings with Senate Staff, but were very pleased to be able to express our appreciation to our Representative’s staff member that Mr. Cummings was a co-sponsor of nearly all of the gun violence prevention measures we asked him to support, as well as a number of other bills which could be funded by reallocations from the defense budget.

### Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day

Again this year, Pastor Sue and two of our Peacemaking Group members attended the PC (USA) Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. This event is held on the Friday before Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) to allow Presbyterians from all over the country to gather for in-depth information and discussion on how the church is engaging in public life. The theme is the same as the EAD’s – *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace*.

We gathered to worship, listen and learn from one another and to think strategically about how we might work together to seek peaceful solutions of the many types of violence that afflict our world. Workshops focused on some of the many ways violence touches our lives – from issues of violence against women and children to updates on the conflict in Syria and dialogues about the Federal budget, violence against the earth and the impact of drones in modern-day war. While there were many very informative workshops and panel discussions, one of the most powerful aspects was the worship at the beginning and ending of the day. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson again delivered a challenging sermon to start our day and capped it off with a lovely prayer and benediction to send us on our way. The workshops and discussions, which sometimes got into gritty details we may want to overlook, thus, were undertaken through the lens of worship.

## Year Round Stewardship

### MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLE

The Year Round Stewardship Committee invites your consideration of the following stewardship principle as you consider how you handle the resources (finances, time and talent) that God has given you.

*Principle #3. God Trusts His Gifts to Faithful Stewards.*

To trust is to consign with confidences, to expect, to believe. Trust is faith. God made the world for His greatest creation, and God himself has faith that those to whom His word is revealed will be so joyful for their gifts, they will give back with joy.

1 Corinthians 4:2 *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

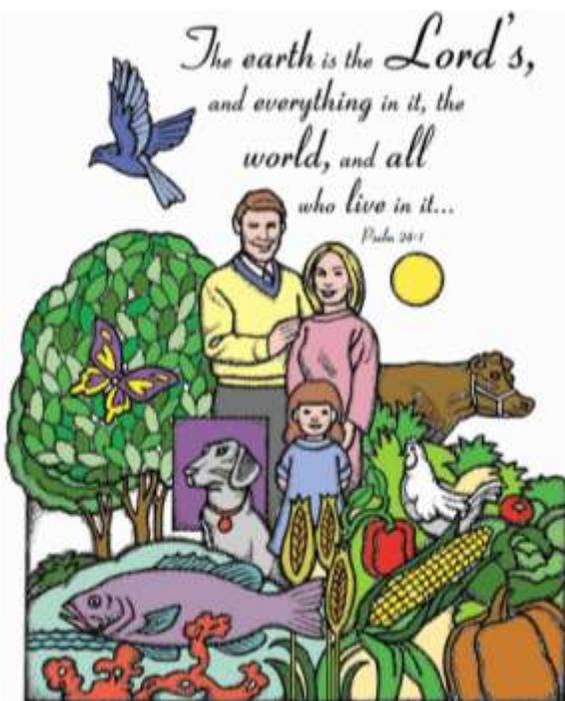
Realizing that all we have in life, even life itself, comes only from God, may be the most awesome revelation a steward can receive. We own nothing. All of our gifts are only lent to us by God. Christian financial counselor Larry Burkett said it this way, “We are merely stewards of God’s property while we are on earth. He can choose to entrust us with as much or as little as He desires, but in no case will we ever take ownership.”

As stewardship educator Patrick H. McNamara has stated, “The stewardship ideal urges each Christian disciple to acknowledge what he or she has received by being ready to return these gifts to God through Jesus Christ. Return is expressed in willingness to use one’s time, talent and treasure to advance the Kingdom of God.”

Further Reading: Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6, Romans 12:6a, 1 Chronicles 29:14



### WILLS EMPHASIS SUNDAY UPCOMING ON MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>



What’s a bequest? It’s the act of giving personal property made in a will. It’s a way for you to designate a certain dollar amount, percentage of your net worth, or certain items to be given to a specific person or organization—like your church.

As a church, we believe in planning for the future so we can be ready to meet people’s needs in a few months, years, and even decades. Including a gift to First Presbyterian in your will can help us do that. With a bequest, you can strengthen our faith community and make a difference for the future. Please consider making a gift that gives forward.

## Christian Education News



### *Camp ConnectED Vacation Bible Summer*

*Where Sunday School and Summer Collide*

*What?* Camp ConnectED is a fun VBS style rotation of Bible stories, crafts, music and recreation.

*Who?* The intended audience is children ages 4 and up. No need to pre-register. Just sign you child in when you arrive.

*Where?* Lyle Buck Hall

*When?* Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m., beginning the same week as our Summer Worship Schedule, June 15<sup>th</sup> and ending July 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Why?* We hope that the format we have designed will give busy families as many opportunities to participate as possible. Even though the weeks are connected, each can stand alone. So, if your children miss one or two weeks while on vacation, they can jump right back in when you return.

*How?* Volunteers! We will need several volunteers each week to make this work. There is a lot of flexibility in volunteering. You can volunteer as many times as you like. You can take on a leadership role, or be a helping hand. Both adult and youth volunteers are needed. Youth volunteers must sign up before the Sunday they wish to help. Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Lower Commons. Any questions



### Student Ministry

## *Youth Happenings:*

*Sunday, May 4, 2014*

Mid & Senior Highs Activity  
Bowie Baysox Game  
Leave following worship  
Bring \$12.50 and permission postcard

*Saturday, May 10, 2014*

5K Run for Coffee, 10:00 a.m.  
Hopewell Park, Columbia

*Sunday, May 11, 2014*

Senior Recognition Sunday in worship services

**Mother's Day**

*Sunday, May 18, 2014*

Wheel Day for Mid-Highs  
Senior High Fellowship, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

## *Adult Bible Study & Discussion Opportunities*

### *First Forum*

*Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 258*

First Forum will return beginning Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll be hearing about the Mission Trip to Peru, and about our partnership in Cuba. Watch *First Day!* and the Friday email for details about what's happening on which Sunday morning.

### *Wednesday Morning Bible Study*

*Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor*

The Bible contains hundreds of stories and thousands of names. How does a person begin to remember it all? We've begun a conversation with nine of the core stories in the Bible, what theologian Walter Brueggemann calls "the primal narrative – that most simple, elemental, and nonnegotiable story line that lies at the heart of biblical faith." Creation. Human Destiny. God's Call. The Exodus. The Covenant at Sinai. Promised Land. Jesus. The Cross. Resurrection. Come and be part of this group as we explore these iconic texts of our faith and life.



Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays



FROM THE  
CHURCH  
OFFICE

The church office  
will be closed on  
Monday, May 26, 2014  
for Memorial Day.



Our Executive Assistant Caroline Smith will be on vacation Tuesday-Friday, May 27-30, 2014. If you are available to help out in the church office while she is away please contact Caroline: [execasst@firstpreshc.org](mailto:execasst@firstpreshc.org) or 410-730-3545 x10. Thank you!

**Co-Pastors' Contact Info**

Morton and Sue's cell phone numbers & emails:  
Morton: 443-824-3768, [mharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:mharris@firstpreshc.org)  
Sue: 443-824-4305, [sharris@firstpreshc.org](mailto:sharris@firstpreshc.org)

Tidings June 2014 Issue 6



is Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

To be mailed Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Please send articles to [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

Please keep us up to date with your  
current home and email address

so you won't miss a single issue of Tidings!  
Changes can be sent to [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

**GO GREEN!**



Sign-up to receive  
your monthly issue  
of *Tidings* via email and  
save some trees and money!

Thank you to many who  
have signed up already!

Send your email address to [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)  
and next month you'll see *Tidings* in your inbox!

The First Presbyterian Church  
Of Howard County

May 2014  
Issue 5

9325 Presbyterian Circle  
Columbia, MD 21045

Phone: 410.730.3545  
Fax: 410.715.4981  
E-mail: [office@firstpreshc.org](mailto:office@firstpreshc.org)  
[www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org)



*Growing deep and wide!*

## May 2014 Sunday Morning Worship

8:00 & 11:00 a.m. — Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. — Contemporary Worship

May 4

Third Sunday of Easter  
Communion  
Luke 24: 13-35  
*Christ Our Life*  
Morton Harris, preaching



May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
**Mother's Day & Senior Recognition**  
John 10: 1-10  
*Christ Our Shepherd*  
Sue Lowcock Harris, preaching

May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Appreciation Sunday  
John 14: 1-14  
*Christ Our Purpose*  
The Word in Music

May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Earth Sunday  
John 14: 15-21  
*Christ Our Truth*  
Sue Lowcock Harris, preaching

*The Church Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*  
CHURCH BULLETIN DEADLINE is every Wednesday at 9 a.m. email: [execasst@firstpreshc.org](mailto:execasst@firstpreshc.org)  
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