



CMPC Herald

December 2015 and January 2016

Mark Your Calendar

- 12/20 Christmas Cantata
- 12/20 Longest Night Service
- 12/20 Christmas Caroling
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services
- 1/29 January Women for Women

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Pastor's Message:

"It's beginning to look a lot like..." Of course, that's because it almost is! As we journey through advent I pray you are preparing your hearts and your homes to welcome, once again, Emmanuel—God with us! This Sunday our choir will present The Silence and the Sound—this year's Christmas Cantata. Later that evening we will hold our annual Longest Night service to mark the pain and suffering this season brings for some. Then, on Christmas Eve, we will gather twice for worship as we welcome the Christ Child and look with hope to the day of Jesus' return. These are full and exciting days. Despite the troubling headlines we are a people of hope because of the events we celebrate in these days. Let us not lose sight of the true reason we sing, smile, and rejoice at Christmas time—the new life offered to all by the one born in a manger. To God be all the glory!

**Peace in Christ,
Rev. Scott Hoffman**



Last Month at CMPC

Second Sundays

We have had a fabulous start to our Second Sunday gatherings. It has been a great time for the high school girls of CMPC to get together to relax and take a break from school and busy schedules. Games, good food, fellowship and lots of laughter have been the only things on the agenda each evening! All CMPC high school girls are welcomed to join us the second Sunday of each month.



Columbia Jazz Band Concert

An enthusiastic audience of approximately 150 people enjoyed a great concert by the Columbia Jazz Band on November 14th in their fourth annual concert at CMPC. The concert featured both classic and contemporary big band jazz charts and included great trumpet, trombone, and sax solos as well as the vocal stylings of Matt and Debbie Williams. The free will offering enabled the church to make a nice contribution to Christian Services of Howard County in addition to paying the band for their excellent performance. The Fellowship Committee is looking forward to hosting the Columbia Jazz Band again next year for another wonderful evening of jazz!



Christmas Pageant

On December 13th, nearly 70 people of all generations participated in CMPC's moving telling of the Christmas story, directed by Carrie Jenkins. A multitude of angels, a flock of sheep, a crowd of shepherds, 3 wise men, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus brought the story to life as our narrators explained (and showed!) the significance of the savior's birth to a young child. Many thanks are extended to the support crew of musicians, costume

makers, and prop and sound helpers. We look forward to offering this special program every other year.

Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. 107 shoeboxes were delivered to local drop-off centers for transport to a Samaritan's Purse processing center prior to shipment overseas. Because of your generosity the Good News of the Love of Christ will be brought to many children. Special thanks to LOGOS children and volunteers for their help organizing this mission.



Last Month at CMPC

December GIFT (Generations In Faith Together)

Over 80 people of all ages attended our December GIFT event to sing and learn about the music of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The music of the season—favorites old and new, are a time of connection – to our own families, to our church family, to those living and those who have passed, to other Christians from the present all the way back to 1,500 years ago, and to the future, through our passing of these songs to the next generation.

We began with a delicious lunch featuring table discussions about our favorite Christmas songs and memories of when we learned the songs. The adults then moved to the sanctuary with Lorri Yawney, Joy Exner, Chris Roscoe and Allen Exner to hear the fascinating history of hymns and to sing. The children and youth helpers remained in Fellowship Hall with Markita Garner and Jennifer Seinfeld to learn sign language to *Away in a Manger*. We all joined together then for the children present what they had learned as we all sang. The event wrapped up with the singing of the first verse of lots of requested Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany songs from our hymnal.

We have had a wonderful year of GIFT events, despite bad weather in January and February, and look forward to more for 2016. We are always looking for new ideas and for people who are interested in helping.

Grace Notes: News from the Music Ministry

This is the time of year when we celebrate anew the incredible gift we received when He became flesh and dwelt among us. There is glorious music written for the Advent and Christmas season!

The Christmas cantata, *The Silence and the Sound*, by Heather Sorenson will be offered during worship on December 20th. It is a beautiful work that is more than just a retelling of the nativity - it explores both the mystery and the majesty of Christ's birth. There are original sacred songs and beloved carols, as well as very thoughtful narration. From the composer: "May you experience and communicate the awe of silence, the humility of Redemption, and the shout of joy during this Christmas season."

On Christmas Eve during the late service, the choir will sing two anthems. The prelude will begin fifteen minutes prior to the formal start of worship.

May He awaken in your heart again the wonder of Christmas!

In His Service,
Joy Exner
Music Director



Coming in 2016

Women for Women: Friday, January 29

Women of the church and friends are invited to gather on Friday, January 29th for fellowship and discussion. The month's topic is "Organizing and Simplifying for the New Year." The gathering will be held at the home of Maha Davies. Watch for more details coming soon.



Theology on Tap

Regular gathering of CMPC men who fellowship and discuss their faith over cold brewed beverages. Watch for information on the January date at the CoHo Grill in Hobbits Glen (Columbia).



Adult Bible Study Small Groups

To further facilitate growth in our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, the Christian Education Committee is creating adult small groups for Bible study. Groups will meet monthly between January and early June, 2016 (for a total of six meetings). The various groups will be scheduled to meet at different days and times so there will be an opportunity to be in a group that fits your schedule. The same course materials (likely some kind of video and discussion questions) will be

used by each group and the groups will come together for large group gatherings a few times during the course of the study.

If you are interested in participating in one of these groups please answer our short online survey at <http://www.cmpcusa.org/adult-bible-study/> to provide your information. As we begin to form groups, you will be contacted to determine the ideal schedule for your group's meetings. We will also have more information soon about a potluck dinner to kick off our study.

Committee Night: Monday, February 1st

Beginning in 2016 we will be moving all committee meetings to the same night—the first Monday of the month. Our time together will begin with a simple dinner at 6:30. Committee meetings will follow—beginning at 7 pm. Childcare will be available for the meetings as well. We are making these changes in hopes that it will help us feel even more connected and make committee service a bit more manageable for some.



Grounded in Faith. Growing to Serve.

On Sunday, November 22nd I had the privilege of announcing in worship the news that CMPC raised over \$2 million through our Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve Capital Campaign. That is simply incredible! \$2 million is over four times our annual giving. That is almost unheard of.

As our capital campaign consultant, Jeff Newlin, has shared with us: "It's been a long time since I've had a church raise that kind of multiple of income. Before the recession about 5% of RSI's churches raised 4 times their income or more in a three year campaign. Since 2008 it's more like 2%. On top of this, 55% of your households pledged to the campaign, significantly higher than the 45% average household response that is common in our current economy. You've definitely done something extraordinary."

God is so very good! Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who made this campaign the success it is. It took a small army of people to put together the program and it took far more to commit to the vision. Because of your generosity and willingness to support the vision for our future I have no doubts we are going to be able to make this facility everything we need it to be to serve generations to come.

I am so proud to serve as your pastor. It has been an incredibly humbling experience walking with you through this campaign and I am overjoyed at the fruits we have already seen and, I am sure, will continue to see for a long time.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Pastor Hoffman

Christ Memorial Christian Preschool

What a great November we had at Christ Memorial Christian preschool! You can see some of our activities on our facebook page. The month started off with learning about all the things we can be thankful for: family, good food, warm houses and clothes. Pastor Scott visited us and told us how we can be thankful for Jesus too. We also learned about the first Thanksgiving, Native Americans and Pilgrims. We had a nutritionist visit and teach us about the five food groups. We also saw a Puppet show and learned about good nutrition and how we can stay healthy. We even made delicious pumpkin pies and muffins from the pumpkins we picked in October. Our preschool families and staff gave thanks to the Lord for all He has provided and showed our thankfulness by participating in Operation Christmas Child.

In December we have been busily preparing for Jesus' Birthday! We learned the true reason for Christmas as well as how other cultures celebrate this special day. Once again the Preschool is participating in a special giving project. By doing this we hope to teach that it is as important to give gifts, as it is to receive them. December culminated with a program of songs and stories and a birthday party to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

The Staff of Christ Memorial Christian Preschool are thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and we wish everyone in our church family a very Blessed Christmas!

Angela Blose, Kim Brathwaite, Mary Lewin, Julie Nienhuis, Stefanie Rosti, Kathleen Smith, Barbara Stine, and Missy Sullivan



Window on the Word

Daystar by Leta Renich

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.” But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. (Malachi 4:1-2 NASB).

⁵“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD (Malachi 4: 5 NASB).

Isaiah prophesied a Davidic king will reign in righteousness (Isaiah 32:1), and will be called “a Branch of Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:5, 6). This is in keeping with many other OT prophecies, as well as being confirmed in the NT (Mt 4:16; 2 Cor 4:6)

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, connected the coming of Jesus Christ with the prophecies of Isa 9:2; 11:1. Christ is the Light of the world who delivers His people from the darkness of sin and evil. Zechariah sang a song of praise to God when John (the Forerunner) was born quoting Malachi’s prophecy (Luke 1:78-80). His song is a part of the Christmas story.

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, ⁷To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel. (Luke 1:78-80 KJV)

Continuing following this thread through the scriptures, skip over to 2 Peter:1:19. “For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased’— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. “So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which

you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter:1:19 NASB)

Who is the Day Star, or Dayspring, or Morning Star? It is a poetic way of speaking of the dawn, used figuratively to refer to Jesus as the Messiah who is the light to those who sit in darkness (Luke 1:78; rising sun, NIV). Generally, it is considered that Peter was referring to His presence at the transfiguration, and his recognition it was confirming Jesus as the Messiah who was foretold in the OT, (confirmed both in the last book of the OT and the last book of the NT. Christians play on the English word sun of righteousness, which equals son of righteousness, which equals Jesus Christ, the Light of the world (Lk 1:78; Jn 8:12). Christians are the ones who know that the true Light is now shining and that the darkness cannot put it out (1 Jn 2:8).

Barclay’s Daily Study Bible explains him as speaking of being eyewitnesses at this event (the Transfiguration). However we take it, the meaning is that the glory of Jesus on the mountain top and the visions of the prophets combine to make it certain that the Second Coming is a living reality which all men must expect and for which all men must prepare.

The ending of the last book closes with “It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16 NRSV)

To me, this reminds me that the birth, the death, resurrection and Second Advent are all tied together, and, as we celebrate one, remember just as the first prophecies have come true, so will the Second Coming.

Proverb of the Month
“Every word of God is flawless;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Proverbs 30:5 NIV



December Birthdays

Allen Exner	December 2nd	Kevin Sullivan	December 19th
Sheraz Hameed	December 2nd	Chuck Ridgeway	December 19th
Abby DeFavero	December 4th	Aziz Bhatti	December 20th
Dana Hurley	December 4th	Sean Daniels	December 20th
John Mbah	December 5th	Enoch Shahzad	December 22nd
Shirley Bush	December 6th	Joan Schlauch	December 22nd
Norm Malmberg	December 7th	Don Wade	December 24th
Annette Hinkle	December 9th	Jean Salkeld	December 24th
Emma Miller	December 10th	Suzy Crabb	December 25th
Ann Leypoldt	December 10th	Adeel Dean	December 26th
Carin Bloom	December 10th	Valerie Smith	December 26th
Gulshan Iris	December 11th	Dick Boyer	December 28th
Rizwan Elahi	December 12th	Kathryn Miller	December 29th
Abraham Jamal	December 16th	Debbie Jensen	December 29th
Kevin Garner	December 16th	Meg Ferrell	December 30th
Matthew Kappes	December 16th	Erin Hughes	December 30th
Kris Bloom	December 16th	Janus Elahi	December 30th
Aneela Dean	December 17th	Rehana Sabir	December 30th
Leta Loring	December 18th	David Ray	December 31st

January Birthdays

Irfan Shakeel	January 1st	Bob Gosline	January 19th
Roshni Bhatti	January 4th	Kylee Hoffman	January 20th
Nicole Stanton	January 4th	Allan Perraud	January 20th
Sue Ashman	January 6th	Katie Kinzie	January 21st
Dave Carmean	January 6th	Chris Najmi	January 21st
Anusha Dean	January 8th	Stephen Ashman	January 22nd
Penny Doxzon	January 8th	Sam Cole	January 23rd
Andrew Mawhinney	January 8th	Rehan Gill	January 23rd
Shazia William	January 8th	Nabeel Dean	January 24th
Don Kyle	January 9th	Ed Khalluf	January 25th
Hameed Gill	January 10th	Rick Mills	January 26th
Samantha Mesol	January 10th	Waldo Renich	January 26th
Leah Dean	January 11th	Arman Bhatti	January 27th
Laurie Khalluf	January 12th	Mason Yeo	January 27th
Courtney Ashman	January 13th	Connie Ford	January 28th
Heidi Diliberto	January 14th	Jason Seinfeld	January 28th
Theodore Cooke	January 16th	Chip Yawney	January 28th
Marilyn Mills	January 17th	Judy Bruner	January 29th
Chris Stvan	January 17th	Ashlee Hoffman	January 30th
Sandi Chapasko	January 18th	Joe Marinelli	January 31st
Jasmine Dean	January 18th	Leta Renich	January 31st

December Calendar

Tues 1	9:00 Staff Meeting, Committee Rm. 11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level 7:00 Nominating, Rm. 12 7:30 Property, Committee Rm.	Tues 15	11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level 7:00 Friendship Circle, Committee Rm.
Wed 2	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	Wed 16	2:00 Piano Tuning, Sanctuary 5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs 3	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP 371, FH and Lower Level 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary and Rm. 21	Thurs 17	9:00 Preschool, FH and Sanctuary 10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 6:45 EC Stampers, Rm. 9 7:00 BSA Monthly, Committee Rm. 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary
Fri 4	10:00 Greening of the Church	Fri 18	9:00 Preschool, FH and Sanctuary
Sat 5	9:30 Greening of the Church, Sanctuary and FH 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary	Sat 19	9:00 Cantata Rehearsal, FH and Sanctuary 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary
Sun 6	8:30 Fellowship Committee, Committee Rm. 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH	Sun 20	10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH 5:00 Longest Night Service, Sanctuary 6:00 Christmas Caroling, FH and Kitchen
Mon 7	8:30 GenOn Ministry Meeting, Committee Rm. 6:15 Kickboxing Class, Rm. 19, 21 7:00 BSA Leader's Meeting, FH 7:30 LOGOS Leaders. Committee Rm.	Mon 21	6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Session, FH
Tues 8	11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level 7:00 Mission & LO, Committee Rm. 7:30 Christian Ed, Rm. 11	Tues 22	11:00 Bible Basics 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level
Wed 9	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 7:00 Communications, Committee Rm. 7:00 Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Maha Davies' home 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	Wed 23	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs 10	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 6:30 Personnel, Committee Rm. 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary 7:30 Finance, Committee Rm.	Thurs 24	5:00 Family Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary 8:30 Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Fri 11		Fri 25	Church Office Closed
Sat 12	9:00 Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary and FH 9:00 Trinity Pres. Partnership Meeting, Rm. 21 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary 4:00 Daycare Christmas Party, FH and Kitchen	Sat 26	12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary
Sun 13	10:30 Worship 11:30 December GIFT, FH and Kitchen 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH 4:00 Women for Women, Shelley Clemen's home 6:30 Second Sunday, Ashlee Hoffman's home	Sun 27	10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH
Mon 14	9:30 Women's Bible, Committee Rm. 6:00 Membership & Hospitality, Committee Rm. 6:15 Care & Wellness, Rm. 9 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Deacons, FH	Mon 28	9:30 Women's Bible, Committee Rm. 5:00 Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:30 Worship & Music, Committee Rm.
		Tues 29	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level
		Wed 30	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
		Thurs 31	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms

January Calendar

Fri 1	Church Office Closed Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms	Sat 16	BSA Camp, FH and downstairs classrooms 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary
Sat 2	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 9:00 Men's Breakfast, Mimi's Cafe 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary	Sun 17	10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH
Sun 3	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH	Mon 18	6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Session, FH
Mon 4	Cold Weather Shelter, FH, Kitchen, All Classrooms 6:15 Kickboxing Class, Rm. 19, 21 7:00 BSA Leader's Meeting, FH 7:30 LOGOS Leaders. Committee Rm.	Tues 19	11:00 Bible Basics 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level 7:00 Friendship Circle, Committee Rm.
Tues 5	9:00 Staff Meeting, Committee Rm. 11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level	Wed 20	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wed 6	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	Thurs 21	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 6:45 EC Stampers, Rm. 9 7:00 BSA Monthly, Committee Rm. 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary
Thurs 7	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary	Fri 22	
Fri 8	6:00 CSP371 Pinewood Derby Setup, FH	Sat 23	12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary
Sat 9	8:00 CSP371 Pinewood Derby, FH 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary 4:00 De-Greening of the Church	Sun 24	10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH
Sun 10	10:30 Worship 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH 6:30 Second Sunday, Ashlee Hoffman's home	Mon 25	9:30 Women's Bible, Committee Rm. 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 BSA Monthly, Committee Rm.
Mon 11	9:30 Women's Bible, Committee Rm. 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Deacons, FH	Tues 26	11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 6:15 Kickboxing, Rm. 18, 21 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level
Tues 12	11:00 Bible Basics, Committee Rm. 7:00 Boy Scouts, FH and Lower Level	Wed 27	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 7:00 Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Maha Davies' home 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wed 13	5:00 LOGOS 7:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21 7:00 Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Maha Davies' home 8:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	Thurs 28	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary
Thurs 14	10:00 Shawl Ministry, Committee Rm. 6:00 CSP371, FH, Lower 7:15 Choir, Sanctuary	Fri 29	
Fri 15	5:00 BSA Camp, FH and downstairs classrooms	Sat 30	8:00 Girl Scout Event, FH, Kitchen, Downstairs Classrooms 12:00 Music Director, Sanctuary
		Sun 31	10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Birthday Bash, FH and Kitchen 12:00 Great Light PC, Rm. 21, 22 2:00 Pakistani Worship, FH