

Dear Friends,

I share with you a fictional letter exchange between Martha Stewart, catering and cooking maven, and the queen of comic relief of her generation, the columnist, Erma Bombeck. My only comment is ... relax. Enjoy the Advent season and have a blessed Christmas for God is with you whatever your circumstances. Therefore, we can hope and hang onto the wise words, "All is well. All is very well. All will be well."

***Martha Stewart's Christmas letter to Erma Bombeck
and Erma's response***

Hi Erma,

This perfectly delightful note is being sent on paper I made myself to tell you what I have been up to. Since it snowed last night, I got up early and made a sled with old barn wood and a glue gun. I hand painted it in gold leaf, got out my loom and made a blanket in peaches and mauves.

Then, to make the sled complete, I made a white horse to pull it from DNA that I had just sitting around in my craft room. By then, it was time to start making the place mats and napkins for my 20 breakfast guests. I'm serving the old standard Stewart twelve-course breakfast, but I'll let you in on a little secret: I didn't have time to make the tables and chairs this morning, so I used the ones I had on hand.

Before I moved the table into the dining room I decided to add just a touch of the holidays. So I repainted the room in pinks and stenciled gold stars on the ceiling.

While the homemade bread was rising, I took antique candle molds and made the dishes (exactly the same shade of pink) to use for breakfast. These were made from Hungarian clay, which you can get at almost any Hungarian craft store.

Well, I must run. I need to finish the hand-sewn buttonholes on the dress I'm wearing for breakfast. I'll get out the sled and drive this note to the post office as soon as the glue dries on the envelope I'll be making.

Hope my breakfast guests don't stay too long. I have 40,000 cranberries to string with bay leaves before my speaking engagement at noon.

Love, Martha

P.S. When I made the ribbon for this typewriter, I used 1/8-inch gold gauze. I soaked the gauze in a mixture of white grapes and blackberries which I grew, picked, and crushed last week just for fun.



In Memory of Stella Gerus Merkle

April 12, 1930 — November 2, 2022

Stella Merkle, 92, of Crofton, Maryland passed away November 2, 2022. She leaves behind her loving daughter

Melanie and a host of adored nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband Jack, and all eight brothers and sisters. She was born in Tidioute, Pennsylvania to Frank Gerus and Molly Sagan Gerus, who

immigrated to the US from Ukraine. Stella was a Navy wife and moved around the country as his assignments took them. They moved to Bowie, Maryland when Jack retired from the Navy. She was an active member of the Christian Community Presbyterian Church there, as well as a Past Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. Stella was an avid gardener, and enjoyed finding and pressing wildflowers and making pictures and cards with them. She and Jack traveled extensively, always making friends in the countries they visited.

She also enjoyed cheering for the Washington Nationals. A Celebration of Life will be held at noon on Friday, November 18 at the Crofton Country Club.

“One is nearer God’s heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth.”

Please keep the Stella’s family and friends in your prayers.



In Memory of Betty Tutwiler

Betty and Floyd Tutwiler were members of CCPC until they moved in 1995. Floyd would like to share the news of his wife Betty's passing with CCPC. Her funeral will be on December 2, 2022 at Lee Funeral Home in Owings, MD.

<https://www.leefuneralhomes.com/>

Please keep the Tutwiler’s family and friends in your prayers.

Offices Closed

The offices will be closed starting Christmas Day through January 2, 2023.
Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Adult Education



December 2022

December 11

Part III of the Pillars of Mathew 25: Addressing Systemic Poverty
with Kris Ross & Kristen McDermott

January 2023

Physical & Spiritual Health

January 1

NO ADULT ED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 8

Opening Gates to Our Church
with Pastor Caroline Wilson

January 15

Healing Cultural Divides
with Rick Snyder

January 22

Patti Cable, Health Educator Program from
Johns Hopkins & Advance Directives

January 29

Reiki and Miracles of Christ in Medicine
with Jan Bridger & Barb Engh



Missions

For the month of October, CCPC donated \$635 worth of gift cards for Warm Nights and two baskets full of food and toiletry donations.

Our congregation is very generous to our brothers and sisters in need.
Thank you so much!

Alternative Christmas Market!

The Alternative Christmas Gift Market will be in Dodds Hall on

December 4th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in Dodds Hall

100% of the proceeds will go to the various mission programs. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to browse the tables for information as to what the mission choices are all about. Your gift donation to any of the organizations given in the name of someone in your family, a friend or a coworker will help improve the quality of life for people locally and around the world. Go table to table and see if you would like to donate to any of the charities. Then, pick up a free Christmas card and tell the person you shopped for the item you bought them. There will be a list of all the charities. You decide how much you want to donate. Come check us out and enjoy the experience.

Afterwards, enjoy a bowl of homemade soup for lunch and visit with your guests and friends.
It's a great way to start off the giving season.

If you aren't free Dec. 4th, or are more comfortable with a virtual experience, we have that, too. If you go to this link, <https://ccpc.bowiemd.org/alternativechristmasmarket>, you will find all of the mission programs represented. There are links to their web pages and to their 2020 video. There is also a link to the price sheet. You can fill out and complete the price sheet and send it with a check to the church office. Or, you can send in your order form and pay the total online. The directions are all there.

You can turn in your donation/price sheets and checks on Dec. 4. We will also have the ability for you to charge your donations on Dec. 4 in Dodds Hall. Donations will be accepted until December 31 – both online and by check.

See you there,
Sharon McNamara & Kris Ross



Poinsettia Orders for Christmas

Christmas poinsettias will be here soon!
We will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites, 6 pinks,
and 12 marble. The price is \$16.50 each.

Orders must be in by Tuesday, December 13th

If you would prefer to mail this order form in with your check (please write "poinsettia" in the memo line, please mail it to the church office with attention to Judyann Glazener.

Any questions, please contact Judyann Glazener at judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or 240-351-4121.

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Given in memory/honor of (please print clearly):

7" Poinsettia - Qty. _____ @ \$16.50 each, for a

TOTAL of \$ _____

(Specify color)

_____ red _____ white _____ pink _____ marble

Thank you so much for your generous contribution!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Web: <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net



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.*

Please remember CCPC in your will.



Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization.
It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email info@belaircoop.org

www.belaircoop.org



Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit

www.ImagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail

info@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

