



## No Longer Strangers...

After supper one night at the end of February, Roshan called to say a young woman had stopped at the church and needed help. When I got to church, he had been joined by Deborah R. in trying to assist the young lady. She had been thrown out of her house by her mother! A few days before, as soon as she turned 18, she had re-enrolled in a local high school (her mother had withdrawn her and her siblings a couple of months before). Scheduled to graduate in May, she was determined to finish school, study graphic design at Brightpoint and then transfer to VCU. Yet she had no money, no phone, and no idea what to do.

Realizing the long-term care and safety needs she would face, we realized the best thing for her was to ensure she was safe for the night, and try to connect her the next morning with her school counseling office. With the number she provided, we reached out to her grandfather in New York who confirmed the difficulties in her home life. He also committed to traveling to Virginia as soon as possible. That night, I also spoke to a friend on the faculty of the high school. While he did not know the young woman, he promised to look into the situation the next day.

We booked her a room at a local motel, Deborah gave her a ride and bought her some dinner. Lucinda W. committed to picking her up the next morning and taking her to school. She was very nervous about staying by herself, and Deborah helped to calm her fears. Next day the young woman met Lucinda in the lobby and got to school on time.

When I checked in with the guidance counselor the next week, I learned that grandpa came down the day after my call, and picked her up from school. My teacher friend stopped by the counseling office and met her that very morning, and she was well on her way to safety and graduating. Even my son, Brightpoint's Outreach Coordinator, has put her on the school's radar. A few weeks later we received a note from her (see p. 5) and a donation from her grandfather.

The note brought a tear to my eye and warms my heart as I write this message, thinking of her plight, but I also thank God for the grace of our faith that folks from CPC stepped up to offer God's loving care and grace in a moment of dire distress. Thank you, Roshan, Deborah, Lucinda, and the high school staff. And to each of you, for the motel room that gave her safe lodging that night was a result of CPC's mission and emergency monies made available through the budget. In a very real way, the note inside addresses all.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren", written in a cursive style.

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION



## Children's Sunday School

Join Sally Noe, Mary Schiano, and friends for classes for ages 5 through 5th grade, upstairs in room 207 at 11:15AM until 12PM.

May 12th: Teach Me to Pray

May 19th: What is the Church?

May 26th: Story Lab



## Youth: Honor God's Diversity

When we speak of God's diversity, we consider all that God created and saw as good (Genesis 1:1-2:1): all kind of plants, flowers, trees, birds, insects, fish, ocean life, and, of course, human beings. We honor God's diversity when we appreciate and protect the totality of all that God made. How boring life would be if we were all the same! Find us in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 11:15am on Formation Sundays.

## Adults: The Lord and His Prayer

In this book of pastoral reflections N.T. Wright locates the Lord's Prayer, clause by clause, within the historical life and work of Jesus. This deeply devotional book will refresh and stimulate the heart and mind of any reader. Led by Charlotte Elia, this study meets at 11:15am Formation Sundays in The Pastors' Gallery.



## Collage as Prayer - May 18 @ 10am

Sometimes when we struggle to find words for our hopes, fears, deepest anxieties, and greatest joys images can help us explore and break open our hidden hearts to God. After a brief guided meditation, participants will work on an 11 x 14 board illustrating their prayers. All supplies will be provided, but you may want to bring: any pretty paper scraps or ephemera, scissors if you have personal favorites, old photos (or photocopies of treasured personal photos).

Saturday, May 18th, 10am-12pm. 1st Floor Conference Rm. \$10. Supplies and light refreshments provided. Register at [chesterpres.org/christian-formation](http://chesterpres.org/christian-formation).



## Thursday Spirituality Workshops

Join Director of Christian Formation Charlotte Elia Thursdays from 10:30am-12pm in the first floor conference room for workshops designed to enhance your creativity and refresh your spirit.

All sessions are free and open to the public but are limited to 15 participants. For more information and to register, please visit [chesterpres.org/christian-formation](http://chesterpres.org/christian-formation).

### Tab Closing Party: May 2

Is your browser cluttered with open tabs and pages of articles you meant to read, recipes you were saving, projects you were considering, and purchases you were dreaming about? Let's sit down together and clear those for our mental health and spiritual wellbeing. Use this time to read those pieces and plan those projects or just finally admit you've lost interest in many of those saved pages and close those tabs so they're no longer hanging over you!

### Journaling as Prayer: May 9

In this workshop you'll draw inspiration from a classic Christian spirituality excerpt and a brief centering prayer before being encouraged to pour out your hidden heart to God through the written word. This experience should leave you feeling more self-aware, spiritually present, and connected to God. Bring your favorite writing tools, e.g. journal, paper, pen, laptop, etc.

### Psalms of Thanksgiving: May 16

In this workshop you'll be introduced to the form and structure of the biblical psalms of thanksgiving before being encouraged to use that model to express your own joy and gratitude in prayer to God. This creative exercise is designed as a tool to deepen your connection with God. Bring your favorite writing tools, e.g. journal, paper, pen, laptop, etc.

### Lectio Divina: May 23

In this workshop you'll engage the ancient practice of Lectio Divina or "sacred reading" in which you'll be invited to meditate on a brief portion of scripture through repeated hearings of the text. You'll then be invited to respond to the text using the medium of your choosing including journaling, poetry, drawing, collage, or silence. You are welcome to bring your own materials if you choose.

### Creative Free Space: May 30

This is a simple open time for you to work on a project in a fun and supportive environment. You may choose to bring your knitting, sewing, or other craft you've been working on, devote yourself to some journaling, or use this time to refine some work begun in a previous spirituality workshop. And if you find yourself uninspired, we'll provide some prompts to get you going!

### Requies Divina - May 15 @ 7pm

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat and a pillow for this time of guided contemplation and centering prayer for spiritual rest and renewal.

Our session will take place in the sanctuary and last approximately 45 minutes. Doors open at 6:45pm. Free and open to the public.



## Graduate Information Needed!

Can you believe graduation season will soon be here?! CPC is planning to recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 2 during worship and at a reception following in the Fellowship Hall. If you or your student is graduating this spring, please contact Sandy Powell ([sraepow24@gmail.com](mailto:sraepow24@gmail.com)) with the following information: graduate's name, address, school and type of degree (if applicable) that will be received. Graduate information is needed for all high school, college, technical or advanced degree graduates. Please respond by Sunday, May 12.

 **PENTECOST**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS  
through May 19, 2024

**25%**

supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) serving around the world.

**25%**

supports Ministries with Youth

**10%**

is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

*Let us pray –*

*God of Every Age,  
may we return thanks to you  
by enlivening a world  
where our children know  
they are safe,  
have what they need to thrive,  
and are left with a world  
that is more like your reign of  
justice, love and peace.  
In Christ's name, Amen.*



**RESCUE THE ROOF**

How are you able to assist the effort to reach the goal? Perhaps a contribution from your mandated retirement draw, your tax refund, or bonus check is possible. Maybe you have a collection the children don't fancy, or a car that is no longer needed that can be converted to cash. As of April 21, 37 households have contributed and we've received, \$41,837.65.

Any gift, large or small is appreciated and will help reach that \$65,000 goal. Please mark all donations for the "Roof." Leaders Curt Powell, Don Davidson, Mike Rose, Rusty Hopkins welcome any questions you may have.



Scan the QR Code for instant, secure transmission of financial contributions to this fund.



## Garden on the Corner News

The Garden Committee welcomes all helpers for planting in ground vegetables on Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m. (weather permitting)

The Garden on the Corner Committee always welcomes new members and/or helpers.

For questions or more information, contact Susan Mapes [gmapes3@aol.com](mailto:gmapes3@aol.com) or

## Session Highlights

At the April 21 meeting, session:

- ◆ was excited about ongoing "Rescue the Roof" campaign
- ◆ set May 5 as congregational meeting for nominating committee slate



THANK YOU

CPC recently had an opportunity to help a young woman in our community - with support from several church members and Gordon's discretionary fund. Here is her gracious thank you note.

Dear Pastor Mapes,  
I would like to thank you Roshan, Deborah and everyone who was concerned for my well being. The night I entered the church I had no idea what I was going to do or what tomorrow would look like. However, I left with a sense of direction that things would get better. In a moment of crisis the act of kindness that the church shared with me was outstanding and for that I am forever grateful.  
Thank You,  
Asha Abdelshafi

# **Notes from the Organ Bench**

## **ARTS Events:**

**Craft Class:** the class meets the first Monday of the month at 6pm. **PLEASE register in advance.** There is a nominal fee to cover supplies for each class.

## **Concert Season 2024:**

<b>May 5</b>	Chesterfield County Choral Society	3:00 PM
<b>June 9</b>	BoneFire Brass Ensemble	3:00 PM
<b>July 2</b>	Richmond Brass & Percussion Consort	7:00 PM

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**



***Everyone is invited!***

**ALL** CPC women are members of Presbyterian Women and are encouraged to attend any/all meetings.

Please join us at the church on **May 22**, at 6:30pm.

Questions? Contact Kathy Peebles at [kathyspantry@gmail.com](mailto:kathyspantry@gmail.com)



Welcomes you for  
Dinner

**Every Tuesday**  
**5:00 - 5:30 P. M.**

For more  
information  
contact Cliff Noe,  
[noetinman@verizon.net](mailto:noetinman@verizon.net)  
or 804-931-7894.

## **Five-Cents-a-Meal**



We collect for this ministry on the first Sunday of each month. Please consider making a donation to this ministry using your regular contribution method - online or by check. Just indicate that it's a "Five-Cents-a-Meal Of-

fering." If you were to set aside a nickel at every meal during the month, it would come to about \$4. 50. Once collected, we send these funds to the Presbytery of the James.

The majority of funds distributed by the Hunger Ministry provide emergency food relief to people in need: church emergency food centers, school backpack programs, county food pantries.



## **Chancel Flower Dedications**

The 2024 Flower Calendar has been posted in the narthex. If you'd like to dedicate flowers for a particular Sunday, contact the church office for details - 748-4636 or

[office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org)

# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Chester Presbyterian Church

### Congregational Report

March 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
<b>Revenues(1)</b>			
Offerings (Pledge and Loose)	133,952	101,317	32,635
Other Revenue	10,894	11,409	(515)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>144,846</b>	<b>112,725</b>	<b>32,120</b>
<b>Expenses(2)</b>			
Salary & Benefits	89,547	87,610	(1,938)
Presbytery and Mission	7,593	9,285	1,692
Worship/CE/Membership/Music/ Stewardship/Parish Care	4,793	3,984	(809)
Plant Operations	12,028	15,851	3,823
Church Admin	8,569	8,484	(86)
Mortgage Loan	4,379	4,379	0
Property Insurance	7,307	7,307	0
Worker's Comp Insurance & Processing Fees	852	482	(371)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>135,068</b>	<b>137,380</b>	<b>2,312</b>
<b>Net Total(3)</b>	<b>9,778</b>	<b>(24,655)</b>	<b>34,433</b>

#### Mortgage Balance:

Beginning Balance (Ending Balance last month):	\$141,246
Payments to principal this month:	\$969
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$140,277</b>

\*\*Numbers rounded to nearest dollar, which can cause differences in totals

# STAY IN TOUCH

CPC has many ways to stay in touch!



## FACEBOOK

Like Chester Presbyterian Church on Facebook and enjoy daily prayer and much more!

## WEEKLY E-NEWS

Stay up to date on all the great things happening at the church with our weekly email newsletter.



## WEBSITE

Check out the church calendar, view sermons, or make a donation. Everything you're looking for is on our website!

## YOU TUBE CHANNEL

Our weekly Worship service is posted on our YouTube Channel. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the service from home.



## BREEZE APP

Keep in touch with all your friends at church. Email the church office at [office@chesterpres.org](mailto:office@chesterpres.org) to find out how to create an account.

## Staff Contact Information

(804) 748-4636

[www.chesterpres.org](http://www.chesterpres.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Mon - Fri.

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Pre-School Office: (804) 748-9465  
www.chesterpres.org  
E-Mail: office@chesterpres.org  
Church Fax: (804) 621-7422  
Church Office: (804) 748-4636  
8:30AM — 3:00PM  
**Monday — Friday**  
**Office Hours**  
10:00AM Worship  
**Sunday Mornings**

**May**  
**2024**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Chester Presbyterian Church  
3424 W. Hundred Road  
Chester, VA 23831

**connections**  
**@CPC**



### **STAFF**

Dr. Gordon B. Mapes, III, Pastor  
Roshan Chakane, Director of Music  
Charlotte Elia, Director of Christian Formation  
Kim Hopkins, Preschool Director  
Marcie Murphy, Church Administrator  
Norma Donado, Accountant

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, May 5**

**Concert**

**Chesterfield County Choral Society  
&  
CPC Choir**

**7:00 PM**

**in the Sanctuary**