

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session and Rev. Mary Pullen have agreed to a contract extension of six months through March, 2010. After an initial one year contract, six months is the maximum contract renewal period.


The Session has voted to make changes to the by-laws of RPC. Previously announced were the decrease in the size of the Board of Property Management from 9 to 7 members and the decrease in the size of the Board of Deacons from 30 to 27 members. To conform to The Book of Order we must change the number of terms an individual may serve on the Nominating Committee before being required to leave the Committee. The change is that two terms of one year be replaced with three terms of one year. These changes plus all other changes in phraseology, syntax, and structure will be published and sent to all active members well in advance of a called Congregational Meeting. At that meeting the congregation will be asked to approve any and all proposed changes. A simple majority of those active members present and voting is required to change the By-Laws.

The Session has formed a search committee to hire a new Choir Director. The Committee is chaired by Elder Bettyjean Bailey-Schmiedgen. The Session is seeking four volunteers from the congregation.

Our organist, Gerald Piercey, will present an organ concert on Sunday, September 20. Please mark your calendars for this event. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Board of Deacons' Scholarship Fund.

The Session approved other fund raising events that support many on-going activities at RPC. The Session continued the approval of the "kitty" for loose change which is placed in the Narthex. Your gifts will go to support the Board of Deacon's Scholarship Fund. The first such event in the Fall will be the Deacon's Craft Fair on Saturday, September 19. Other groups approved by the Session are the Christian Education Committee and Music at Riverdale. Please watch for announcements regarding these events and plan to support these opportunities for fellowship and service.

RPC and On Our Own have signed a month to month rental agreement. We are grateful to On Our Own, and we continue prayerful support of its Mission.



**HELP**

**BY PHONE** for the summer months.

	Oatmeal
Dry milk	
	Grits
Coffee	
Cold cereals	Tea
Pancake mix	Cocoa
Pancake syrup	Spaghetti
Baby foods	Jelly

Rev. Pullen will be on vacation from July 1-July 12, back in the office on July 13. During this time, Rev. Dan Holland, ordained Presbyterian Minister and Pastor of the United Parish of Bowie, will cover in the event of emergencies. Call the church office at 301-249-6411, and it will direct you to Dan's cell phone.

Guest Preachers for July:

Sunday July 5th - Rev. Scott Kisker

Sunday July 12th - Rev. Ruth Kent.

## Christian Education

### Vacation Bible School, Service Camp and PM Art and Sports Camps: A BIG SUCCESS!!

RPC was a hive of activity during the week of June 22-26 as children and youth who just finished their school year enjoyed learning Bible stories, meeting new friends, and playing together. We were blessed with terrific weather, skilled teachers, supportive building staff, and activity leaders (1 a VBS camper and helper alum) and energetic youth helpers. We had over 50 children, over 25 youth helpers and over 40 in PM camps. We asked the VBS campers to write what they like, what they liked least and some suggestion for VBS. Here are their comments related to the topics we studied.

GO LEAD: Gideon leads the Israelites to victory, Judges 7:1-22  
"Youth helpers were good leaders, pitching in and helping no matter what."

GO RISK: Esther risks her life for God's people, Esther 4-7  
VBS campers risked new relationships "seeing old friends and meeting new one."

GO TELL: Jesus lives again and the women run to tell, Matthew 27-28. VBS campers will tell their friends what they liked at VBS, "I can't choose what is best...I love everything equally...VBS rocks."

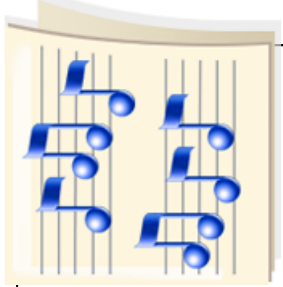
GO OBEY: The apostles obey by taking a stand for Jesus, Acts 5:17-32. VBS Campers got along and participated even when they were too hot, didn't like some of the songs and thought the snacks were tasty, but unhealthy!

GO SERVE: Ananias serves God by helping Saul, Acts 9:1-19. 5th and 6th grade really liked the chance to work for Habitat for Humanity in PG and Service Camps organized and carried out a successful food drive for Help by Phone among other projects. VBS has a strong culture for serve to others.

Thanks again to all who made VBS possible including our friends from Berwyn Pres and University United Methodist Church.

Blessings, Dr. C

# NEWS NOTES of RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Friends,  
We are looking for people to perform in the services during July and August, when the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are on vacation. There is a sign-up sheet on the door of the choir room. If you'd like to fill the Anthem or Offertory slots (or both), just indicate it there. If you need to contact Gerald Piercey to make arrangements for accompaniment, his cell phone number is listed there as well. We enjoy hearing new voices over the summer; instrumentalists are welcome, too.

Thanks,  
Gerald Piercey

On **Sunday, July 19**, immediately after the morning worship service, Bobbie Whittier from the Transitions Team of Committee on Ministry will present an information session about how the process of the Pastor Nominating Committee works as they seek a new pastor. This meeting is open to the congregation. Please plan to attend. You will have a chance to ask Ms. Whittier specific questions about the process as Riverdale begins to move forward in the search process.

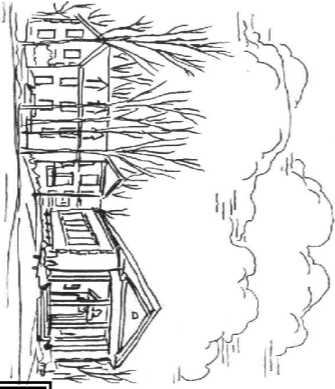
**All are welcome!**

**The City of God**

The Lord God is wonderful! He deserves all praise in the city where he lives. His holy mountain, beautiful and majestic, brings joy to all on earth. Mount Zion, truly sacred, is home for the Great King. God is there to defend it and has proved to be its protector.

Psalm 48:1-3

**Come &  
Worship**



**Sunday Worship Services**  
10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

**Sunday School**  
- 8:45 a.m.

Web site: [www.riverdalepresbyterian.org](http://www.riverdalepresbyterian.org)  
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### RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6513 Queens Chapel Road

Hyattsville, MD 20782-2197

## Musings from Mary

Dear Friends at Riverdale,

On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, a time of remembrance of the constitutional rights and privileges that were hard fought for and won by the sacrifices of many. As Americans, we enjoy freedoms that are envied by people around the world. Many people try to emigrate here—legally or illegally— because our country offers the opportunity for a better way of life, not just materially, but politically and religiously. We should do all we can to protect our freedoms.

In Galatians 5:1, Paul writes “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” What does freedom mean? What does Paul want us to think about?

Christians are free people! Yes, we are free! When Paul reminds us that we are no longer under a yoke of slavery, he is not talking about actual physical slavery. He is talking about spiritual slavery. We are no longer slaves to the sin or separation from God that bound us. We are free to accept the grace of Christ that is so freely offered to us. Until Christ came for us, we had no hope.

Paul tells us that we are called to freedom, but that we should not use this freedom as an opportunity to commit sin. Humans have the power to make choices. We make choices about what clothes to wear, or what books to read, or what car to drive, or what time to go to bed...choices about things we do in daily life. Some of us make good choices; some of us make poor choices. If we make poor choices about the use of drugs, alcohol or food, we face possible adverse health consequences. If we make good choices, we can live longer and more productive lives. If we choose Christ, we have freedom...even over death. Let us thank our God for the great freedom that is given to all of us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Blessings,

*MARY*