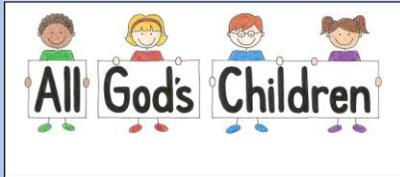


# PRESBYTERIAN MEN MID-ATLANTIC

Presbyterian Men Synod of  
the Mid-Atlantic

March 1, 2019

Edition 1 / Volume 1



By Tom Allen

Reading the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper, I came to the editorial page and the lead editorial jumped out at me commemorating the reason for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday, January 21, 2019. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke many words and some of his most memorable and meaning full are these few words delivered to us in his speech at Lincoln's Memorial in Washington DC in 1963.

*"In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent Constitution and Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

*It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds". But we refuse to believe that the back of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check-- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.*

*We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."*

I was reminded of today by these words. Much of what Dr. King tells us has become a reality, but yet some has not. Let us pray and not sit idly as opportunities for all men pass us by. Praise be to God and the Presbyterian Church (USA) for being with us today for the solid rock of brotherhood.

## Bringing Clean Water to CIMA

By Bob Orcutt, Bayside PC Men, Virginia Beach, VA

On April 24, 2018 six members of the Clean Water team from Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia journeyed to Lima Peru.

Once there the team purchased the necessary equipment and drove to the CIMA location which was about one-hour south-east of Lima. CIMA is a school that takes young boys from the streets and from abusive families and feeds, clothes, and gives them a place to live. During this time the boys receive an education and are given on-the-job training, so they can have a better life when they leave the school.



In September of last year, the team visited the CIMA location and determined that the water there posed significant health issues.

During the April trip we installed a "Livings Water of the World" designed filtration system. There were several issues that surfaced during the building of the system.

## Clean Water

These problems were primarily with tolerances between parts purchased locally in Peru and parts we had brought from the US and the type PVC cement we were using.

After consulting with the maintenance staff of CIMA we discarded the US sourced parts and changed the kind of PVC glue.

While half the team worked on the system the other half conducted training concerned with hygiene issues. They also planned a program to celebrate the flow of clean water in CIMA. The celebration was attended by students, faculty, members of the local community and members of the Lima-based Rotary Club which had sponsored our involvement.



When we departed Peru on May 2nd the system was completed and producing contamination-free water for the boys and staff of CIMA.

The team will return early next year to perform any maintenance required and conduct further training on the operation of the system.

## A Stance on Gun Violence

By Shawn Thomas

### Washington, DC Northeastern Presbyterian Church Town Hall Meeting

In the wake of unprecedented violence in our communities, Saturday, May 26th, the Northeastern Presbyterian Church Social Concerns Committee sponsored: A Town Hall Meet/A Call to Peace: A Stance on Gun Violence. During the event, Rev. Nancy Thornton, in respect to our loved ones, led the prayer

Thornton, in respect to our loved ones, led the prayer for an end to gun violence.

The line-up of panelist consisted of five very knowledgeable and experienced people on the subject of gun violence and how it affects the communities and their personal lives.

The participants were J. Wyndal Gordon, the Warrior Lawyer, attorney representing individuals and small businesses in the Maryland/DC area.

He remarked, "The violence makes this an important issue as I can't imagine my own child taken away from me."

Ms. April Goggans, representative of Black Lives Matter stated, "Police are sometimes the ones who don't know the rules they should be following."

Captain Duncan Bedlion of the 5<sup>th</sup> district in Washington, D.C. presented reporting methods and ways to communicate effectively with police and vice versa.



The audience had many burning questions that our panelists answered thoroughly with authority. After paying homage to too many school massacres, The audience had many burning questions that our panelists answered thoroughly with authority. After paying homage to many school massacres, theatre/night club mass homicides, and police shootings; the names of many sisters and brothers lost by gun violence was proceeded by a candlelight memorializing ceremony where the names of loved ones were said in unison. The event stressed positive communication between police and the community at large. Also present was Col. Robert Fairchild of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Chairman of the International Fathering and Mentoring Initiative started by Panelist Darryl Gibson, who lost his son to gun violence commented regarding his interactions.

## Three Chopt Men and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

By Tom Allen

Remember with me, the human caused disasters and natural disasters beginning in August 2017 and continuing thru November 2017 last year. Three hurricanes and three acts of violence-massacres come to mind. Beginning in August, the White Nationalist violence close to home in Charlottesville, VA, and Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Then September brought Hurricane Irma in Florida and Georgia, and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

October brought us human caused disasters in the Sutherland Springs TX Baptist Church massacre, and in November the Las Vegas Music Festival shootings and massacre.

August is the time of year when we are planning our Fall Men's Fellowship Breakfast activities at Three Chopt PC in Richmond, VA.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance speakers quickly came to mind as they were in the local news about Charlottesville and Hurricane Harvey in Houston. We decided to invite a PDA representative to speak at our November Men's Breakfast to bring us up to speed on what PDA is doing, how we can help, and how Three Chopt PC can improve its security during worship services and during the week. Then we thought, why not invite the PDA rep. to stay overnight and give a minute for mission for the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services and make a presentation to an assembly of adult Sunday School classes at 10:00 AM.



The plan was perfect, and the PDA Rep. was excellent. The PDA Rep. cautioned us about bringing concealed pistols to church, and instead recommended appointing a security volunteer to attend all services and other gathering of the congregation with a cell phone in hand dialed to 911, ready to be clicked.

The PDA Rep. advised that a gun fight during a worship service would produce more damage and loss of life than just the gunman. The plan turned out to not only benefit men's ministries, but also educated the Congregation and Adult Sunday School classes about PDA and the opportunities to serve. We have adopted PDA security recommendations for our congregation.

## Native American Presbyterian Men's Conference

Rapid City, SD September 14, 15, and 16, 2018

By Richard Vendiola

American Presbyterian Men's Conference held at Cedar Canyon Camp in Rapid City was an absolute blessing. Nine men and one woman from various regions of the country gathered here to have fellowship and discussion of the issues that faced Native Americans in their neck of the woods. Some of the issues discussed were water rights and police accountability. Chester Earl, human-rights activist and Puyallup Tribe member gave a riveting talk on the issues facing the tribe, located in Tacoma, Washington.

Also, on the agenda was the viewing and discussion of the film, "Dakota 38," which portrayed the 1862 hanging of 38 Dakota Indians for the killing of white settlers living in the region of Mankato, Minnesota.

Later in the day we visited both the Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials. Under warm South Dakota skies, we stood awestruck before the faces of our great American leaders etched in granite and basalt. It was an amazing visit; one that will be remembered for a long time.

We returned to our camp to end the day with our much-anticipated talking circle. We remembered those Native Americans, like Reverend Sid Byrd and Reverend Buddy Monahan who served the church and the Presbytery, and we spoke our minds in quiet retrospect.

On Sunday Reverend Irvin Porter conducted a communion and service for which we rejoiced in the Lord who brought us all together in the sacred lands of the Black Hills.



As I said before, we were small in number, but it was meaningful in content. We thank the people of the Cedar Canyon Camp for making our stay that much more pleasant and comfortable. We also praise the Lord for safe travel mercies, and for the beauty of this extraordinary part of the country.



**MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
MASSANETTA SPRINGS  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
HARRISONBURG, VA



*"Here am I Lord, Send Me"*  
**Isaiah 6:8**



**Speaker, Dr. Richard Boyce,**  
Dean, Union Presbyterian  
Seminary, Charlotte, NC



**Speaker, Rev. Cam Lazier,** Min.  
to Students 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church,  
Lees Summit, MO



**Speaker, Dr. James Taneti,**  
Professor, Union Presby  
Seminary, Richmond



**Speaker, Dr. Rodney Sadler**  
Prof. Union Presbyterian  
Seminary, Charlotte, NC



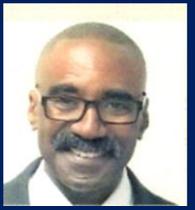
**Music Leader**  
**Ms. Katie Grant,** Former Dir.  
Music, Bayside PC, Virginia  
Beach, VA



**Silent Communion Leader,**  
**Rev. Joe Condro,** Pastor, Pines  
Chapel PC, VA



**Worship Service Leader,**  
**Dr. Jim Atwood,** Pastor  
Emeritus Trinity PC, Alexandria,  
VA



**Conference Leader**  
**Mr. Gary Blackmon**  
704-493-7251  
gsblackmon58@gmail.com

**Register On-Line: [www.midatlanticmen.org](http://www.midatlanticmen.org) / PayPal Available**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON THE SYNOD MEN'S COUNCIL**

- **Atlantic Korean American Presbytery Representative**
- **Coastal Carolina Presbytery Representative**
- **The Peaks Presbytery Representative**
- **Salem Presbytery Representative**
- **Shenandoah Presbytery Representative**
- **Western North Carolina Presbytery Representative**
- **Young Men's Representative**

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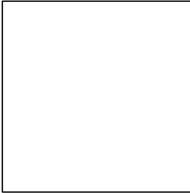
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- **ASSISTANT EDITOR- TOM ALLEN, 10219 PEPPERHILL LA. RICHMOND, VA 23238, jtallen119@yahoo.com**

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