A Place of Faith in Action
October Mission Focus

Through the decades that Maryland Presbyterian Church has been bonded with our sister parish in the capital city of El Salvador, Maria Madre de los Pobres, our connection has grown ever stronger.

From the time of El Salvador’s long civil war, when Linda Koch, Branch Warfield and Ann Mathews accompanied our sisters and brothers through dangerous days, to today’s support of essential programs for children and elderly in the parish, MPC’s heart has been entwined with this shantytown parish.

The neighborhood of our sister parish is officially named La Chacra, which in English means “the farm.” It grew up along now unused railroad tracks as people from the countryside sought a place to begin anew. Today La Chacra is a hive of narrow streets and alleyways, houses of cinder block and corrugated tin leaning together along winding passageways. The neighborhood is a pocket of poverty and hope nestled precariously in a busy and corrupt city. There is joy here and there is misery…and there is always fear of the gangs.

La Chacra, like most of El Salvador, is controlled to a great extent by gangs who daily extort and terrorize the people, and who murder at will. Yet our friends in the parish have created an extensive plan for peace, and they work for this peace daily.

El Salvador’s new leader, President Nayib Bukele, is one sign of hope to the people, who, just a few months into his first term, give him high approval ratings. Bukele’s policy toward the gangs is the “mano duro,” or “hard hand.” This is a controversial approach, one that was unsuccessful under the last president, but in a country so worn and disheartened by violence, it is an approach many feel is necessary.

Meanwhile, in the neighborhood of our friends in Maria Madre de los Pobres, children go to school, parents trek to jobs or to the streets to sell in the informal economy, and 22 young people are supported by MPC godparents. The $300 per year per child pays school fees and provides for medical and dental care, shoes, and a wide range of emergencies. Our church family also gives generously to the Open School, a parish-run program that gives children an after-school place to be safe and have fun with art, music, sports, and games. In last year’s special Christmas Gift, MPC members gave to the parish Day Center for the Elderly, a project that is life-giving and vibrant.

The month of October is dedicated this year to the mission outreach in our sister parish. Please consider a gift to Maria Madre de los Pobres. There are envelopes in the pews.

Mary Murray

New Member’s Sunday
October 6th

Come, meet our new members
It seems one of our oldest members (almost from the start), Nancy Fait has lived in the Towson area all her life, having associations with Towson High School, Goucher College and of course, MPC. Nancy credits her mother and father, Viola and Harry Collier, and younger brother, Bill, for helping her become the person she is today. She was in the first graduating class to go through all 4 years at the new Towson High School (class of 1953) and graduated first in her class! While in high school, Nancy had lots of babysitting jobs (in order to buy clothes!). While in College (Goucher) she spent her summers working with Dr. Arnold Patz, an ophthalmologist who went on to become head of the Wilmer Eye Clinic. After college, she worked as a research assistant in the Carnegie Institution’s Department of Embryology. She then became a teaching assistant at Goucher in the Biological Sciences Department.

Nancy met her future husband, H.C. Davidson Fait (Dave), in her senior year at Goucher and got married right out of college in 1957. Dave was 8 years older than her and was teaching in the Baltimore County Public Schools. In 1959, Virginia (Ginny) was born and in 1960, Carolyn (Carrie) followed. When Dave became an invalid, she took care of him herself as well as raise the girls and work at Goucher. She eventually realized she needed help and agreed to hire nurses to help take care of him. She did all the interviewing, hiring and firing herself to make sure Dave received the best of care. Dave passed away in 2005. Daughter Carrie and her husband Kenneth von Schnell had twin boys in 2001, Christian and Nicholas, the lights of her life! Ken passed away in 2009 and Carrie in 2011. Her grandsons are being raised by Mike and Carolyn Dupont, who bring Nancy to worship and who she feels are truly saints who walk among us.

Nancy has been a member almost from the beginning of MPC. Her husband’s family were members of MPC so she joined when she married him. Ginny and Carrie grew up in the church. Over all those years Nancy has been an active member, taking part in most church activities and serving on the Session.

Today, Nancy lives at Blakehurst. She spends her days attending events there and enjoying visits from her grandsons, Ginny and Mike, Carolyn and Justin. Along with her family, her major interests are current events, biology, theology, classical music, and good movies (esp. historical dramas).

Nancy is one of those people who always shows a positive attitude. I truly can never remember her being negative. She always greets you by name and with a smile. At church, she is not one to force her views on others but speaks out when she feels it necessary. And people listen. A kind and well-respected lady, Nancy is one of those reserved but strong people that you feel comfortable around. MPC has been the better because of her.

Rick Dezes
Editorial Comment

Hymn on Homonyms

Flo believes that homonyms could flow as limerick.
Me too. And the two of us will write, right quick.
Begin with an A/a,
Then B/bee, I say.
Bare/bear, aunt/ant, dear/deer, new/gnu, chic/chick.

Bill always pays his bills when they are due, do you?
Rose/rose, his beau, wears bows, they are blue/blew.
He ties his tie, and then Pockets his ink pen/pen.
Bill is a postal clerk where males sort mail, him too/2.

Jack’s car had a flat/flat, he used his jack, then drove Home for some/sum lunch, put a kettle on the stove,
For/4 tea/tee and toast,
A slice of beef/beef roast.
Ate/8 a berry/bury pie/pi, then to the pool/pool and dove.

Lilli, preparing to plant a lily bulb, digs a hole/whole.
Lying/lying under a fir/fur tree, she holds a bowl/bowl.
In/inn it yellow leaves/leaves
That fall/Fall from the trees.
A deer/dear runs across the yard/yard followed by a faol.

Harry has a hairy chest, but no hair/hare on his head/head.
He covers it with a base/bass ball/ball hat. It’s red/read.
Wears/wares pants/pants, khaki.
A ragged shirt that’s tacky.
At night/knight, dons/dawns his pj’s, goes to bed.

Mary hopes soon to two marry Frank/frank at MPC/sea Bride and Groom/groom go down the aisle/I’ll, a spree.
She has a diamond/diamond ring/ring.
Chose aunt/ant Pearl/pearl to sing
But today she is a star/star in a play/play. It’s free.

Oh/O I see/C a fork/fork in the road/rode.
I think I’ll take it and get out of here!

Jo Sack

Laugh of the Month

True Stories

1. While in D.C., we toured the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, marveling at the millions of dollar bills being made. Following the tour, we stopped in the gift shop to buy an uncut sheet of dollar bills. My husband handed the cashier $40 for his $39 purchase. Giving him change, she asked, “Are quarters okay? We’re all out of singles.”

2. A retired Navy admiral, my father began a second career working in a bank. One morning, while he prepared his desk for the day, he was approached by a young officer from the nearby Naval base, “Sorry, but this department isn’t open yet,” Dad said.

“But it’s nine o’clock!” protested the officer.
My father didn’t look at his watch. Instead, he surveyed his customer uniform. “Ensign,” he snapped, “I’ll decide when it’s nine o’clock.”

From very old Reader’s Digest

Church-wide Tidying Up:
Wednesday October 2nd at 9 AM
Help us keep MPC a hospitable place for visitors and one another by joining in our church-wide de-cluttering, organizing and cleaning up.

Woodbourne-McCabe Neighborhood
Popup Kickball and Crafts
Alhambra Park
October 5th
1:00-3:00 PM
All are welcome
Those Were the Days

More than a few years ago, around 2007, the Session made the decision to take a retreat for the benefit of their well-being and spirituality (not that they needed improving), but so that it would make them more effective leaders. The first four or five were held at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. The pastor, Mary Gaut, had taken part of her sabbatical there and recommended it to the Session. Elders arrived on Friday afternoon eating dinner in the dining hall there, then taking part in a directed program that night, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, attending a small worship service, and leaving around noon. In other years the retreat was held elsewhere, one time for just a Saturday. But those that took place in Wernersville seemed special in part because we spent two nights in this huge very old brick and wood behemoth of a complex which served as a prayer center for the senior Jesuits residing there for the Society and the Catholic Church, as well as pastoral ministry offered by Jesuits at the center not only for retreatants but also for local parishes. They also host private retreats which applied to us. You got three meals a day and your own room, (men on one floor, women on another), which contained three pieces of furniture, a crucifix laid on the bed, more than ample heat, and thankfully, a window which could open and let the sounds of a train whistle in several times a night. Long cavernous halls, an extensive library, both large and small sanctuaries, meeting rooms, cafeteria, many acres of grounds, work out room and swimming pool, and a painfully slow elevator were there for use by all who rented the Center for retreat. On one occasion there was a silent retreat, not planned by or for us, but for those who lived there, and we had to honor it, talking only during our meetings behind closed doors. It was especially hard for me being an extrovert and I never truly bought into the practice. But I respected their wishes.

That first retreat Carol and I drove up with Jack Nichols and John Tullis, a pleasure in its own right. The retreat was led by Margee Iddings, an interim pastor, consultant, regular at Phoenix Rising, she was an intelligent, kind, gentle, spiritual lady who helped out at MPC on a number of occasions. She took us through exercises designed to helping us know ourselves better, hoping that would make us more effective leaders. I remember she gave us each a different word to meditate on. Mine was "discernment" and we had to "walk" the word at one point. I went outside on that cold and cloudy wintry day and walked that word on the grounds of the Center. At one point, I was in the cemetery. Solemn and more than a little spooky, I didn’t know someone was doing the same thing until she came up behind me. Mary scared the wax out of me.

I always looked forward to the retreats with different elders attending each year. Not only did we get to know our fellow elders better while we tended to our spirituality, but we got in touch with our inner Catholic. You couldn’t help BUT do that in this place. And we took back to MPC goals and attitudes for taking MPC a step further on its mission to be a welcoming progressive faith community that nurtures inquisitive Christians for life and service in the 21st century.

Rick Dezes
Mission Update
Two large carloads of school supplies, personal care items, and food were delivered to Loch Raven High School’s storage closet for the Student Support Network. Also a financial contribution of \textit{Waiting}$ was taken.

See article below

Thank you for your generosity!

A Letter from Laurie Taylor Mitchell*
Dear Dot and Rosemary,

On behalf of the Student Support Network, I would like to thank you for the Mission Committee’s hard work and generosity in providing two large carloads of donations and a financial contribution for the MPC congregation.

The assistance provided will make a tremendous impact in the lives of students struggling daily with the effects of poverty and homelessness. The size of the MPC donation means that hundreds of students will receive basic items most of us take for granted.

I’m also grateful for those who helped carry the boxes to the storage space on August 25th.

Best regards,

Laurie Taylor Mitchell

*summarized

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
Mark Twain
Homecoming Festival
September 14

Homecoming Sunday
September 15

Children acknowledged God's presence with Light, Water, and the Word.

Leigh Erdman will serve the people of God of all ages, abilities, experiences, and faiths. And she will answer questions and doubts with creativity, love, and compassion.

Opening Anthem:
Sung by the Deep Rooted Folks
You can hold my hand
When you need to let go
I can be your mountain
When you’re feeling valley-low
I can be your streetlight
Showing you the way home
You can hold my hand
When you need to let go
Waiting

Rev. David Norse Thomas

But I did come straight home!

With permission
### Mission: To be a welcoming, progressive faith community, nurturing inquisitive Christians for life and service in the twenty-first century.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Choir rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>10:30:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Communion</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday, to be announced</td>
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### October 2019

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5</td>
<td>Kick Ball</td>
<td>1:00-3:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun 6 New Member Sunday,</strong> Worship</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 3</strong></td>
<td>Mission Group meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun 13</strong></td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td><strong>Mon 14</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sun 20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun 27</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thu 31</strong></td>
<td>Halloween</td>
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### Church Staff
Rev. David Norse, Minister  
Leigh Erdman, Minister of Family Values  
Greg Metzler, Director of Music  
Anne E. Culbertson, Choir Section Leader  
Lauren Salah, Administrative Director  
Kathy Ramirez, Custodian

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