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CPC? What, Who Is That?

These are the most frequently asked questions about the Church Periodical Club. The following is taken from a 1998 Pittsburgh CPC newsletter. It is pretty much up to date.

“How often does your Church Periodical Club meet?” “What do you do at club meetings?” “Do you work only with periodicals?”

Perhaps *these questions need answers.*

The Church Periodical Club (CPC) is **not** what we think when we hear or see the term **club**. No, it does not meet monthly but members could.

The CPC is an organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing literature and related materials without charge to those who need and request them. It was founded in 1888 by Mary Ann Drake Fargo with friends at the Church of the Holy Communion, New York. They sent bundles of books and periodicals west on Fargo stagecoaches to missionaries and pioneers.

From that beginning CPC has provided books, magazines, audio-visual materials and many printed tools to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, to encourage literacy, to train leaders, to supply essential tools to teachers, clergy, seminarians, doctors, technicians, missionaries and parish ministries at home and abroad, in inner cities, small communities and metropolitan areas – wherever the need is identified.

CPC is completely voluntary, with the exception of a part-time one day a week employee who mails materials, processes checks, answers questions and keeps the office.

Money to support grants and operation is raised by parishes, dioceses, Episcopal Church Women, clergy and interested individuals and groups within the Church.

CPC Sunday, set for May 6 this year but appropriate on any convenient Sunday, is designed to tell this story to those who ask,

Tell Story in the Parishes

Is CPC Sunday in progress, is it history or is it being planned for a later time? Whatever the answer, every parish will benefit from hearing how CPC changes lives by providing books.

Telling the Church Periodical Club story will grab the interest of people in all areas of the Episcopal Church. CPC Sunday is a stage for telling the story; meetings, conventions and small groups work, too, to share what its ministry accomplishes, but parishes are the keys. Grassroots is an old term, but that's where people are. Display CPC materials with lists of book grant recipients, posters and other materials available from the New York office. Ask the priest to tell about his gifts from CPC as a seminarian. A display, a short talk and some collection envelopes are all that is needed! CPC Sunday collections are used for National Books Fund grants,.

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Angela Barksdale sets up a simple table display at Southern Virginia Diocesan Council. It includes many CPC materials and application forms, is portable and attracts attention.

Diocesan Director Tells CPC Story with Results

Parishioners at St. George's Church in Asheville, NC, worshipped at Mango Creek, a small village in Belize, March 18. It was an eye-opening experience. They were still in the mountains of North Carolina but there were no Prayer Books, no Bibles, no hymnals. They fumbled through the service, following the priest and those who knew the prayers, responses and creed "by heart". At the passing of the Peace, the congregation heard the story of the Church Periodical Club and how it provides books for word hungry people around the world who often worship with no written help. Their books were returned to the pews in time for the General Thanksgiving.

Donna Murray became CPC director of the Diocese of Western North Carolina in the fall of 2005. She knew little about CPC but she read booklets and papers she found in the black CPC box she inherited when appointed. In the spring of 2006 she had a book sale in her parish, St. George's, and raised \$500. Encouraged by that she planned another sale in the fall of 2006, a project for the 9 churches in her deanery. She took 10 empty boxes to each parish, marked for the collection of used books to sell. At one parish the rector told her of an e-mail she had received from a missionary in Belize telling her he needed Bibles for his people in Mango Creek.

At the deanery sale, held in Grace Church, Asheville, 50 Bibles were set aside for Belize. A friend of Donna's who has a second home in Belize became interested and asked his church for help; it bought 100 Bibles, and he took the 150 Bibles in his van to Belize. Once there he got them from his home in the north to Mango Creek. The missionary wrote that many of the elderly who received a Bible said it was the first they had ever owned. The sale raised \$1,326.57 for CPC.

The CPC Sunday celebration at Mango Creek also included a book sale, a raffle and pictures of the village of Mango Creek.

This granddaughter and great granddaughter of Baptist ministers who worked with seminarians in their ministries is still learning and is passing along what she learns because "people need to know what it is before they will support it. The Church Periodical Club is a wonderful organization," she said, "and we need to keep helping people who need help. And we can do it." **Deanery Book Sale, Asheville**



Once Upon A Time -

Stories pop up from very unlikely circumstances; some fascinate us, others we quickly forget. The ones we remember we tell over and over as a means of sharing something meaningful. Such are the stories from the history of the Church Periodical Club. If you know stories of people whose lives were enriched because of their encounter with CPC, please share them with us.

We have one of those stories to tell. It comes from Barbara Braun of Arkansas, a former National Books Fund Chair, and has been told before. It bears repeating.

"In the 1930's Captain Raymond Lewis of the Church Army and a nun from the Episcopal Church were working in a small mountain town in Virginia. They saw the need for a library and realized that Church Periodical Club was the best place to secure books. They contacted the Church Periodical Club in New York and a shipment of over 300 books was sent to them. A young man from the community came to help them unpack and while working developed an interest in books. The young man was Earl Hamner, Junior, who later became the author of the Walton series that was on national television here and overseas.

A book is an amazing thing."

If you have a CPC story to tell please send it to Ethel Marple at marple3@juno.com. The quarterly deadline is June 11.

We Remember

Marjorie Strawbridge, a former director in the Diocese of Los Angeles, who died in February and Veva Richmond, a former director in the Diocese of Alaska, who died in March.

Marjorie was active in the ECW of Los Angeles for many years and was CPC director from 1991 until 2000.

Veva was well known in the Diocese of Alaska through her work for many years with ECW, UTO and CPC.

Our sincere condolences go to their families with our prayers that these faithful women rest in peace.

Miles of Pennies Committee Grants to 8 Youth Programs

The Miles of Pennies Committee has completed work on the first eight requests of its term. The new MOP Committee is made up of Mary Louise Sharp, Province 6, chairman; Patricia Barnes, Province 4; Sally Johnson, Province 3; Nancy Mulheim and Rosemary Sater, Province 8, and Patricia Warren, Province 2.

The plan for MOP, the Church Periodical Club fund that is earmarked exclusively for children's materials, is to consider each application as it arrives and mail awards quickly. The maximum grant for an MOP request is a Mile of Pennies, that is \$844.80 – the amount in pennies lined up to cover one mile. This report includes grants of \$5,517.25 for children's books and related materials.

<i>St. George's Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC</i> –Books to start Sunday school program for children through 5 th grade. Dio: Western North Carolina	\$402.94
<i>Keweenaw Family Resource Center, Houghton, MI</i> –Books and DVDs for teaching child development, alcohol and sex education and parenting skills to teen parents. Dio: Northern Michigan	\$796.59
<i>Fathers Orphanage Centre, Dodoma, Tanzania</i> - Books and CDs for orphanage school.. Dio: Central Tanganyika	\$844.80
<i>St. James' Episcopal Church, Bowie, MD</i> –Beulah Enterprises material for church school curriculum. Dio: Washington	\$665.00
<i>Church of St. Luke's in the Fields, New York, NY</i> –Books for GO-St. Luke's Church tutoring program for ages 6-11 in grades 2-5. Dio: New York	\$844.80
<i>Episcopal City Mission, St. Louis, MO.</i> -Books and related program materials for children 11-17 who abuse drugs and/or alcohol and are confined in juvenile detention centers. Dio: Missouri	\$537.50
<i>Reading Camp, Lexington, KY.</i> -Books for camp tutoring programs for grades 3 and 4, and add to traveling library. Dio. Lexington	\$844.80
<i>St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI.</i> –Books and visual arts for Kids' Club program for kindergarten to 6 th grade. Dio: Western Michigan	\$580.82
Total	\$5,517.25

From the President

During the past month several diocesan directors have asked me about the need to give to the Administrative Fund. This is the fund that pays the office administrator's salary, the postage and telephone bills, the costs of publishing the Quarterly and materials for the parish kits, and for processing grants from both the National Books and Miles of Pennies Funds.

Each year appeal letters are written to all bishops by the president and to all Life Members of CPC asking their support of this fund. As generous as bishops and life members are, the fund depends very heavily on the CPC's in the dioceses.

I hope each director will remember the administrative fund every year. We ask that 20 percent of the monies they have to distribute go to administration. All checks to the New York office must be marked in the memo line for NBF, MOP or Admin.

Please continue telling our story and emphasize that CPC changes lives, one book at a time.Ursula

Messages from.....

The president –

The National Board met Nov 2-5th at Virginia Seminary in Alexandria, VA. We had the Rev. Samuel Sudhe speak to us about the very old books in the small library of his college, Bishop Okullu College in the Diocese of Bondo in Kenya. His NBF grant will be considered in the spring granting session. He truly reminds us why we do this mission and why we have to be successful!

Love, Ursula

The administrator –

Excitement from the National Church Office – the new presiding bishop has arrived and so has my new computer! The latter is great news for all of you who have tried in vain to contact me via e-mail in the past. I now am connected and can be reached at either pstewart@episcopalchurch.org or cpc@episcopalchurch.org. Yea! CPC Sunday will arrive before we know it. I will be mailing Sample Parish Kits to diocesan directors by the end of January. They include a variety of materials including Speaking Volumes, prayer card, offering envelope, poster, grant lists from NBF and MOP and an order form that help tell the CPC story. Directors who do not receive the packet by Feb. 20, please email me or call me at 1-800-334-7626 x 6130. I am usually in the office on Monday but you can leave a message.

To answer a frequently asked question: Make checks payable to CPC and designate on the memo line MOP, NBF or administration. One check is fine for multiple donations as long as it is clearly marked. I want to credit your contributions to the correct categories.

Blessings, Pam

Suggestions for getting ready for CPC Sunday include

January – set the date; start thinking and talking about someone to speak about CPC – perhaps a clergy staff member or an informed parisher or friend

February – contact the CPC Diocesan Director and ask for information about materials

March – order materials from New York

April – write an article for parish newsletter about what CPC is; include a Speaking Volumes brochure in the mailing.

Last Sunday in April – remind the parish about CPC Sunday coming up. Ask to have the CPC Prayer printed in the next Sunday's bulletin and included in Prayers of the People

May – Put offering envelopes in Sunday bulletins; collect contents of the envelopes after the service and send the money to the Diocesan Director, marked for CPC Sunday.

June – write an article for parish newsletter thanking everyone for participating

The next Quarterly will include some suggestions to help bring attention to this ministry in the parish.
Please send suggestions on this subject to the editor.

Deadline for the next Quarterly, Volume XXXIII, is March 1, 2007. Please send material and ideas to Ethel Marple, 111 Deerfield Blvd., Hampton VA 23666, or marple3@juno.com