

Welcome Home! Come Walk With Us!



# Northside NEWS

Northside Presbyterian Church

November 2015

Blacksburg, Virginia

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

Dear Friends,

“The times, they are a-changing.”

What was true in 1969 is still true today. All around us, the world looks different. In fact, we are now living in the world of “Back to the Future,” which seemed so far away when that film came out. But the future is now the present, and God is calling us to consider who we are and what we are to do in Blacksburg of 2015 and beyond.



The session (like many churches, and, in fact, our whole denomination) is beginning a process of discernment about our identity and purpose. It feels exciting, yet maybe a bit unsettling. We are looking at resources from all over, and at some point along the way, you will be asked to participate in thinking about Northside, and what our hopes, dreams and visions are.

Each month, in the newsletter, I'll be including an article of interest—some food for thought. I hope you will read them, and ponder them. Spend some time each day in prayer for your church leaders and for Northside as we see where God is leading us.

As you will see in the attached article, the P.C.(U.S.A.) General Assembly is also thinking about these issues, and they are asking for your input also.

It's true—the times, they are a-changing. But the faithfulness of God has not changed. We can count on God's presence, and we depend on the promise of Jesus Christ that he is with us—wherever two or three are gathered, and that he will never leave us or forsake us.

Thanks be to God!

Peace,

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**MORNING WORSHIP- 10:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL - 11:15 AM**

## FLOWERS

**Nov. 1:** Jane & J. B. Jones  
**Nov. 8:** COMMUNION  
**Nov. 15:** Marilyn & Rich Rio  
**Nov. 22:** Paul Ruzsler  
**Nov. 29:** ADVENT

## OFFICERS ON CALL

**Nov. 1-7:** Joe Hunnings,  
540-808-3872  
**Nov. 8-14:** Emily Davis,  
540-392-1750  
**Nov. 15-21:** Bruce Harper,  
540-392-3597  
**Nov. 22-28:** Clark Gaylord,  
540-552-2868  
**Nov. 29-Dec. 5:** Joanne Pearson,  
540-961-5602

## USHERS

**Nov. 1:** Joe & Kay Hunnings  
**Nov. 8:** Ron Pearson & Sandi Webster  
**Nov. 15:** Jilk-Stowe Family  
**Nov. 22:** Sue & Ernie Bentley  
**Nov. 29:** Steve Cole & Drew Taylor

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR NOVEMBER**

**Nov. 1:** Isa. 25:6-9  
Psalm 24  
Rev. 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

**Nov. 15:** 1 Sam.1:4-20  
1 Sam. 2:1-10  
Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

**Nov. 8:** Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17  
Psalm 127  
Heb. 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

**Nov. 22:** 2 Sam. 23:1-7  
Psalm 132:1-12 (113-18)  
Rev. 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

**Nov. 29:** Jer. 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thess. 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS !**

- 8
- 9
- 11
- 12 Bill Hylton  
Doug Garnett-Deakin
- 16 Lisa Garcia
- 20 Tina McMahan
- 22 Nadia Kaldro-Bridge
- 23 Joe Hunnings
- 30 Marya Katz  
Allison Meincke Davis  
Ann Marie Conner  
Linda Morrow  
Paavo Kaldro-Bridge  
Rosemary Cole  
Marjorie Norton



*If your birthday is not listed here, you probably have not given it to us. We want to have everyone's birthday on file. Please give us a call at the church office and tell us the date of your birthday. We promise not to ask the year!*

***HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

\*\*\*\*\*

**ATTENTION!**

**Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night, October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## Collections for Montgomery County Christmas Store at Northside

On each of the four Saturdays in November (7, 14, 21 and 28) Northside Presbyterian Church will be the **ONE BLACKSBURG COLLECTION POINT** for donations of new and used goods for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Collections will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the lower church parking lot.

Items that can be donated include new and used clothing (especially warm winter clothing in large sizes), new and used toys and games, books, bikes, child car seats, new towels and linens and new small electrical appliances. There will be **NO collection of USED household goods.**

A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex for people to register to work on one or more of the dates of this project that assists low-income families in Montgomery County.

## Donations for Christmas Store

This year members, friends and visitors to Northside Presbyterian Church are asked to donate the following items for children (infants through teens) to the Montgomery County Christmas Store: **NEW** sweatshirts, balls of all kinds, knitted hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. A collection box will be located in the church narthex throughout the month of November.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF BLACKSBURG will meet on Friday Evening, Nov. 6, 2015, at 7:00 pm at St. Paul AME Church, 102 Penn Street.**

**PROGRAM:** *Our Journey Together*

Women from all denominations are encouraged to attend!

\*\*\*\*\*

**NORTHSIDE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:**

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**1:30 pm in the old kitchen.**

**Our Bible Study this year is on a book by Judy Record Fletcher**  
***Come to the Waters***

**Rev. Linda will be leading this study and all are welcome!**

**Come Join Us!**

## NORTHSIDE MISSIONS–DID YOU KNOW?

UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech (Cooper House) nurtures the faith development and discipleship of Virginia Tech students, responds to human needs, and promotes peace and justice as Christ teaches. UKirk is connected to local Presbyterian partner churches such as Northside, and it provides a forum for student fellowship, worship, Bible study, and mission activities locally and globally. UKIRK offers pastoral care and seeks to bear witness to God's good news to students and to the broader university community. This past spring, led by Campus Minister Ginny Taylor-Troutman and Kathy Carpenter, eleven UKIRK students participated in a mission trip to Guatemala.

Recognizing that discerning one's vocation is a significant task that students face, UKIRK also provides opportunities for students to examine vocation through the lens of faith. In 2015, UKIRK has begun a new initiative named "Thy Kingdom Come," which is designed to provide opportunities for students to explore how God is calling them to live and work in the world. This fall, Kathy will be leading the UKIRK Ministry while Ginny is on leave.

Local Presbyterian churches provide dinners for the UKIRK student fellowship that is held each Tuesday evening at Cooper House. Northside members sign up to provide the meals one Tuesday per month and additional volunteers are always appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

### UNEXPECTED MOMENTS

*Lord, we find you in unexpected moments,  
In shared laughter between a mom and  
her rebellious teen.  
In a quick hug from a loving friend.  
In a kind word from a total stranger.  
In a gentle touch from a weary spouse.  
In a TV commercial that makes us giggle.  
In a sunset that stirs hearts and spirits.  
In all the small and precious times when we  
least expect to see you and so gladly welcome  
your constant care and wonderful blessings.*

*-from **Count Your Blessings –  
Thanking God for His Gifts***

## IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**November 15, 2015, immediately following worship, to elect new church officers.  
Mark your calendar and plan to be here!**

### Session Notes – October 18, 2015

Elders met on October 18, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. Major matters covered were:

- The primary order of business for the meeting was to discuss the 2016 proposed church budget, participate in a church Visioning exercise led by Jane Jones, and hear reports from committees.
- Minutes of the September 20, 2015 Stated Session Meeting were approved. These will be posted in the narthex.
- The financial reports from the treasurer were presented. Current income is slightly below expected income for this time of the year (73% vs 75%) and expenses are even lower than expected (68% vs 75%). The reported market value on investment accounts has decreased in the last quarter.
- In place of a bible study a church visioning exercise was led by Jane Jones. Each committee is asked to look at what they spend their time on and who they serve. Before doing this activity the committee must first look at its stated purpose. This should be written in the Manual of Ministry (MOM) of the committee. This activity by each committee will help the church to look for areas of overlap and better understand the resources being used, and will be a first step in preparing the Vision discernment for the church. This process will be shared with the congregation, including what is the need, why it is needed, and how it is being done. This is a proactive information campaign, not a reactive one.
- A discussion of the proposed church budget was held. The 2016 budget to be brought forward to the stewardship committee is \$278,943.00.
- Reports from several of the committees included the following:
  - The Human Resources committee is working through the process of formally hiring Neil Phelps as the American Sign Language Interpreter. The Called Congregational Meeting will be held following morning worship on November 15<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of electing church officers.
  - Collection of new and used goods for the Montgomery County Christmas Store will take place in the lower parking lot on the four Saturdays in November from 10:00-1:00 p.m. Volunteers to assist with these collections are being sought. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. This year Northside will be accepting donations of NEW sweatshirts, knitted hats, scarves, gloves and mittens and balls of all types for the Christmas Store during November. A collection box will be in the narthex.
  - Participants in the Krogers Cares program need to update their cards annually. This can be handled on the web. Joe Hunnings will bring a computer to church so that people who do not have access to a computer can update their cards.
  - The first letter for the Stewardship Campaign has been sent out this week.
- Kathy Carpenter was thanked for her six years of service as Parish Associate at Northside. She will be greatly missed.

***DATES TO REMEMBER IN November:***

- November 1: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
GIFT Sunday; Deacon’s Meeting following Sunday School
- 3: NPC to “Feed the Flock” at UKIRK
- 4: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 6: World Community Day
- 7: Christmas Store Collection Begins: 10 am – 1 pm
- 8: COMMUNION  
2 Cents-A-Meal Offering  
Committees to meet after Sunday School
- 11: Veterans Day  
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 12: Northside Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 pm
- 14: Christmas Store Collection, 10 am – 1 pm
- 15: Thanksgiving Offering, 11 am  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following Worship  
Session Meeting following Sunday School
- 18: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 21: Christmas Store Collection, 10 am – 1 pm
- 22: Thanksgiving Offering, 11 am
- 25: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 26: THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Office Closed 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>)
- 28: Christmas Store Collection, 10 am – 1 pm
- 29: 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

\*\*\*\*\*

***ATTENTION CONGREGATION!***

**Announcements are back in the pulpit. There is a special section on the bulletin board in the narthex for announcements. If you have an announcement you wish to make, please write in on the slip of paper provided beside the announcement space and place the announcement there. If you have an important announcement that isn’t in the bulletin, please write it on a piece of paper and hand it to Linda before worship. Everyone is encouraged to read your bulletin carefully, listen at the announcement time and stop by the bulletin board and check for other announcements. Thank you cooperating in this new change.**

\*\*\*\*\*

<p><b>Check Us Out...</b></p> <p>Church Address: Northside Presbyterian Church 1017 Progress Street, N.W. Blacksburg, VA 24060</p> <p>Phone: 540-552-4327</p> <p>Email Address: <a href="mailto:secretary.northside@gmail.com">secretary.northside@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Minister’s Email: <a href="mailto:dickerson.northside@gmail.com">dickerson.northside@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Website URL (<a href="http://www.nsidepresburg.org">http://www.nsidepresburg.org</a>)</p>
---

## **Join the Conversation**

**COGA ISSUES OPEN INVITATION TO DISCUSS IDENTITY, PURPOSE OF PC(USA)**

OCTOBER 6, 2015

*Office of the General Assembly*

**TOYA RICHARDS JACKSON**

*Director of Communications and Assistant Stated Clerk*

**LOUISVILLE**

Identity conversations are taking place across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) wants to make sure all join in.

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? Who is the church called to be in this current day and time?

How should the denomination serve into the future?

Valid questions are being discussed in nooks and crannies throughout the church, and now the General Assembly committee that oversees assembly work between biennial meetings is inviting the entire denomination into a church wide conversation.

“In these changing times it’s imperative that the PC(USA) dialogue in community about its identity and purpose,” said Margaret Elliott, moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. “We’re inviting Presbyterians to dream big dreams, hope big hopes, and share them with their brothers and sisters.”

“The fruit of that dialogue will then be used by the General Assembly--an expression of the church’s core – when it gathers June 18-25, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. Together the body will discern a way forward for the church,” she said.

Getting more than 1.6 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations to talk and give input won’t be easy, but COGA is giving it a shot, and banking on the denomination’s value of connectionalism.

The process begins October 23 when people can go online to share their thoughts and comments. Sign up in advance here to ensure you receive the online form.

Simultaneously individuals, congregations, mid councils, seminaries, affiliated groups, and anyone else who wishes are being asked to gather for discussions on their own about the identity and the purpose of the denomination. A downloadable discussion guide available October 23 will aid that process, and COGA will host several conference calls in the coming weeks to walk through the discussion guide.

For the social media savvy, Twitter chat on the topic will be hosted by General Assembly Vice Moderator Larissa Kwong Abazia. Dates and times for the discussion guide conference calls, as well as the Twitter chats, will be released October 23.

“Our prayer is that the depth and breadth of the PC(USA), rich in its diversity, will be intentional about discussing who God has called us to be and what our charge is for the future,” Elliott said. “It will then be up the assembly, empowered by the wealth of information from this church wide conversation, to collectively discern the mind of Christ for us.”

Specific times are being docketed for the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) to handle this work along with its other critical business.