



Northside NEWS

Northside Presbyterian Church

November 2017

Blacksburg, Virginia

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Friends,



It's interesting to me that both my phone and my Facebook page give me reminders of what is in my past. You know how it goes: A photo pops up of a little baby, and a caption saying "Your memories of five years ago." And, sure enough, our kindergarten granddaughter of today was just an infant then. Or maybe it's a picture from a vacation several years ago . . . or a special event at church . . . or a pet long gone. Those memories are bittersweet, and they remind me how quickly time passes.

I think those pop-up "memories" are important, though. They remind me of where I have been, and make me feel grateful for what *was*, even as I am in the middle of what *is*.

The Bible is like that. As we read the stories of long, long ago, we remember what God has done for God's people from the beginning. We are reminded of escape from slavery, return from exile, feeding by the lakeshore and in an upper room, forgiveness given from a cross, an empty tomb. We are reminded of God's steadfast love, and mercy given in the face of sinfulness, and it helps us. It helps us to be grounded *today*, in the midst of whatever problems or trials we may be undergoing.

But, more than that, those long ago stories give us hope for *tomorrow*. Because we know of God's action in the past, we can trust in God's presence, love, peace, and joy into the future. We are assured that God is going somewhere with this all-too-flawed creation. And, for that, we can truly be thankful.

Peace,

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. – Morning Worship
11:00 A.M. – Sunday School

USHERS

Nov. 5: Joe & Kay Hunnings
Nov. 12: Steve Cole & Marshall Chaney
Nov. 19: Lisa Garcia & Ty Stephenson
Nov. 26: Sandi Webster &
Lucian Robinson

FLOWERS

Nov. 5: Communion
Nov. 12: Jane & J.B. Jones
Nov. 19: Paul Ruszler
Nov. 26: Martha & Danny McMahan

Officers On Call

Oct. 29-Nov. 4: Paul Ruszler,
540-951-0123
Nov. 5-11: Mary Lough,
540-250-5810
Nov. 12-18: Sue Bentley,
540-651-3170
Nov. 19-25: Mary Lough,
540-250-5810
Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Steve Cole,
540-953-0434

When we put ourselves in the other person's place, we're less likely to want to put him in his place.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 5: Josh. 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thess. 2:9-13
Matt. 23:1-12

Nov. 19: Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30

Nov. 12: Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thess.4:13-18
Matt. 25:1-13

Nov. 26: Ezek. 34:11-16
Psalm 100
Eph. 1:15-23
Matt. 25:31-46

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS !

- 5 Doug Garnett-Deakin
- 7 Lisa Garcia
- 8 Tina McMahan
- 9 Yeji Kim
- 11 Joe Hunnings
- 12 Marya Katz
- 16 Ann Marie Conner
- 20 Linda Morrow
- 23 Rosemary Cole
- 30 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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Interfaith Food Pantry needs help in stocking their pantry. **Food Drive at University City Kroger, Saturday, November 18th.** Northside will be working two, 2 hour slots – 12 noon to 2 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm. We need 4 potential volunteers for each time slot. Please see Sue Herbein or Sandy Hancock if you can help!

MISSION NEWS: UKIRK MINISTRY AT VIRGINIA TECH
FEED THE FLOCK
Fall 2017

Northside's Schedule for Feeding The Flock this Fall:
November 7, 2017

Meals begin at 6:00 pm and if you can help provide a meal or part of a meal please see Mary Lough, Chair of our Mission Committee. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: November 9, 2017

The women of Northside will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month for Bible Study. We will be studying the book, "**Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews**" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Rev. Linda will be leading this study which begins at 1:30 pm in the old kitchen at the church. Refreshments are served and all women are invited!!!

Transformation Team

One of the guidelines that R. Wayne Calhoun identified regarding our efforts is to avoid jumping quickly to conclusions or decisions without taking time to reflect on what God wants us to do. Our concerns urge us to quickly declare a solution, but R. Wayne's advice is to step back a bit so that we can gain a sense of God's direction. That is essential. Consequently, we study some recommended books that reveal successful renewal achieved by other church congregations. The first book we have undertaken is *Unbinding the Gospel*, by Martha Grace Reese. The author explains some of the pitfalls of other congregations, and encourages us to pray and thereby to release ourselves to God's wisdom and direction. This is something that most of us are not familiar with. Of course we pray -- but -- we are not experienced in praying in such a way to really open ourselves to God's direction. That openness is very important. Thus, this takes time. And it takes patience. And it takes focused effort. As a team, we are moving toward that kind of unity that will strengthen us as a team and us as our congregation. As Joe Hunnings told the congregation on October 8, we encourage all of the congregation to pray on a daily basis. Do that as we also do it. We all know that prayer is powerful and creative, and we ask your commitment to daily prayer. We are continuing on the path, and your prayers will help light our way.

-Mary Rhodes

"Learn from yesterday, live for Today, hope for Tomorrow!
The important thing is not to stop questioning."
-Albert Einstein

Church Women United - 2017 World Community Day***Kindling New Fires for Peace*****You Are Invited: Date – November 3, 2017****Time – 7:00 p.m. Place – St. Paul AME Church
102 Penn St., Blacksburg**

Northside's Donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of the people who made donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering earlier this month. A total of \$707 was received for this special offering that supports peace initiatives and reconciliation around the world. Twenty five percent or \$176.75 of the money collected, will stay here locally and be sent to NRV Cares. NRV Cares is an organization in the New River Valley that provides child advocacy resources, education and services. Program areas include CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Parenting Young Children courses, Parenting Work

Truths children have learned

- *No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- *When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- *You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- *You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- *Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic-Tac.

Truths adults have learned

- *Raising teenagers is like trying to nail Jell-O to a tree.
- *Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not the toy.
- *If you can remain calm, you don't have all the facts.
- *You're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- *You appreciate the fact that wrinkles don't hurt.

Forgiveness is the sweetest revenge.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 15, 2017

The Session met on Sunday, October 15, 2017 and the following items were discussed.

Mary Rhodes will be our Commissioner to the Presbytery of the Peaks on November 16, 2017.

Thus far we have received 29 pledges for our 2018 budget. We expect about 20 more pledges in the coming days. We anticipate that we may need to do some trimming of budget allocations as compared with this year's budget.

We are currently below budget in expenses for this time of year and further below budget in income. There is currently about a \$5,000 difference between expenses and income. It is hoped that this will decrease as members continue to pay their pledges.

There will be a Life Line Screening session at Northside this fall. No date has been set.

We will purchase an AED for the church to use in case of cardiac emergency. We will purchase the model recommended by the Rescue Squad.

We continued our discussion of ways to reach out to our community. The Deacons will be working on this as well as Heidi Harper who will be inviting members to help with this effort.

Five members of our congregation and Reverend Linda will participate in a Presbytery of the Peaks Seminar on Church Development and Transformation in Lynchburg on October 25.

Other upcoming events include a visit from Transitional General Presbyter Carl Utley on November 12.

Many Ways to Help the Montgomery County Christmas Store

Again this year there are many ways to become involved with the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The first way is to help with collections here at Northside. **On each of the first two Saturdays in November (4 and 11)** 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, new small electrical appliances and canned food items. 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.

Another way is to donate items to the Christmas Store, either on the two dates listed above, or on any Tuesday or Saturday from 9:00-4:00 throughout November at the Montgomery County Christmas Store, 30 West Main Street, Christiansburg, VA. Other ways to assist include - donations of money to the Christmas Store. Checks can be written to Northside Presbyterian Church with Christmas Store in the notation line.
- donations of new items to the holiday collection box located in the narthex during November. Specific items will be listed in the weekly church bulletin starting the first Sunday of November.
- helping during the operation of the Christmas Store December 5- 9. Sign-up on the store website: <http://www.mcchristmasstore.org>.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER:

- November**
- 1: All Saints' Day**
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
 - 3: WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, Service at 7 pm St. Paul AME Church, 102 Penn St., Blacksburg, VA.**
 - 4: Christmas Store Collection (10:00 am – 1:00pm)**
 - 5: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**
COMMUNION
- Stewardship Dedication Luncheon – The Fellowship Committee will provide turkey, rolls and drinks. We are asking the congregation to bring a side dish and a dessert.**
- Deacon's Meeting**
- 7: ELECTION DAY**
 - 8: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 9: Women's Bible Study, 1:30 pm in old kitchen**
 - 11: VETERANS DAY**
Christmas Store Collection (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)
 - 12: 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering**
Committees to Meet
 - 15: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 16: Peaks Presbytery Meeting (Blacksburg Presbyterian Church)**
 - 18: Food Drive at University City, Kroger -12 noon to 4 pm**
 - 19: Session Meeting**
 - 22: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 23: THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Office Closed)**
 - 29: Transformation Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm**
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

Check Us Out...

Church Address: Northside Presbyterian Church
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Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: 540-552-4327

Email Address: secretary.northside@gmail.com

Minister's Email: dickerson.northside@gmail.com

Website URL (<http://www.nsidepresbburg.org>)