



Northside

NEWS

Northside Presbyterian Church

April 2018

Blacksburg, Virginia

From The Pastor's Desk

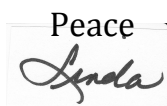
Easter will be here within a few days of your reading this. Besides being the highlight of the Christian year, the most important celebration we have—the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ—it is also a day when we have many more guests in our midst.

We have the opportunity to welcome and share good news with those who will come to our church that day. Thom Rainer, a church development “guru,” has offered the following suggestions for church members who encounter guests on Easter Sunday. Here they are:

1. **Pray as you enter the property.**
2. **Park at the most distant spot available.**
3. **Greet people.**
4. **Look for people to help.**
5. **Sit as close as possible to the front of the worship center.**
6. **Sit in the middle.**
7. **Sit closely.**
8. **Volunteer to serve.**
9. **Pray as you leave.**

Easter is a great opportunity for us to serve. More help is always needed and welcomed. Pray now for those who will join us for worship on Easter. And, as always, invite a friend to join you!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

USHERS

Apr. 1: Jilk-Stowe Family
Apr. 8: Joe & Kay Hunnings
Apr. 15: Ron Pearson & Namhoon Kim
Apr. 22: Lucian Robinson & Marshall Chaney
Apr. 29: Lisa Garcia & Ty Stephenson

FLOWERS

Apr. 1: EASTER SUNDAY
Apr. 8: Bev & Joe Lineweaver
Apr. 15: Nedra Underwood
Apr. 22: Marya Katz
Apr. 29: Sandy & Clark Gaylord

Officers On Call

April 1-7: Clark Gaylord,
540-641-1439
April 8-14: Sue Bentley,
540-651-3170
April 15-21: Marsha Chaney,
540-320-8083
April 22-28: Bruce Harper,
540-231-4360
April 29-May 5: Paul Ruzler,
540-951-1234

“Digging for facts is better mental exercise than jumping to conclusions.”

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR APRIL

April 1: Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 15: Acts 3: 12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 8: Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 2:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 22: Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 15:1-8

April 29: Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

FEEDING THE FLOCK AT UKIRK – CAN YOU HELP?

**Meals are needed for our UKIRK students on April 3.
If you can help prepare meals please contact Mary Lough or sign up on
the sheet in the narthex.**

Church’s 75th Anniversary

In anticipation of the celebrations that will take place in 2019 for the 75th Anniversary, we are currently gathering photos of events at Northside from past years. Are you someone who might have at your home any interesting photos or videos taken of church events? If so, please contact any member of the anniversary committee. We are especially interested in those taken since 2000. Thank you! Liz Allen, Frieda Bostian, Tina McMahan, and Sandi Webster.

***COOPERATE! Remember the banana!
Everytime it leaves the bunch it gets skinned!***

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY: April 12, 2018

The women of Northside will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month for Bible Study. We are 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!!!

HELP NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

Would you be interested in helping us with our sound system during services?

One hour of training is sufficient for anyone to learn how to operate the system. Alexis Chaney has taught us the basics of the system and we have prepared a short summary of the features that we use in manuscript form. She is present most Sundays to help us if something unexpected happens.

Please let us know immediately if you can help us in this way!!!

From the Mission Committee -

"I want to tell you a secret." I said "I might not be able to keep the secret". He said "That is why I am telling you." The 'not so secret' secret is "Northside contributes more per capita to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry than any other church. During 2017, of the approximately \$14,750 donated through the church, the Mission Committee gave \$4000. The rest came through individual contributions and your use of the Kroger Community Rewards Program. In 2017 we paid for all the eggs (\$4,127) and milk (\$6,881) given to the patrons of the food pantry. We also paid for all the eggs and milk in 2016. Because of the shrinking budget at Northside the Mission Committee will not be able to donate as much for milk this year. If you can help provide extra funds for eggs or milk, mark your contribution (check to Northside) appropriately for its use.

Thank you for your wonderful support of the food pantry and the families/individuals it serves. Also, Thank You to our 10+ volunteers who help the food pantry patrons 2 days each month.

**Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand but as for me, I always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand.*

-Mark Twain

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- 4 Dottie Hylton
- 5 Martha Taylor
- 6 Eliza Jilk-Stowe
- 7 Emily Davis
Patty Brown Devens
- 15 Emma Jilk-Stowe
- 16 Maggie Hancock
- 19 Jamie Stoops
- 20 Michael Stowe
- 22 Joanne Pearson
Lucian Robinson
- 24 Tom Gilmer III
Rich Rio
- 25 Caryl Gray
- 26 Lynn Long
- 28 Hazel Hale
- 29 Bev Lineweaver
- 30 Leon Geyer



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. Please remember to bring food for the barrel in our hallway. Your help is greatly appreciated always, but especially at this time of year. Thank You!

REUSE - REPURPOSE Cart -

A Reuse -Repurpose cart has been placed in the Chapel beside the library shelves. On the top and middle shelves you may put things from around the church that need to be reused somewhere else in the church or at your home. Items on these shelves will stay a complete month and no more than 2.

If you have a religious book/item at home that someone else in the church might want you may bring it and add to the cart. No other items from home accepted. Anyone in the church may take what they can use. If it will be used at church, please put it away appropriately. At the end of each month items that have been there more than a month will be taken to Second Time Around. The bottom shelf has a crate in which to put items for the New River Creative Reuse Center. This is an effort to help our church, you, and our teachers. If you have questions contact Mary Lough.

Read Romans 12:18-21

Living peaceably with everyone is difficult in a violent world. Daily we hear news reports of death and destruction that result from human greed and oppressive structures. Even Christians find it hard to overcome the desire to repay evil for evil. And yet that is what God calls us to do. We are called to bless and not curse those who do us harm; to strive for peace, leaving retributive justice to God; to show love at all times and in all places. But ensuring that we allow love to rule in all situations presents a serious challenge.

Paul here connects a believer's love of God with service to neighbors. Living holy lives as Christians in the world demands that we hold fast to God if we intend to follow the path of love set by Christ. Living in harmony, even in the church, presents a challenge, as does showing hospitality to strangers, especially those who do not look like we do and whom we consider "other" because of difference in gender, race, class, sexuality, age, ability, or any other social definer. And yet that is God's call on our lives: to "live peaceably with all."

Living holy lives that demonstrate love requires that we acknowledge the *imago dei* (image of God) in each person and live actively in God's presence. By so doing we will be able to see and respond to their needs and seek justice for all. Paul's words offer a guide and, by the ever-present grace of God, we can follow it and live lives of genuine Christian love.

Christ our Savior, help us walk closely with you as we seek to follow your example and be people of love. Amen.

-From Disciplines
A book of Daily
Devotions (2017)

Prayer Request Station

The Worship Committee recognizes the need for many to want prayers offered in a more private and confidential manner than simply calling them out or having them announced during the worship service. Therefore, a station has been placed in the sanctuary, with cards to be filled out at any time during each week for specific requests. On Sundays after worship, members of the Session and the Deacons (who are tasked with confidentiality) will take the cards and offer those requested prayers during the following week. For further information or if there are any questions, please contact Linda.

Star Words

In January 2017, Reverend Linda gave a special word on a star-shaped hanger to each member of the congregation, suggesting to us that we reflect on that word during the year. Now, in 2018, the Worship Committee is asking for 24 of us to share our thoughts about our words. That's all – just 24 – to be presented on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during the year. Ann Marie Conner is in the process of scheduling presenters; please contact her to get your name on the list! We also recognize that there are a few members of the congregation who have GREAT thoughts and reflections, but prefer not to speak in public – for you, we extend the invitation to write your thoughts down and ask someone else to read them for you. Or, you might give your presentation as a Powerpoint program (if you're incredibly creative with computers). Or you might choose a particular song that reflects your word and play it for us over the sound system. Obviously, there are many ways to share your reflection, so don't hesitate to volunteer!

**Congratulations to Grandparents, Jan & Leon Geyer, on the birth of their grandson, Aden McIntosh Geyer. Parents are Bryce and Holly Geyer.
Baby's weight: (4 lbs 9 oz)**

Noxie Gilmer's Address: Cove Section, Kroontje
Warm Hearth Campus, 1000 Litton Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060

If you take yourself or someone else to church you want to make things better for them or you – Loved The Order of Church.

Mothers and Fathers of squirming children all bunched up together in tidy rows. A bulletin spelled out exactly what would happen from the beginning to end. Hymnboks and Bibles with everyone on the same page. Everyone had the understanding that rarely would there be a surprise at church. And I, with all the things going on in the world today and in my life longed for an hour without surprises. An hour of cleanliness, order, and clearly defined boundaries, so that church became that solid rock in my sea of disarray.

That is almost impossible today – something has to be happening all the time - no quiet – no quiet listening to soft music – no time to reflect. We all need this important time in our lives.

Why Lenten Prayer Groups?

An old Billy Graham pamphlet suggests that the Bible is a love letter from God. A love letter from God specifically to you. One of the books the Transformation Team has been reading, "*Unbinding the Gospel*" by Martha Grace Reese, suggests that we should look upon everyone as if we are love letter to them and they a love letter to us. What if we look at others through those eyes, envisioning God's grace and love transforming the frazzled student, the depressed teen, the wayward husband, and the worried mom? What would be different for each of these people if they were living Christ-filled lives within a supporting Church community? This envisioning is love. It is prayer. Love and prayer which may open opportunities to listen or to share words of hope and love.

The Lenten prayer groups have been a time to do this within our own congregation. As we pray and read scripture together we have shared the meaning of the scripture for our own lives and also for the life of our church. One of the key messages that the Transformation Team has learned the past 9 months, is that prayer and study is the bedrock of any transforming action we take. A spiritual life of prayer and study is often richer within small groups, such as these Lenten prayer groups. And small groups help us to learn to talk about our faith, within a loving group of friends. All of which empowers us to be Christ's hands, feet, and words, in today's world.

Martha Grace Reese says "prayer and awareness can lead us into amazing places." So as you go throughout your day, envision God's love for all those that you know and meet. That envisioning prayer may lead to opportunities to share the hope and love that we know through Christ. You may be the one that Christ has put in their lives to help.

-Joe Hunnings

ATTENTION FOOD PREPARERS!

We have an exciting worship service planned for May 6, called **Breakfast church!** The service itself will include some different approaches to understanding the word of God. We will all eat together as well – thus nurturing both our souls AND our bodies. So, we need some help in supplying the necessary ingredients for this meal. Please consider volunteering – either as a casserole baker or as someone who could bring fruit or bread. If you would be willing to help with this please contact Heidi Harper at **392-0057 before April 4** or call the church office after April 4.

CHURCH WORKDAY (the BIG EVENT) – Saturday, April 7, 2018

Volunteers Are Needed!

For more information or let us know you are willing to help

please contact Steve Cole at 540-953-0434!

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL:

- April**
- 1: RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER**
Sunrise Service, 7:30 am; Omelet Breakfast, 8:15 am
Worship, 10 am; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering;
Children's Activities
 - 2: Easter Monday (Church Office Closed)**
Drum Circle, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
 - 4: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 7: Saturday BIG EVENT – CHURCH WORK DAY**
 - 8: 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering; Committees to Meet**
 - 9: One Night Bible Study, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**
 - 11: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 12: Women's Bible Study, 1:30 pm (All women welcome!)**
 - 15: Stated Session Meeting following Sunday School**
 - 18: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 23: Deadline for items for the May Newsletter!**
One Night Bible Study, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
 - 25: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
Transformation Team Meeting
 - 29: Deacons' Meeting following Sunday School**

Check Us Out...

Church Address: Northside Presbyterian Church
1017 Progress Street, N.W.
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>)