

Welcome Home! Come Walk With Us!

Northside **NEWS**

Northside Presbyterian Church

April 2017

Blacksburg, Virginia

From the Pastor's Desk

...

As you know from all the small group discussions, the large group discussions, the video, "When God Left the Building," and lots and lots of communications, the church of Jesus Christ is going through a time of change. The days of the middle of the last century, when everybody who was anybody (and then some) went to church every Sunday are long gone. Today's church resembles much more the first century church, when the early disciples and small house churches gathered within a powerful empire that was, in the main, hostile to them.

It is easy to get discouraged when numbers are dwindling and the church no longer seems to have a voice in the public arena, when people seem no longer to care about church participation. But there is good news.

We are Easter people, people who cling fervently to resurrection. We are people who believe that nothing is impossible with God, and that we are never alone. We are people who believe that God's strength is revealed in weakness, and God's wisdom in human foolishness.

That is why we are continuing to engage in our discernment process—which I'd like to start calling our church transformation process. It is why we have a consultant coming to work with us over the next year.

Does this mean that our sanctuary will be teeming with hordes of people every Sunday? Does it mean that our budget will be full to overflowing? No, I can't promise that. But my hope is that we will hear God calling us to resurrection, to newness, and that Jesus will walk with us into new ministry, that we may be witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Peace,



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. – Morning Worship

11:15 A.M. – Sunday School

USHERS

Apr. 2: Sandy & Hunter Hancock

Apr. 9: Steve Cole & Ron Pearson

Apr. 16: Kay & Joe Hunnings

Apr. 23: Sue & Ernie Bentley

Apr. 30: Sandi Webster &

Lucian Robinson

FLOWERS

Apr. 2: Communion

Apr. 9: Palm Sunday/Communion

Apr. 16: EASTER

Apr. 23: Marya Katz

Apr. 30: Mary Rhodes

Officers On Call

Mar. 26-Apr. 1: Paul Ruzler,
540-951-0123

Apr. 2-8: Clark Gaylord. 540-641-1439

Apr. 9-15: Sue Bentley, 540-651-3170

Apr. 16-22: Heidi Harper, 540-392-0057

Apr. 23-29: Bruce Harper, 540-231-4360

Apr. 30-May 6: Steve Cole,
540-953-0434

***One of the secrets of life is to make
stepping stones out of stumbling blocks.***

-Jack Penn

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR APRIL:

April 2: Ezek. 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Rom 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 16: Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Col.3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10

April 9: Matt. 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isa. 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16

Apr. 23: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 30: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- 4 Dottie Hylton
- 5 Martha Taylor
- 6 Eliza Jilk Stowe
- 7 Emily Davis
Patty Brown Devens
- 9 Kai Kaldro-Bridge
- 15 Emma Jilk Stowe
- 16 Maggie Hancock
- 19 Jamie Stoops
- 20 Michael Stowe
- 22 Joanne Pearson
Lucian Robinson
- 23 Sarah Morrow
- 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

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – Sunday, April 16, 2017

On Easter Sunday, April 16th, our church, along with Protestant churches across the nation, will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This offering was first taken in 1949 when more than 75,000 churches participated. It started as an hour-long appeal and has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating denominations. This is an ecumenical effort because each denomination gives some of the gifts it receives for shared ministry through Church World Service. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.

This year One Great Hour of Sharing is a response to God's call in Isaiah 58, "You shall be called repairers of the breach. Loose the bonds of injustice, let the oppressed go free." In the Presbyterian Church (USA) the money that is collected is divided roughly into thirds – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People Programs. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, for example, provides food, shelter, and education to refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria and has helped the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon rebuild homes in Homs, Syria.

BIG EVENT: Saturday, April 8, 9:30 AM

There will be approximately 10 VT students at NPC on Saturday, April 8, to help us with spring projects. The students expect to arrive between 9:30 and 10:30 am. They can stay for a maximum of 4 hours. Please let someone on the Finance & Facilities know if you have a project that can use student help. We need NPC members to guide the cleaning and mulching the flower beds. Garden mulch will be available. Some garden tools will be available, but you are welcome to bring your favorites. The students are not allowed to operate power equipment. Looking forward to working with you. Steve Cole, 953-0434

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Interfaith Food Pantry needs help in stocking their pantry.

Let's remember to bring food to the church to fill our barrel and help those less fortunate

I have loved you with an everlasting love. – Jeremiah 31:3

At first glance, the sign seemed a bit strange. I was shopping for the perfect wedding gift when I spotted the exquisitely framed art. It hung at the very top of the department store's wedding gift display and seemed to dwarf the gifts displayed below it. The gold-leaf block letters stretched from one edge of the frame to the other, side to side and top to bottom. They proclaimed, "Love you more!" I did a double take, reading again: "Love you more!"

Think about the words Love you more! in light of Jeremiah 31:3. Who is speaking these words? It's God himself! The same God who called the entire universe into being. "Let there be...", he said, and it was. That's the one who loves you! The same God who crafts each child's smile, dimples and all. That one – that one, true God – loves you!

God loves you with all his might. He never started loving you. He has loved you forever, and he claims you as his very own. He will fight for you. He will defend you. He will comfort you. All this because you belong to him. God loves you. Yes, you! And he is truly the only one who can legitimately proclaim: "Love you more!"

God is the best, the champion, at loving. That's because "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God's very nature is love-heartfelt, powerful, genuine love. Love is who God is! And he alone enables us truly to love, to love him and to love one another. What's more, when we fail to imitate God's perfect love, he forgives us – completely.

God's greatest act of love came to earth wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger. Jesus, God's own dear Son, loved us to death—his own—even when we were sinful and totally unlovable. The Bible says: "*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*". (Romans 5:8)

"Love you more!" God reminds us. No matter what happened yesterday, regardless of what happens today or tomorrow, you can be sure his infinite love will hold you close, now and forever!

Lord, I am so humbled by your love. Remind me of it continually today, especially when

-copied from "*Women of God – Living Loved!*"

Attention! Marya Katz has a new pair of black Dansko shoes (size 7 ½) she ordered and cannot wear. If you are interested please see Marya – she wants someone to be able to use them!

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL:

- April**
- 2: 5th Sunday in Lent
COMMUNION**
 - 5: Lenten Luncheon (Old Kitchen) – 12 Noon
Lenten Supper, 5:30 pm at Blacksburg United Methodist
Christian Life Center, 706 Harding Blvd.
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 8: BIG EVENT (Workday at Northside) 9:30 am**
 - 9: PASSION PALM SUNDAY/COMMUNION
2 Cents-A-Meal Offering
Committees To Meet**
 - 12: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 13: Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 pm in the old Kitchen
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/COMMUNION, 7:30 pm**
 - 14: GOOD FRIDAY**
 - 16: EASTER SUNDAY –One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Sunrise Service, 7:30 am
Omelet Breakfast, 8:15 am
Easter Egg Hunt**
 - 19: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 21: Church Officers to meet with R. Wayne Calhoun (6 – 9 pm)**
 - 22: Officers & Congregation to meet with Mr. Calhoun (9 am – 4 pm)
(Barbeque lunch with vegetarian alternatives)**
 - 23: Rachel Sutphin filling our Pulpit
Session Meeting following Sunday School**
 - 26: 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>)