



Welcome Home! Come Walk With Us!

# Northside **NEWS**

Northside Presbyterian Church

July 2017

Blacksburg, Virginia

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

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I'm thinking about safety today—I have watched the apartment building burning in London, and seen the updates on the shooting of Rep. Scalise and others in Alexandria. But that is only the latest in so many tragedies (preventable and not) that happen in our world. There are natural disasters, acts of evil, dreaded diseases and birth defects, auto and other accidents, untimely deaths—I could go on.



There are Christians who believe that God protects them from these terrible things. We can, in fact, see that belief reflected in some of our scriptures. For instance, Psalm 4:8: "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety." Or Proverbs 1:33: "... whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." These verses reflect the view of the Deuteronomist (a large voice in the Old Testament), which asserts that faithfulness leads to blessing and unfaithfulness leads to curse.

Here is why I don't believe this works in the world we live in. First, unlike some of the "prosperity gospel" preachers, God does *NOT* promise that we who follow Jesus will be healthy, wealthy, and wise. What God *DOES* promise is presence, welcome, love, mercy. God is not an insurance agent. God does not prevent bad things from happening—if that were true, then Jesus would not have died on the cross. In fact, one of the temptations Jesus faced was to jump off the Temple pinnacle and let God's angels save him. He refused to test God in this way.

Friends, we *ARE* safe in God's hands—just not safe from the bad things that assail us and our world. We are able to endure these things because God is with us, and gives us strength and peace. We can count on God's grace and love through whatever we face. God says, "Do not be afraid; I am with you. . . because you are precious in my eyes . . . and I love you."

Peace,

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. – Morning Worship

### USHERS

- July 2: Lucian Robinson & Namhoon Kim
- July 9: Hunter & Sandy Hancock
- July 16: Ernie & Sue Bentley
- July 23: Joe & Kay Hunnings
- July 30: Jack & Sandi Webster

### FLOWERS

- July 2: Communion
- July 9: Bev & Joe Lineweaver
- July 16: Sandi & Jack Webster
- July 23: Emily Bender
- July 30: Mary Lough

### Officers On Call

- June 25-July 1: Mary Rhodes, 540-552-5745
- July 2-8: Clark Gaylord, 540-641-1439
- July 9-15: Steve Cole, 540-953-0434
- July 16-22: Mary Rhodes, 540-552-5745
- July 23-29: Paul Ruzsler, 540-951-0123

***Hate is like acid,  
It can damage the vessel in which  
it is stored as well as destroy the  
object on which it is poured.***

-Ann Landers

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JULY:**

**July 2:** Gen. 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Rom. 6:12-23  
Matt. 10:40-42

**July 16:** Gen. 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Rom. 8:1-11  
Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 9:** Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Sol. 2:8-13  
Rom. 7:15-25a  
Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 23:** Gen. 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Rom. 8:12-25  
Matt. 13:24-30,36-43

**July 30:** Gen. 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128  
Rom. 8:26-39  
Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

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**JULY BIRTHDAYS!**

- 1 Clark Gaylord
- 6 Evan McGrory
- 8 J. B. Jones
- 9 Louise Bloss
- 17 Brandy McGrory
- 24 Bruce Harper  
Anne Kurkendall
- 26 Megan McCoy
- 29 Brook Stephenson
- 31 Phyllis Garnett-Deakin



*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***

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***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

**SESSION REPORT (June 7, 2017 Meeting)**

The primary business of the Session at its June 7 meeting was the election and initial meeting of the Transformation Team. The Team includes the following people who graciously agreed to serve: Jane Jones, Bev Lineweaver, Bob Martin, Marshall Chaney, Clark Gaylord, Joe Hunnings, Mary Rhodes and Rachel Frimpong. Mary Rhodes was asked to serve as the initial convener.

In other business the Session voted to approve the Protocol for Homebound Communion. Session members will serve Communion to our homebound members on the day Communion is served at worship.

Sue Bentley, Clerk of Session

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**THANKS FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS  
TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING**

This year a total of **\$1,002.00** was donated here at Northside for the Pentecost Offering for Children at Risk, Youth and Young Adults. Forty percent of the money collected, or \$400, will stay here in the New River Valley. This year this portion will go to the Blacksburg Refuge Partnership. The Blacksburg Refuge Partnership is now supporting 19 children and 9 adults in Blacksburg and co-sponsoring 10 children and 2 adults in Roanoke. The idea of the Partnership is not simply to bring refugee families to the area but to truly resettle them. Your generous donations are much appreciated.

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*\*The best thing to do behind a friend's back is pat it. –Ruth Brillhart*

*\*There is no such thing in anyone's life as an unimportant day.  
-Alexander Woollcott, Long, Long Ago*

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**Thank You Northside Angels!**

**Your prayers, cards of concern, and  
offers of help have made the journey bearable.**

**Edd Stoops**

**DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY:**

- JULY            2: COMMUNION**
- 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY (Church Office Closed)**
- 9: 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering**  
**NO Committee Meetings**
- 16: NO Session Meeting**

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**A Sense of Values**

During my second year of nursing school our professor gave us a pop quiz.

I breezed through the questions until I read the last one. "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times, but how would I know her name?

I handed in the paper, leaving the last question blank. Before the class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our grade.

"Absolutely," the professor said. "In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson, I also learned her name was Dorothy.

-Joann Jones, *Guideposts*

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**Check Us Out...**

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