



From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Valentine's Day always reminds me of how I got re-involved in church as a young adult. I was living in Williamsburg and had not been going anywhere to church. Life was not going so well for me, and I felt lonely and sad. A woman at a Billy Graham crusade told me what I needed was to get back into church (it had been a few years since I was a "regular"—you know how those college years can go).

I ended up at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. At the first service I attended there, someone invited me to the Presbyterian Women's group, so I went. The meeting was on Valentine's Day, and everyone was handed a little pink heart with John 3:16 written on it. Even though I was only about 21, and most of the rest of the women were quite a bit older, they made me welcome.

I often say about those women: they loved me back into the church. It didn't matter about our age differences; it didn't matter that I had been away from the church for quite a while; it didn't matter what was or wasn't going on in my life at that time. They just loved me, and let me know that I was OK with them.

I've never forgotten that unconditional hospitality. It changed the direction of my life. THEY changed the direction of my life. I wonder if you realize how important you are, or could be, in the life of someone who comes to church on a Sunday, and doesn't know anyone or maybe even why they have come.

I believe God calls us to show this radical hospitality, this unconditional welcome to everyone God sends to this place. I hope that, on a Sunday morning, or any morning, you can put a "virtual" pink heart into someone's hand, and put God's love and yours into their lives. Happy Valentine's Day!

Peace,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Morning Worship - 10:00 AM

Fellowship - 11:00 AM

Sunday School - 11:15 AM

FLOWERS

Feb. 1: Kay & Joe Hunnings

Feb. 8: COMMUNION

Feb. 15: Jane & J. B. Jones

Feb. 22: Caryl & Gail Gray

OFFICERS ON CALL

Feb. 1-7: Joe Hunnings, 808-3876

Feb. 8-14: Clark Gaylord, 552-2868

Feb. 15-21: Heidi Harper, 392-0057

Feb. 22-28: Bruce Harper, 392-3597

USHERS

Feb. 1: Jilk Stowe Family

Feb. 8: Ron Pearson & Sandi Webster

Feb. 15: Joe & Kay Hunnings

Feb. 22: Garcia Stephenson Family

"A lot of church members who are singing 'Standing on the Promises' are just sitting on the premises."

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: Deut. 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Cor. 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 15: 2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 8: Isa. 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Cor. 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 22: Gen. 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS !

- Feb.
- 2 Bob Martin
- 3 Jean Robeson
- 5 Eli Taylor
- 8 Maria Conner
- 12 Joe Lineweaver
Donald McClintock
- 15 Rachel Morrow
- 18 Brooks Fullen
- 19 Quinn Hull
- 21 Jean Vines
- 22 Liz Allen
Daniel Harper
Rhoda Hurst
- 23 Kim Adel
- 28 Marsha Bowen



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

Should you, however, not at once obtain answers to your prayers, be not discouraged; but continue patiently, believingly, perseveringly; to wait upon God.

-George Muller

Sewers, needle workers, and those who want to learn a needlecraft.

The Prayers and Squares group is expanding its focus. We invite you to come to Northside and join us for fun, fellowship, learning, and working. Bring your project and supplies. Do you want to learn something new? We can help. **We meet in the old kitchen from 2:00-4:00 pm each Thursday except the 2nd Thursday.**

For more info contact

Lou Brown, Martha Taylor, Nedra Underwood, Emily Davis or Mary Lough.

SUNDAY: February 1, 2015 – Souper Bowl of Caring

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football Game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Hunger hits close to home. Every day there are children in your community who face hunger. A new study shows 16 million children in our country are at risk of hunger and no County is immune. Studies show that hungry children do poorly in school and have lower academic achievement because they cannot concentrate.

Hit Back. Please come next Sunday with cans of soup or money for the soup kettle. These cans and money will go directly to the Interfaith Food Pantry here in Blacksburg. Let’s plan to give generously to help those less fortunate.

Big Event Student Projects:

Students from VT have volunteered to help Northside with spring cleaning and gardening on Saturday, April 11. In the past students have worked on the flower beds. Do you have a project that needs the help of college students for about 3 hours? Is so, please notify Steve Cole or anyone on the Finance and Facilities Committee.

In the magic of the present, we find evidence of God’s existence in the details of our lives that we often otherwise ignore: the feel of the sun’s warmth on our skin, the lovely song of a bird building a nest, the smell of fresh-baked bread from a neighbor’s kitchen. These gentle reminders keep us focused on being fully alive and fully engaged in life. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may never come. Today is where we live.

Session Notes

The annual officers' retreat and stated session meeting was held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Ruling Elders and Deacons (current, outgoing and newly elected) all met during the morning, while the afternoon session was required only for new and current members of the session. Major matters taken up were:

- Celebration of Worship and Communion. Reflection on Romans 12:1-21.
- Recognition and gratitude to Retiring Officers. Incoming Officers shared their faith journeys and statements of faith. Examination and approval of Officer Candidates for ordination and installation.
- Workshop on Disaster Preparedness for Congregations. Handouts included "Be Red Cross Ready"; Materials from Rev. Amy Gopp and Brandon Gilvin, Help and Hope: Disaster Preparedness and Response Tools for Congregations; and Basic Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Assignment of committee chairs/members. Made additions and changes to the 2015-2016 Northside Proposed Calendar of Events.
- Approval of minutes of December 21st Stated Session Meeting, and Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 11th. These will be posted in the narthex.
- Approval of Annual Statistical Report for 2014. This will be submitted to PCUSA.
- Elect Marilyn Rio as interim church treasurer for 2015. Elect Joanne Pearson as Clerk of Session for 2015. Elect Mary Lough as presbyter and Sue Bentley as alternate to the February 14, 2015 Presbytery Meeting to be held in Lynchburg, VA.
- Elected Joanne Pearson and Bruce Harper as the two elders to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Deacons will elect one person from their board to serve on the committee also.
- Joys and Concerns were shared and prayers were offered.

Joanne Pearson, Clerk of Session

Cancellation Policy Reminder:

In case of sudden inclement weather that requires the cancellation of Sunday morning or other scheduled services and activities, the members of the Finance & Facilities Committee will make a decision by 8:00 am. Cancellation notices will be sent to WDBJ-7 and WSLN-10 television stations, and WVTF-FM radio. When possible, a congregation email will be sent and the church voice mail will be changed. If you are interested in making phone calls to spread the word, please contact the pastor. Making these decisions is sometimes "iffy," so keep checking your email and the television announcements. The TV stations also have a link where closings and delays are listed.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. **1: GIFT; Souper Bowl of Caring**
- 4:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 5:** Sewers Group, 2:00 pm in old kitchen
- 8: COMMUNION, 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering,**
Committees to meet after Sunday School
- 11:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 12:** Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 pm in the old Kitchen
- 14: Presbytery Meeting,** (snow date Feb. 28)
Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, VA.
- 15:** Session Meeting following Sunday School
- 16: President’s Day** (Church Office Closed)
- 18: Ash Wednesday; (Lent Begins)**
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- 19:** Sewers Group, 2:00 pm in old kitchen
- 20-22:** Presbytery High School Retreat
- 22: 1st Sunday in Lent**
Chime Choir starts chiming
- 26:** Sewers Group, 2:00 pm in old kitchen
- 25:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

ATTENTION CONGREGATION!

We will NOT be doing extra announcements from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. 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. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the bulletin board and check for these announcements. Because of the change in schedule this is necessary. Thank you cooperating in this new change.

<p>Check Us Out...</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: secretary.northside@gmail.com</p> <p>Minister’s Email: dickerson.northside@gmail.com</p> <p>Website URL (http://www.nsidepresbburg.org)</p>
