

The Messenger

P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor The Rev. Darren W. Utley, Associate Pastor

Web Site: www.fairfieldpcusa.org
E-Mail: office@fairfieldpcusa.org
Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

February 2018



Dear friends,

This is an odd year, calendar wise. Let me explain. I don't mean that I think 2018 is an odd number but what I mean

is that the beginning and end of Lent this year fall on ironic holidays. Ash Wednesday this year falls on Valentine's Day. As if that isn't thought provoking enough, Easter this year falls on April Fool's Day. Now there is something to think about!

I don't ever remembering this happening. Maybe some of you can recall when this might have happened before but I can't. The irony of the day on the Christian calendar for us to consider our failure to be the people God created us to be falling on the same day as the day marked by celebrations of love does not elude me! It has been said that when a person falls in love with someone, they cannot see each other's faults only what they find attractive in the other person.

Maybe, just maybe, though, when someone falls in love with us it causes us to want to become the person they see us to be. Maybe we begin to see ourselves more clearly and recognize the areas that we want to improve to be the best person we can be for the one who loves us. Maybe it isn't ironic to have those two "holidays" on the same day. Maybe as we enter the season of Lent, we want to

look closer at ourselves and improve ourselves because we recognize that God has so loved us!

And Easter falling on April Fools Day is perfect! The wisdom of God makes our human thoughts seem so foolish! We may have thought that there was nothing more powerful in this world than our old enemy death. But that thinking was shown to be foolish! Love is far more powerful! God's love raised Jesus from the grave after Jesus' love drove him to the cross!

Upon further consideration, maybe this isn't an odd year. Maybe its a year when the calendar makes a lot of sense!

Steve



Member News



We congratulate **Ryan** & Emily Westphal on the birth of their baby girl, Sydney Elizabeth, who was born on January 14.

We also congratulate **Marshall and Nancy Hart** who have been blest with a new grandson, Colton Marshall Green who was born on January 19th!

We express our sympathies to the family of **Janie Harrington** who passed away on January 4th. **Janie** was a member here at Fairfield for 66 years. We also express our sympathy to **Dale Woodfin** and family on the death of her husband, **Greg**, who passed away on January 22nd. **Greg** was a member here for 23 years and will be missed.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: Kathy Boyle's father, Bill, Bill Dobson, Jennifer France's father, Paul, Larry Harpster, Terri Joyce, Ken Moore, Virginia Phipps, Angela Schwartz, Jack Ward, Beth Weber's son, Von and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation. Also remember those who need jobs and those in our congregation who are unable to attend church regularly due to illness or limited mobility.

Please remember our shut-ins: Evelyn Bailey, Ann Barlow, Voncile Baughman, Ruth Gatewood, Inez Hill, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Mack Perkins, Emerson & Sheila Shaw, and Bootsie Stevens.

(Please update Pastor Steve or Pastor Darren as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)



Hi,
I wanted to send you a thank you note for a kind deed one of your church goers did years ago (around summer or fall of 2009). I was really new to Richmond and had decided to go ride around on my bicycle. Unfortunately I

lost my way and stumbled around to your church. By the time I got there, it was starting to get dark and I didn't have lights on my bicycle and having lost my way and riding a while, I was starting to get tired and worried.

At the church I found a really nice family who had a minivan. They were extremely helpful to me and helped me put my bicycle in their trunk and drove me 14+ miles back to where I had parked my car. They were really nice and extremely helpful. I don't know what I would have done without their help. I wanted to send love and lots of well wishes to you all and the family.

Thanks for sharing my well wishes with everyone at the church.

Gagan Gothaniya

January 16th Blood Drive Results

Our goal was to collect 25 units and we were able to collect 28 units- 3 units over goal – AMAZING! Thank you all so much!

We had 33 people signed up to donate. Walk-ins offset people that could not attend to give.

No deferrals

28 total units were collected

This was an amazing day of life saving

Thanks Fairfield

Next Blood Drive is March 20th!





Justin Hale	. February 1
Hailey Spott	. February 1
Grace Zweckbronner	. February 1
Ann Barlow	
John Crowe	
Jeff Cumins	
Robbie Dobson	
Walt Fadeley	
Ryan Magill	
Sam Penny	
Erin Reasor	
Mark Price	. February 5
Caitlin Walsh	
Randi Walsh	•
Don Wells	
Emma Leudesdorff	. February 7
Norman Sulser	
Gerry Underdown	
Merrillyn Jones	
Jamie Fisher	
Bob Haller	
Pat Daugherty	February 10
Brittany Bessette	
Tracy Young	
Daniel Arnette	
Mike Joyce	February 13
Nikki Glass	February 14
Jerry Hughes	
Gene Elmore	February 16
Danny Guertler	
Kristy Harden	February 16
Josh Patterson	
Pamela Walsh	February 16
Melissa Hughes	
Roger Bessette	•
Beverly Ward	
Cathy Guertler	
Dorothy Bowen	
Lynne Rudolph	
Richard Dunn	February 24
Charles Moore, Sr	
Donna Richbourg	
Anne Young	
Bruce Arnette	
June Helton	•
Stacy Mueller	
Oldoy Midelier	i Colualy 21

Andrew Dunn February 28 John Weeks February 28



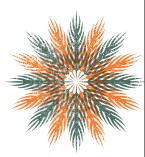
Robert & Robin Wilson	February 10
Craig & Sandra Brewster	February 14
Jim & Jennifer France	February 14
Hunter & Nikki Glass	February 15
Mark & Marsha Young	February 21
Stacy & Simon Mueller	February 27

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11
- Ash Wednesday, February 14
- First Sunday in Lent, February 18
- President's Day, February 19
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 25

Ash Wednesday prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to



the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

-Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary on February 14 at 6:00pm.



Our devotion tell us that we should always patiently wait on God to complete our life's direction and plan. We should freely share our faith and the many blessinge God treasures us with in life. God gave us this Gift of Jesus Christ that all people may share it. Our group discussed the upcoming 2018 year and how we can continue to help people in need. We also enjoyed a delicious breakfast and lots of wonderful conversion. All you men out there should truly consider joining this great group.

We are still looking for NEW leadership for this Men's group, with fresh new ideas. Please keep praying for someone to consider this rewarding service.

All men are encouraged to join us and the experience this group's fellowship first hand. You won't regret it.

We look forward to seeing you for our next breakfast on Tuesday, Feb 13th. Join us at The Cold Harbor Restaurant, every Tuesday of the month starting around 6:00 to Call or email Bill Dobson 6:30 am. 804-314-3127 or Bill.dobson@comcast.net with any questions about the men of the church activities. You never have to reserve a seat, we will always have an opening for you.

> In Christ Service. Billy Putze, Bill Dobson

Joyful Reader's Circle

The Joyful Readers' Circle will meet on February 13th, 7:00pm in Room #14 at church. This month we will be discussing the book, "Greater Things" by Kristin Beale.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This group meets on the second Tuesday night of each month from September to June.

Barbara Wash



A prayer shawl can offer warmth and comfort in trying times and during periods of grief. Each prayer shawl or lap robe is made with love Prayer Shawl Ministry and with every stitch we pray for the eventual recipient. We are always looking for

new members to help us with this ministry. Whether crocheting or knitting is your forte, we welcome you. If neither is your skill we would love to help you learn. Join us in this caring ministry and discover the joy of trying to help friends and family through the rough periods of

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, February 7 at 10:30am in the Barlow Parlor (Room # 12).

Anna Barrowclough



The Fellowship Circle will meet on February Circle 13th at 10:30am at church. Please join us and be part of our wonderful circle!

Super Singles

The Super Singles will be going out to eat at TGI Friday's located on Mechanicsville Turnpike on Sunday, February 11th right after the 11:00am service. This is a great time to get together for lunch and fellowship. welcome to attend!

This is a wonderful group to enjoy lunch with. Come on, join us!



"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136 v. 1

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day and remember our loved ones. Let us never forget about God's love for us and how

great and never ending His love is.

There are several books in our libraries that will help us to reflect on and celebrate God's amazing love for each of us. Look for God Loves You, You'll Never Walk Alone and When God Whispers Your Name. In the children's library you will find God Is Love, God Loves You and So Do I and God Loves You Very Much.

May we be ever mindful of God's gift of love for each of us and remember to share his love with others as we go forth on our journey of faith.

Elizabeth Covington

Nursery Schedules

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule Feb. 4 Mitzi Marker & McKenzie Marker Feb. 11 Linda Daugherty & Brenda Blue Feb. 18 Sandra Brewster & Hannah Reasor Feb. 25 Karen Couch & Beverly Burts

9:00am Kid's Worship

Feb. 4	Deb Utley
Feb. 11	Ginny Patterson
Feb. 18	Donna Hohman
Feb. 25	Angela Schwartz

10:00am Infant/Toddler

	101000111111111111111111111111111111111
Feb. 4	Allison Letourneau & Molly
	Zweckbronner
Feb. 11	Linda Gruenhagen & Barbara Wash
Feb. 18	Janet Chelette & Melanie Rubeck
Feb. 25	Marge Wantz & Cathy Wenninger

11am Infant /Toddler

Feb. 4	Pam Gigliotti & Donna Hohman
Feb. 11	Nikki Glass & Beth Patterson
Feb. 18	Pam Roberts & Anne Young
Feb. 25	Angela Blue & Ginny Patterson

What Do I Have?

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said, to see the beauty in all that I've made and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said, to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said,

to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said, to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said, to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said, so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you. Thomas Butler



Session Notes

- · We welcomed our new and returning Elders to the new year of Session
- Received the report on our average attendance for the year 2016. It was nearly even from the year before (which was a large jump from 2015). It was noted that summer attendance was down slightly, 11:00 worship was slightly down but 9:00 continues to trend a little higher.
- Learned that a new heating system for the sanctuary at Historic Beulah Church would be installed.
 The old system was requiring repairs that made it unaffordable. The money for this expenditure comes from the Beulah Church fund.
- Learned that the year 2017 was a good year for us financially. Everyone's exceeding generosity
 allowed us to fulfill all of our obligations and end with a comfortable surplus which will be held in
 reserve for the years when we don't have the resources to end in the black.
- Personnel/Nominations talked about the possibility of adding a person to the staff to do well visits
 while Steve and Darren continue to focus on urgent, crisis, illness and other visits. (It should be noted
 that there is money in the budget for this position and even with this position our staffing expenses
 are still below 2010 levels and make up a much smaller percentage of the overall budget than before
 2011.)
- Celebrated the continuing positive response to the 5th Sunday gatherings with thanks given to Darren
 for his excellent presentation on both the adult and the youth mission trips.
- Preparations are underway for a Lenten study with small groups being encouraged.
- Children's Sunday School is incorporating hand chimes and other ways to make the class time interesting and interactive. Our numbers continue to be strong after the improvement seen this year.
- Rejoiced that 15 youth are committed and 7 8 others are possibly going on the Summer Youth Mission trip to Jacksonville, FL.
- Were happy to hear that 11 teenagers are enrolled in the confirmation class.
- Discussed some of the fundraisers that will be coming up to allow the youth to participate in the Mission trip.
- Learned that discussions are underway about the possibility of starting a women's Bible Study for the younger Moms in the church.
- Were delighted to hear that our Mission Team has supported Humphrey Muraya in his efforts to be certified as a Chaplain to supplement his salary as Pastor of AFREIM Church.
- Elected commissioners to the Presbytery of the James meeting at Grace-Covenant Church in Richmond on Feb. 17th.
- Reminded the Elders that we would meet at Historic Polegreen Church to have a brainstorming work session.

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	
Angela Blue	Marshall Hart	Allen Boyle	
Richard Dunn	Donna Horn	Jim France	
Fran Hansbrough	J. R. Marker	Larry Hansbrough	
Bill Kerns	Beth Young	K. C. Whitaker	
Pam Roberts		Jenny Young	

Ministry Team News

Adult Discipleship News

The memory verse for February is:

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." (John 13:34-35)

Mission News

MECHANICSVILLE CHURCHES EMERGENCY FUNCTIONS 4mcef.com

One Stop Shop (OSS) Activity: For December, 2017

Food Pantry report – 282 bags of food given out and 141 holiday bags. Current needs at the pantry are cereal, protein beans, jam/jelly, pancake mix and syrup.

Clothing- 7 bags infant clothing, 16 bags children's clothing, 30 bags of women's clothing, 13 bags of men's clothing were distributed. Donna Combs, our new Closet Director reported the following needs: boy's 3T, 4T 5T and school age boys and girls. Please remember: clean clothing with size showing, no suits, no fancy dresses, no shoes.

Linens-4 bags of linens were distributed. Needs: bath towels, hand towels, washcloths.

Senior Rides - For the month of December MCEF gave 74 one-way rides to seniors and ACES gave 62. Drivers are being recruited. MCEF needs Volunteer Drivers to help seniors in MCEF Senior Rides needs Mechanicsville: volunteer drives for seniors who can no longer drive themselves. The Senior Rides program helps our seniors stay in their homes by giving rides to medical appointments, to the grocery store or to do personal business. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and choose the rides to fit their schedule. MCEF pays for volunteer driver training, provides insurance and reimburses the drivers \$.25 per mile. If you can share 8-10 hours per month and have a desire to help our seniors please contact MCEF Senior

Rides at (804) 357-9360, by email at: Office@4mcef.com or DirSrRides@4mcef.com.

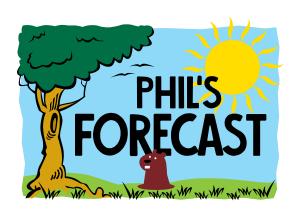
Financial Assistance – In 2017, MCEF helped 125 families with essential utility bills and other financial needs with approximately \$40,000.

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF) is YOU. Thank you for all you do to help in Mechanicsville. The next day to make a food donation is Sunday, February 4, 2018.





The youth will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, **February 11th from 8-11am**. Come enjoy a breakfast with church family. Sunday School classes are welcome. The pancake breakfast is a fund raiser for the youth mission trip. Come and join us!



Find out on February 2nd!

Under-Age Thinking...



Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

- 1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
- 2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
- 3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
- 4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, MIV

10 Biblical Ways to Love

- 1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening that is folly and shame." (Proverbs 18:13)
- 2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (James 1:19)
- 3. Give without selfishness. "The rightous give without sparing." (Proverbs 21:26)
- 4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you." (Colossians 1:9)
- 5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife." (Proverbs 17:11)
- 6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ...Christ." (Ephesians 4:15)
- 7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing." (Philippians 2:14)
- 8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perserveres." (I Corinthians 13:7)
- 9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)
- 10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12)

February 2018

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

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		15 16 17 22 23 24 29 30 31	7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 7:15 PM - 7:45 PM Youth S.S. Praise Band practice (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (sanctuary)	Lock-in Groundhog Day	Compass Sports Basketball Games (Family Center, #29, 31 & 32)
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9:00 AM GCNS (#21, 22, 23, 25) 5:30 PM Compass Sports Basketball Practice (Family Center) 7:00 PM Christian Ministry Teams (HH) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM Evangelism Team (#19) 7:00 PM Missions Team (#14) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#32) 7:00 PM Worship Team (#26)	5:30 PM Compass Sports Basketball Practice (Family Center) 7:00 PM Christian Minis Teams (HH) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeti (#20) 7:00 PM Evangelism Tea (#19) 7:00 PM Missions Team (#14) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#32) 7:00 PM Worship Team	9:00 AM GCNS (#21, 22, 23, 25) 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (#12) 7:00 PM Fairfield Ringers' Practice (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	9:00 AM GCNS (#21, 22, 23, 25) 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (Choir Room) 5:30 PM Compass Sports Basketball Practice (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 7:15 PM - 7:45 PM Youth S.S. Praise Band practice (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (sanctuary)	9:00 AM GCNS (#21, 22, 23, 25)	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Compass Sports Basketball Games (Family Center, 29, 31, 32) Youth Group helps Compass Sports
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Youth Group News

February 2: Mini Lock-in/Scavenger Hunt, 6-

10pm

February 4: No Youth Group

February 10: Youth Help with Compass

February 11: Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am

Youth Group, 4:30pm

February 18: No Youth Group

February 23-25: Confirmation Retreat

February 25: Youth Group, 4:30pm



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a

time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth - a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



Fairfield Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 1088 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Return Service Requested

