



The Messenger

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

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

February 2019



As we continue in the season of Epiphany, we will be looking at the theme of light coming in our lives in the person of Jesus Christ and how that light is meant for all the nations. We will also continue in the gospel of Luke as our primary text of this Christian year. The last Sunday of 2018, I spoke during the Sunday School hour about how we can view Luke's gospel as more than just a historical account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each of the gospels insists that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome his light. Even more, each gospel insists that Jesus is the Christ and is the first born from the dead. All of this is to say that when we read, study and seek to live out the gospel Jesus is alive and present with us.

Renowned teacher, Alexander Shaia, uses historic study and insights from the perennial tradition of spiritual guides to suggest the way Luke's gospel presents us with a living Christ calling us to mature in service to God's kingdom. As the light and life of Jesus is made manifest to us throughout the season of Epiphany, I would encourage us to think about how each text is calling us to consider our vocation as followers of Jesus, agents of God's good news in the world.

Shaia says, "Luke filled his gospel with stories of compassion and service to an extent not found in any other gospel." He suggests that central to the gospel is the conversation with the lawyer in chapter 10 which leads into the parable of the good Samaritan: ²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what

must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

Shaia continues, "when we love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we are compelled to live our lives in service. This is how our transformation truly occurs, allowing the meaning and purpose of our lives to unfold."

So many people are looking for meaning in their lives, searching for something more than the nine-to-five and the non-stop news cycle that tells us how to think and with whom to be angry. Our young people desire to make a difference, but seldom see the connection between what God intends for their lives and what will help them pay back their student loans. Throughout February, Marcy Wright, our fabulous intern from Union Presbyterian Seminary will lead a Bible Study through Jesus' sermon on the plain. The study will help us focus on developing A Heart for Service. There are two opportunities to take part on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm beginning February 6 and Sundays during the Sunday School hour beginning on the 10th. We hope you will be able to participate in this study as we move through Epiphany and prepare for Lent.

Member News



Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Becky Clark, John Crowe, Tanner Franklin, Dot Gammone, Fran**

Hansbrough's sister, Jane, **Kristy Harden's** brother-in law, Tony Bausone, **Marshall Hart, Ken Moore, Virginia Phipps, Jean Plott's** sister Helen, **Mark Price's** brother-in-law, Doug Jewell, **Donna Richbourg's** great nephew, John, **Peggie Rosen's** sister Alice, **Lynn Rudolph, Joan Sprinkle, Kathy Thomas' husband Tim, Leslie Vance, Nancy Walls, Barbara Wash** 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, Marie Blatt, Ruth Gatewood, Inez Hill, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Mack Perkins, Louise Setchel, 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.)

Ruth Harpster has moved. Her new address is 9045 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA 23124-2413. Her telephone number is the same.



Dear Pastor Starzer,
On behalf of the Developmental Disability & Employment Services through the Community Services Board, we would like to express our deepest thanks for your

recent and continued donation of the use of your Family Center for the past eight years. Generous gifts such as this from your church provide the important support needed to continue our mission. Your support has repeatedly played a key role in our success as it relates to the Blue & White Gala. There is no way to fully express our gratitude for

your loyalty. We at the Community Services Board are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of those in our community who answer the call to give again and again.

Jeanie Edwards,
CSB Board Chair

Just wanted to thank the many Fairfield members who sent my mom, Voncile Baughman, Christmas cards and birthday greetings over the last several weeks. Mom has enjoyed opening each of them and knowing she is thought of. We even decorated her room with her birthday cards.

Mary Beth (Baughman) Lambert

We were very pleased with the blood drive that took place on January 8, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift. The efforts of Fairfield P.C. have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. In addition, we very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 44 donors registered, 2 donors were deferred and 46 units were collected. We also registered 27 first time donors! Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with this church again on March 5th.

Jenny Lawhorne, Account Manager
American Red Cross

MCEF sends out a THANK YOU to the Prayer Shawl Ministry of Fairfield for the handmade hats and scarves donated to the One Stop Shop. They are a blessing during the cold days and through the rest of the winter. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Nancy Gallihugh

Thank you to everyone for remembering me in your thoughts and prayers during my hospital stay in early December. The heart catheterization was the final procedure and greatly helped my shortness of breath. I look forward to seeing all of you soon - after flu season is over!

Merrily Jones



Andrew Dunn February 28
John Weeks February 28



Ivy & John Lightsey February 1
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

Welcome New Members!

In January we welcomed two new families to our church family. They were:

Cameron & Erica Hutchison and their two boys, Grady and Sawyer on January 13th. They joined by Affirmation of Faith and baptism. They live at 4401 Johnson Oak Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Erica is our resident florist. She provides the Sunday flowers, tulips at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas. Her husband is a Hanover County Firefighter.

We also welcomed Dave & Myra Compton by transfer of letter from Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church. They live at 9139 Fayemont Drive in Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Please give both families a warm welcome when you see them!

Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, *February 14*
- President's Day, *February 18*

Hailey Spott February 1
Grace Zweckbronner February 1
Ann Barlow February 2
John Crowe February 2
Jeff Cumins February 2
Robbie Dobson February 3
Walt Fadeley February 3
Sam Penny February 3
Erin Reasor February 3
Mark Price February 5
Caitlin Walsh February 5
Randi Walsh February 5
Don Wells February 6
Emma Leudesdorff February 7
Norman Sulser February 7
Gerry Underdown February 7
Merrilyn Jones February 8
Jamie Fisher February 9
Bob Haller February 9
Pat Daugherty February 10
Brittany Bessette February 11
Tracy Young February 12
Daniel Arnette February 13
Mike Joyce February 13
Nikki Glass February 14
Jerry Hughes February 15
Sawyer Hutchison February 15
Gene Elmore February 16
Danny Guertler February 16
Kristy Harden February 16
Josh Patterson February 16
Pamela Walsh February 16
Diane Richardson February 18
Melissa Hughes February 19
Roger Bessette February 20
Beverly Ward February 20
Cathy Guertler February 22
Dorothy Bowen February 23
Lynne Rudolph February 23
Richard Dunn February 24
Charles Moore, Sr. February 24
Donna Richbourg February 24
Anne Young February 24
Bruce Arnette February 25
Stacy Mueller February 27

Bill Dobson's Men of the Church Group

Every second Tuesday the men of the church get together for breakfast and a devotion to get their day going right. They meet at the Cold Harbor Restaurant around 6:00-6:30am to eat together and discuss projects and/or ideas of things the men of the church can do for our church family and groups that need our help. This group is for men of all ages! The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 12th**. Call Billy Putze 804-338-3233 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.



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry strives to provide love and comfort by prayerfully crocheting and knitting prayer shawls and lap robes for those going through a trying time or loss in their life. We celebrate and also joyfully give baby blankets to new parents. During the hot summer months we work on hats and scarves in anticipation of the upcoming fall and winter.

In 2018 we were able to give 8 prayer shawls, 25 lap robes and 3 baby blankets. In addition we donated 1 hat/scarf set, 31 hats and 43 scarves to MCEF.

If you would like to join this worthwhile ministry, we would welcome you the first Wednesday of every month.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **Wednesday, February 6** at 10:30 in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

The Super Singles are a group of single, divorced and widowed members who get together on the second Sunday of each month and go to lunch! This month they will be going to The Cheesecake Factory in Short Pump on Sunday, **February 10th** right after the 11:00am service. Join us! We will meet in the parking lot at 12:15pm and car pool over.

Joyful Reader's Circle

The Joyful Readers' Circle will meet on **February 12th, 7:00pm** in Room #14 at church. This month we will be discussing the book, "A Year on Ladybug Farm" by Donna Ball. Jane Welborn will lead the discussion.

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

Barbara Wash



The 2019 Flower Calendar is up! Please sign up for a Sunday in 2019 to honor, remember, or celebrate someone special with flowers! The flowers are yours to take home after both services or you can donate them and one of our deacons will deliver them to a shut-in. The cost is \$25.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE **THERE IS A BLOOD DRIVE** on **Tuesday, March 5** in the Heritage Hall from 2:00-7:00pm. You can sign up on their website at www.redcrossblood.org or sign up on the sheets located in the narthex behind the sanctuary. Please help save lives!



Library News

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

In February as we celebrate Valentine's Day and are reminded of the love for our fellow man let us never forget about God's love for us and how great and never ending that 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, Outrageous Love and You'll Never Walk Alone. In the children's library you will find God Is Love, God Loves The Little Children and Little One God Loves You.

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 forward on our journey of faith.
Elizabeth Covington

Epiphany Series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." These lines from the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) speak of the season of Epiphany, of the light of Christ for all the world. Seeing Jesus born in Bethlehem, dedicated at the temple, and baptized in the River Jordan, it's easy to focus on his life as a first-century Jew. But the audacity of the gospel is that the light shining in Jesus shone far beyond Israel to illuminate the whole world. Through the Gospel readings this season, we see how the light of Christ reached outsiders from the beginning and continued to grow, lighting the dark places throughout our world and in our own hearts.

- Feb. 3 Hometown Boy
Luke 4: 21-30
- Feb. 10 Called and Sent
Luke 5: 1-11
- Feb. 17 Fullness and Emptiness
Luke 6: 17-26
- Feb. 24 Unlimited Love
Luke 6: 27-38
- Mar. 3 Listen to Him
Luke 9: 28-43a



Nursery Workers Needed

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

- Feb. 3 Linda Daugherty & Hannah Reasor
- Feb. 10 Mitzi Marker & McKenzie Marker
- Feb. 17 Majken Whitaker & Allison Letourneau
- Feb. 24 Beverly Burts & Karen Couch

9:00am Kid's Worship

- Feb. 3 Angela Schwartz
- Feb. 10 Deb Utley
- Feb. 17 Pattersons
- Feb. 24 Donna Hohman

10:00am Infant/Toddler

- Feb. 3 Jennifer France & TBD
- Feb. 10 Molly Zweckbronner & TBD
- Feb. 17 Pam Roberts & Melanie Rubeck
- Feb. 24 Marge Wantz & TBD

11am Infant /Toddler

- Feb. 3 Donna Hohman & Angela Schwartz
- Feb. 10 Nikke Glass & Beth Patterson
- Feb. 17 Angela Schwartz & Dale Woodfin
- Feb. 24 Angela Blue & Anne Young

Notes from your Session

At our stated meeting in January your Elders -

- took care of some “housekeeping” duties in receiving the report filed by our Clerk and Treasurer through the Presbytery for the General Assembly. We were pleased to see that our membership has grown to 420 and that our year round average attendance stood at 208. Our school year has average was 221 with the 9:00 service averaging 112 and the 11:00 a.m. service averaging 95.
- joyfully voted to receive Myra and Dave Compton by letter of transfer.
- were delighted to hear that Steve has been asked by the Parson’s Bench Publishing Co. To compile a book of sermons for publication.
- commended Facilities Management for their excellent work in both decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas and also their efforts to remove decorations and clean the Church afterward.
- rejoiced with the Stewardship Team that we ended the year with a favorable balance. That surplus will be put into our “rainy day fund” for future unplanned necessities.
- were grateful to hear that pledges have come in positively and we should meet all of our projected needs in the budget for 2019.
- thanked Adult Discipleship for their continuing good work on the Fifth Sunday gatherings. Particular commendation was given to Darren for his presentation on the Gospel of Luke.
- gave thanks to the Children’s Nurture Team and Darren for the excellent job they did for the Family Service on Christmas Eve. A special thank you went to Jeff Blue who brought his guitar out of retirement and did an excellent job.
- heard of the success of the recent Paint Night and of the plans to do another.
- were delighted to hear that the outreach small group study on Nicole Unice’s book has 41 women enrolled almost half of whom are not members of Fairfield.
- learned that there was a need for additional Sunday School teachers for our youngsters. If anyone would like to help out once or twice a month they are encouraged to talk to Angela Blue.
- were supportive of the Youth Group’s planned mission trip to Altoona, PA this summer. They have two fundraisers planned to make this possible: a pancake breakfast on February 3 and the Talent Show on March 22nd.
- began planning for the Maundy Thursday worship service with communion and discussed the hopes of doing a Good Friday Tenebrae Service.
- appointed commissions to the February 16th Presbytery of the James meeting at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church.
- welcomed the new Elders to the table and looked forward to their ordination/installation on January 27th.



**Mechanicsville Churches Emergency
Functions (MCEF)
www.4mef.com**

One Stop Shop (OSS)

Here are a few statistics for the year 2018. Never doubt that your contributions to the OSS are used. For the year over 3,000 bags of food were distributed, over 300 Thanksgiving and holiday bags of food, almost 900 bags of clothing, and almost 150 bags of linens. All of this was made possible by the donations given by churches and individuals in Mechanicsville. MCEF operates because of YOU. MCEF is thankful for over 130 volunteers who keep the doors open five times a week.

If you would like a shopping schedule for the Food Pantry here goes:

March – shampoo and/or deodorant (not typically covered by food stamps)

April – protein beans (not green)

May – canned chicken

June – Jelly or Jam

July – canned fruit – any kind

August – Mac and Cheese

If you prefer to do your own shopping for the pantry, whatever you can share is always appreciated. Use coupons and watch sales.

**THE NEXT DAY TO CONTRIBUTE FOOD
FOR THE FOOD PANTRY IS
Sunday, February 3**

2019 Donation Guidelines:

CLOTHING

- Summer clothing – February 1 – July 31
- Winter clothing – August 1 – January 31
- **CLEAN, folded clothing with sizes clearly marked** – adult and children.
- Basic styles in adult clothes – no suits, fancy dresses, etc. please
- Adult and children's underwear and socks – **NEW ONLY in package**
- No shoes please. There is no room for display or storage.

LINENS

- Towels/hand towels/wash clothes - clean
- Twin, Queen, Kings sheets and pillow cases – clean
- Please mark sheets with a size. (use tape to mark sizes)

FOOD

- Nonperishable food items only
- No large sizes of any boxed or canned items please.



The Youth Group is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, February 3th to help raise funds for their upcoming mission trip in June.

Pancakes will be served in the Heritage Hall from 8:00am to 11:00am. Come enjoy breakfast with your church family. Sunday School classes are welcome too!

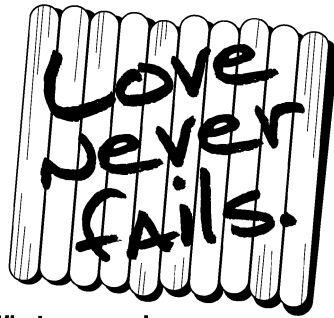
2019 Pictorial Directory

We are in the very beginning stages of doing a Church Pictorial Directory for 2019. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call Angela Blue (357-3111) or the church office. Once we know if there are any volunteers to help with this project, we will proceed looking into companies to use for the project. Thank you!

Under-Age Thinking...

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.

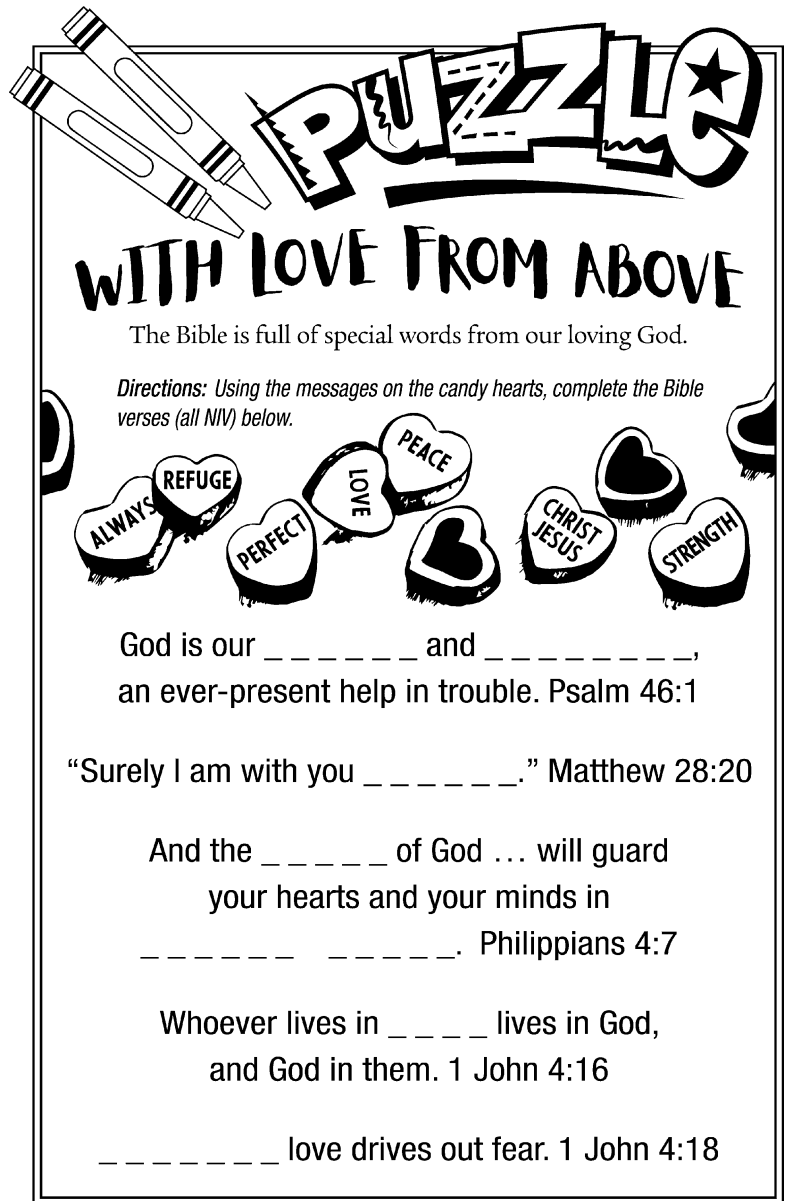


What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

**Fairfield Presbyterian Church
Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, March 5th
2:00pm - 7:00pm**

To make an appointment please

- church office (804) 730-7164
- signup sheet
- <http://www.redcross.org/>
- Walkins are always welcome


Remember to drink plenty of water, eat a good meal,
and bring a photo ID. This blood drive is in memory of
Bill Dobson!

American Red Cross

1-800-RED CROSS | redcrossblood.org

February 2019

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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24 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM A Heart for Service study (#19) 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM NBC Worship Service (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM NBC Church (HH) 2:00 PM Willie Stone Eagle Scout Ceremony (Sanct & FC) 4:30 PM REFRESH Study (HH) 4:30 PM Youth Sunday Prep (sanctuary)	25 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practices (FC) 7:00 PM Eagle Board of Review (#29, 30, 32)	26 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practices (FC) 7:00 PM Children's Nurture Team (#20) 7:00 PM Christian Formation Teams (HH) 7:00 PM Team Youth (#26)	27 6:00 PM A Heart for Service Study (#20) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	28 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM GCP - Dr. Seuss Celebration (HH) 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (Choir Room) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)																																																																																													

Youth Group News

- Feb. 1 Mini Lock-in, 6:00-10:00pm
- Feb. 3 Pancake Fundraiser, 8:00am
No evening Youth Group
- Feb. 9 Youth help with Compass
basketball
- Feb. 10 Youth Group, 4:30pm
- Feb. 17 No Youth Group
- Feb. 24 Youth Sunday (preparation)



March 3



March 22

???

Bible Quiz

???

In Luke's account of Jesus calling the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

A. James
B. John
C. Simon
D. Andrew

Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

Got love?

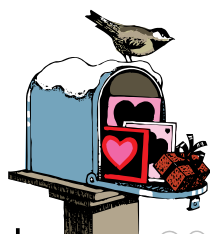
"Love ask nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?"

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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

Return Service Requested



February 2019