



# 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

## January 2020

Welcome to 2020! With my vision problems, I cannot help but imagine my ophthalmologist saying these words to me. The year 2020 has got me thinking about vision. The saying hindsight is 20/20 has come to mind on more than one occasion. Unfortunately, this saying is only ideally true. You only have to spend a little time around my family to realize how the way people remember things involves less than perfect vision.

The scripture that came to my mind is a very odd one from the gospel of Matthew that goes like this, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness." What might this short saying offer us as a way of correcting our vision for 2020?

First, we have to see the metaphor as not connected to our current understanding of the way the eye works. The point behind the metaphor is that we do see the world differently depending on our inner dispositions. "One person's trash is another person's art." Think of the way different people deal with a similar situation of struggle or joy. Here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is suggesting that to live as God's people, it is important to have healthy ways of seeing the world. If our vision of the people and places around us is clouded by unhealthy ways of seeing, then our inner lives will be filled with darkness.

Second, this parable of the eye comes in between talk of treasures and serving God or wealth. The words used to describe the healthy and unhealthy eye suggests that Jesus is helping us to understand how our way of seeing the world is very tied up with the way that we see

people and possessions. The healthy eye sees the world as a gift and is able to be generous with what is inside and out shedding light on those around them. The unhealthy eye is consumed with envy and stinginess so that the light is shrouded within and they cannot share what little light remains.

The prescription that Jesus might offer us is a daily dose of the light of the world. We could begin to transform our ways of seeing in 2020 by taking up a practice of reading a bit of the gospels everyday. How would Jesus have seen this situation? Am I seeing the way Jesus would have me see? Who is offering me a pair of glasses that is only distorting and darkening my godly vision? I recommend that you start with Matthew since that is our Gospel for this year, but you can begin anywhere.

I was reminded by Wallace Bubar of an old optical illusion where you look at this image of Jesus for a certain amount of time and then when you look away you see that image wherever your eyes fall. I think this is another good metaphor and hope for us in 2020. May our daily, weekly, or however frequent focus on Jesus help us to begin to see him everywhere as we begin to see by his light flooding our life.



(See back page for image)

## Member News

Our sympathy goes out to **Katherine Wollerman** on the death of her father, Bobby Jones on November 20, to **Danny Guertler** on the death of his mother-in-law, Ruth Colwell, on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and to **Betty Pittman** on the death of her son, Russell Pittman, Jr. On December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to pray for these families.

**Jerry Williamson** has a new address. It is 2803 Pavilion Place, Apt. 2A, Midlothian, VA 23112-6620.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Kathy Boyle's** father, Bill, **Becky Clark, John Crowe**, Kathy Dixon's daughter-in-law Cathy, **Ken & Rae Hayden's** friend, Bill Smith, **Mack Perkins, Jack Ward, Deborah Wood's** friend, Courtney and friend Madison 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 members who are unable to get to church: **Evelyn Bailey, Ann Barlow, Voncile Baughman, Marie Blatt, Ruth Gatewood, Inez Hill, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Mack Perkins, Virginia Phipps, 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.)*



On Sunday, December 29 we welcomed **Bill & Cory Walter** into our church family. Bill & Cory have been worshiping with us since August and decided they wanted to be part of our church family. Their

address is 7457 Deborah Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Welcome to our church family Bill & Cory!



*Angela Blue & the Children's Committee: Your kind expression of remembrance and gratitude is appreciated so much by each and everyone in our family! The engraved stone presented to us at this past Fall-o-Ween festival, in Garry's memory, was such a heartfelt gift that will be dear to us forever. We have placed it along the walking path of the nature trail near our praying angel. This angel was special to Garry and the scripture verse sited at that spot. Thank you!*

*Donna Horn and family*

*Darren and I want to thank everyone for their kindnesses and generosity during the season of Christmas! If we missed thanking anyone individually for your thoughtfulness, we apologize. Your show of love and support to us and to your church staff was overwhelming and very touching! Thank you!*

*Steve*

*Helping Hands Ministries*

Dear Steve & Congregation,  
*Thank you so much for your partnership including your Red Cross Shelter support in past days. We appreciate your gift of \$1,000 for disaster relief & Presbyterian Disaster relief and support!*

The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus  
Director, PDA

*Happy Veterans Day! On behalf of our board of directors, staff and veterans we serve, thank you for your support. Over the past six years because of generous donors and volunteers such as yourself, our effort to serve homeless veterans has grown tremendously. Again, thanks for your kindness and generosity.*

Jay Patrick, CEO  
Liberation Veteran Services



the elders and deacons who have rotated off in 2019 They are:

Robbie Dobson (deacon)  
Donna Horn (elder)  
Terri Joyce (deacon)  
Debby Starzer (deacon)  
Pam Wells (deacon)

These members served our congregation well and did a wonderful job! Please be sure to thank these individuals when you see them.

We now welcome our new Class of 2022! The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **deacons** in January:

Pat Daugherty  
Nikki Glass  
Myra Moore  
Wray Palmore  
Angela Schwartz

The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **elders** in January:

Bruce Arnette  
Tom Lake  
J. R. Marker  
Marge Wantz  
Beth Young

Please pray for these individuals as they serve our church and the members herein. Give them your support when asked to help in some small way. Volunteer to help them out when the need arises. Our leadership is only as strong as our members!

The following is a list all of our Elders & Deacons currently serving our church.

## 2020 Session (Elders)

Moderator: Steve Starzer  
Vice Moderator: Darren Utlej  
Clerk: Fran Hansbrough

Class of 2020: Allen Boyle  
Jim France  
Larry Hansbrough  
K. C. Whitaker  
Jenny Young

Class of 2021: Fran Hansbrough  
Gene Rosen  
Stuart Settle  
Wyatt Wills  
Deborah Wood

Class of 2020: Bruce Arnette  
Tom Lake  
J. R. Marker  
Marge Wantz  
Beth Young

## 2020 Deacons

Class of 2020: Dwight Clark  
Chuck Patterson  
Peggie Rosen

Class of 2021: Sandra Brewster  
Jessica Ingerman  
Shirley McGhee  
Melanie Rubeck  
Majken Whitaker  
Dale Woodfin

Class of 2020: Pat Daugherty  
Nikki Glass  
Myra Moore  
Wray Palmore  
Angela Schwartz



Brenda Harris	January 2
Voncile Baughman	January 3
Zachary Letourneau	January 3
Collin Humphrey	January 4
Tess Wenninger	January 4
Kelly Wolfgang	January 5
Kathryn Zweckbronner	January 6
Dale Woodfin	January 10
Eva Ladd	January 11
Richie Tanner	January 11
Ryan Westphal	January 12
Richard Wood	January 12
Cooper Irwin	January 13
Debby Starzer	January 13
Jo Mitchell	January 14
Sydney Westphal	January 14
Jack Briel	January 15
Nancy Hart	January 19
Morgan Wills	January 19
Diane Brown	January 20
Anna Barrowclough	January 21
Katrina Gauntt	January 23
Louise Setchel	January 23
Elizabeth Davis	January 24
Troy Horn	January 24
Charles Walsh	January 24
William Dunn	January 25
Mike Hohman	January 26
Virginia Phipps	January 26
Hailey Weis	January 26
Rick Richardson	January 27

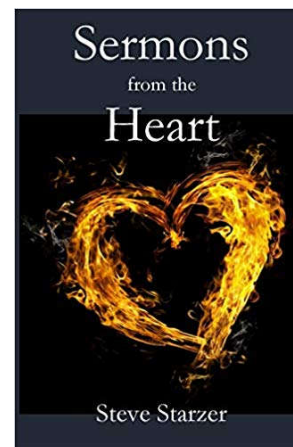


Jeff & Becky Cumins	January 4
Scott & Megan Stevens	January 30
Tracy & Beth Young	January 31

## Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1*
- Epiphany, *January 6*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12*
- Week of Pray for Christian Unity, *January 18-25*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, *January 20*

We are very proud to announce that our Pastor, Steve Starzer has authored a book of sermons entitled "Sermons From the Heart". He was approached early last year by the publishing house Parson's Porch to add his sermons to their series, "Sermons Matter." Steve agreed to do so and spent a number of months compiling and editing sermons which are representative of his more than 40 years of preaching and his nearly 39 years of pastoral ministry. The book is available through Amazon [https://www.amazon.com/Sermons-Heart-Steve-Starzer/dp/1951472314/ref=olp\\_product\\_detail\\_s?\\_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1577979683&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Sermons-Heart-Steve-Starzer/dp/1951472314/ref=olp_product_detail_s?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1577979683&sr=8-1) It is also available through BarnesandNoble.com as well as other online sellers. There will be copies available through Steve or the Church Office.







## 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, January 14**. 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.

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE



The Fellowship Circle is a daytime Bible study group for women who do not work during the day. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the Open Door classroom (#20).

They will meet on **January 14** at 10:30am. Please come to our next meeting and give us a try! Call Beverly Burts if you have any questions or need more information at 746-7053.



## THE JOYFUL READERS' CIRCLE

The Joyful Readers' Circle is an evening group of ladies who pick out books to read and discuss. The meet on the second

Tuesday of every month from September to May.

The Circle will meet on **January 14**, 7:00pm in room #14 to discuss the book: "Educated" by Tara Westover. Please feel free to join us!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy this year. During the course of the year, we added four prayer shawls, 14 lap robes and 10 baby blankets to our closet. It overflows! Also during the year we have given three prayer shawls, 13 lap robes and three baby blankets. It is our mission to provide comfort in times of distress and celebrate the joy at the time of a new birth. If you would like to help in this ministry, we will welcome you to our group.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet in January as our meeting day would fall on the first. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **February 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The **Super Singles** is 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 Red Lobster at White Oak on Sunday, **January 12** right after the 11:00am service. Please call Melanie Rubeck (730-5994) if you have any questions. Join us! We will meet in the parking lot at 12:15pm and carpool over.



**Christian Yoga Classes** is back! Make a New Year resolution to move more and exercise! Classes begin on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in Room #29. Be ready for a good workout!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Willye Fishburne at 559-6762.



### 9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

Jan. 5	McKenzie Marker & Zoe Marker
Jan. 12	Sandra Brewster & Hannah Reasor
Jan. 19	Linda Daugherty & Jenny Lake
Jan. 26	Beverly Burts & Karen Couch

### Kid's Worship

Jan. 5	Angela Schwartz
Jan. 12	Deb Utley
Jan. 19	Donna Hohman
Jan. 26	Donna Hohman

### 10am Nursery

Jan. 5	Brenda Blue & Nikki Glass
Jan. 12	Jennifer France & Melanie Rubeck
Jan. 19	Nikki Glass & Pam Roberts
Jan. 26	Brenda Blue & Majken Whitaker

### 11am Infant /Toddler

Jan. 5	Angela Blue & Anne Young
Jan. 12	Jan Fadeley & Pam Gigliotti
Jan. 19	Donna Hohman & Dale Woodfin
Jan. 26	Jan Fadeley & Angela Schwartz

communion on the first Sunday of each month.

This could be a couple or an individual that would be part of a team that rotates this responsibility. It would work out to be 3 or maybe 4 times a year that your help would be needed.

If this sounds like something that interests you and you would like to serve your church family, please contact Elizabeth Covington at 804-779-3364 or email us at [lscehc@yahoo.com](mailto:lscehc@yahoo.com).



### Blood Drive Leader

Our church is looking for a new **blood drive coordinator**. We are looking for someone to be present during the blood drives (which take place about ever 6 weeks) so that people can put a face with the church and blood drive. The person would also put the signs and banner out the day of the blood drive. The coordinator would help greet the donors and give them water - this helps with repeat business!

We have a greet team in place to assist the donors once they come in. We are looking for a coordinator for the event.

If you are interested, please contact the church office and speak to Steve or Donna. It's a great way to help out our church!

## Can you Help Out?



"All you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work for I am with you." (Haggai 2:4) This was our scripture lesson on a recent Sunday when we were encouraged to "work for the Lord." Pastor Steve and Pastor

Darren are always encouraging us to get involved, be nurtured and to serve God. In the new year there is an opportunity for you to do this.

The communion set-up team needs your help. We need someone to be responsible for setting up before and cleaning up after



# *Session notes for December 2019*

During the stated meeting of your Session on December 17th your Elders . . .

- reviewed and approved the minutes of the November meeting and of the congregational meeting
- learned of the good work that the Deacons are doing, particularly in caring for our homebound members
- gratefully learned that the tradition of offering a “Blue Christmas” worship service would continue with this year’s being held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- celebrated the six years of outstanding service rendered by Donna Horn on the Session and welcomed the new class of Elders
- transferred three members to their new church homes, revised the rolls to be more accurate and joyfully welcomed Libby Pitts by letter of transfer
- rejoiced that even with the several transfers and the death of three wonderful members, our rolls still increased for the year 2019
- discussed our continuing relationship with Compass Sports both celebrating its success and seeking better understanding of the relationship with Cool Springs Church
- expressed our gratitude to the staff members of the Church who keep the work of the church running smoothly
- received the treasurer’s report and were glad to hear that we are financially sound
- thankfully heard the report from the stewardship campaign and approved the slightly revised budget for the year 2020
- discussed the possibility of which books might be good for a Lenten study through small groups in the congregation
- glad to hear that Darren would be presenting on the meaning and history of Epiphany for the fifth Sunday Sunday School class
- learned that the Sunday evening Women’s fellowship and study group would be restarting in Lent
- thanked the Children’s Nurture Team for the wonderful music the children offered during worship
- learned that the Children’s Sunday School is growing but there is still a need for a few more teachers to assist
- discussed the tightness of space for the 7:30 Christmas Eve worship service, is there a need for a later service on Christmas Eve?
- were reminded that the next confirmation class will be starting in early January and looks to be a good sized class possibly
- celebrated the success of our first Christmas effort of working with our neighbors at Cold Harbor Elementary School to provide for children in need
- glad to hear that the plans for the adult mission trip this Spring is coming along and were reminded of the plans for the youth mission trip this Summer



## Mission News

January 2020  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

- **Cold Harbor Elementary School Angel Tree** - many thanks to all for making this a successful project. With God's grace we helped make five little boys happy! Thank you for all who took an ornament and thank you for all who prayed for this family.
- **Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF)** [www.4mcef.com](http://www.4mcef.com)  
Food Pantry - NEEDS: personal hygiene items (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes)  
Clothing - NEEDS: men's long-sleeved t-shirts - S, M, L, XL  
Linens - NEEDS: Towels/hand towels/wash clothes - clean; Queen, King sheets and pillowcases - clean with size marked
- **CARITAS** - In February we will be having a TOWEL DRIVE for The Healing Place and the Men's Shelter. Collection bins will be out Sunday, February 9 and February 16. The collection will include new or gently used towels and washcloths. Hope you saw the Thank You note for the socks that was posted on the Mission Bulletin Board!

The next day to contribute food for the MCEF One Stop Shop food pantry is **Sunday, January 5, 2020**

The next day to contribute food for the One Stop Shop food pantry is Sunday, December 1, 2019



## Epiphany Series: New Year, Same Promises

"New Year, new you": this is the message we get from pop culture, year after year. We vow to make changes to our diet, exercise habits, or lifestyle, but in spite of those resolutions, most things stay the same. This may be cause for disappointment, but there is some consistency we can celebrate. God's promises to us do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. Rather than focusing our energy and attention on making (and in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, let's spend the first part of the new year appreciating God's unbreakable promises.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 12 | God's Promise of New Life<br>Ps. 29, Matt. 3: 13-17          |
| Jan. 19 | God's Promise of Faithfulness<br>Ps. 40: 1-11, 1 Cor. 1: 1-9 |
| Jan. 26 | God's Promise of Ministry<br>Ps. 27: 1, 4-9, Matt. 4: 12-23  |





# Under-Age Thinking...

## “STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to  
remember God's  
many blessings.

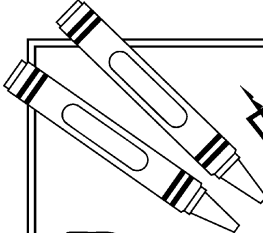


### What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

### What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.



# PUZZLE

## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*

that river to might God the from one

a peoples if men hand a is all

water call that always the on tell

know had the fear are So you earth LORD

together of each powerful ask of the what

So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

**January 2020**  
**Fairfield Presbyterian Church**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div>December 19</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>February 20</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM New Beginnings Church Hour of Prayer (Family Center)
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<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM NBC Anniversary Event (FC) 2:00 PM Set up for Compass Basketball (FC) MCEF Collection	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC)	<b>7</b> 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Blood Drive (HH) 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM Evangelism Team (#19) 7:00 PM Missions Team (#14) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study (#26) 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19) 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Lindsey Irwin using Heritage Hall																																																																																				
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# *YOUTH GROUP NEWS*

Jan. 5: No Youth Group

Jan. 12: Amazing Race, 4:30pm

Jan. 19: No Youth Group

Jan. 26: Movie Night

The time has come to let us know if you are planning to go on the Summer Mission Trip with us this year! We will be returning to Altoona, PA the week of June 21-26. To reserve your space we need a deposit of \$50 by February 16th.





Concentrate on the 4 dots in the middle of the picture for about 30 secs.

Then, take a look at the wall and start blinking your eye. You will see a circle of light.... continue looking at that circle.....

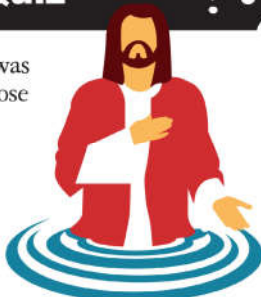
what do you see?

DEEDC

?? ? ?
Bible Quiz
? ?

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples



Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)



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

**Return Service Requested**

