

## The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor

The Rev. Shannon Hendricks, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Sandi Shaner, Associate Pastor

essage

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### April 2022

Here is a story that will ready us for Holy Week.

The tiny infant wiggled out of the swaddling blanket once again. He seemed to have become an expert at this in no time at all. Mary would wrap him up again and set him down into the makeshift crib. But with a few back-and-forth wiggles, he'd be stretching out his arms as if showing his earthly parents just what he could do. His tiny out-stretched arms would wave until he was picked up and hugged close to his mother's heart. A silly thought came to mind, and she prompted Joseph to watch. She wrapped him in the swaddling blanket and as he wiggled free, she said, "How much do you love me?" The baby wiggled out with his tiny arms stretched wide, indicating 'this much.'

That little trick turned into a nightly ritual, as the boy became a toddler, now in his Nazareth home. His mom would tuck him in, and he'd wiggle out his arms and hold them wide for one last hug before closing his eyes. The cute dialogue was added to the nighttime routine once the toddler learned to talk. Mary would ask, 'How much do you love me?" And he'd wiggle out his arms from under the blanket, hold them wide and say, "This much..." A hug would follow, filled with warm emotions of love.

As time went by, the boy grew into a teen and then into a young man, but their little ritual continued. "How much do you love me?" "This much," he'd say, and stretch out his arms as wide as he could. When going to the new, Roman city of Sepphoris to work construction with his father, Mary would call out from the door

of their small, mud-brick home, "How much do you love me?", and although he was only going 4 miles away, the young man would answer as if going on a long journey... "This much..." and hold out his arms as wide as he could.

But there came a time when it seemed she'd never hear those familiar words again. Her son. now grown and off on his own, had other things on his mind. He was preaching and teaching, he was known as a healer and worker of miracles, with crowds pressing in on him wherever he went. He was immersed in his new calling and seemed to have little time anymore for family. When someone cried out that his mother was nearby, she heard him respond that his mother was any woman who did the work of God. It was as if those loving arms pushed her away; brushed off to the side. Her heart broke, tears filled her eyes, the joy of those early days buried under her sadness and hurt. She kept her distance, but never lost hope.

A day came a few years later, when the young man was betrayed, arrested, and condemned to death. A mother should never hear such things about a son... should never witness such things for the one she loved. Horrors beyond belief injustice on overload, she found herself standing at the foot of a Roman cross looking up at her dying first born son.

Through weeping gasps and stuttered attempts, she mouthed the old words she first spoke in the stable. "How much do you love me?" And there, with arms nailed to wood, strained as far as they could stretch...he whispered, using every ounce of strength he could muster, "This much..." And with arms stretched wide...he died.

I asked Jesus,
"How much do you love me?"
And Jesus said,
"This much..."
And he stretched out his arms and died.
Robbie Cuccinello

As we approach Passion Week and Good Friday, when hearts are heavy, spirits low, souls running on empty... I hope you'll always remember and find hope in the greatest promise the world has ever heard...that the One born in

a stable.... the One who died for the sins of the world on a Friday....the One who walked out of an empty tomb on Easter Sunday..... loves you. How much?

This much

Keep the faith, you are loved and sustained by God's amazing grace.

Keith Curran, Minister in Residence

### Member News

Our sympathy goes out to **Angela Blue** & her family on the death of her aunt Linda Stone who passed away on March 15. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: Ann Barlow, Myra Compton, Jack Mitchell, Elizabeth Moorhouse's niece, Ellis Wood, Joyce Nuckols, Calvin Pearson, Gene Rosen's niece, Tracy, Buford Wade, Jack and Beverly Ward, Deborah Wood's friend Courtney, Dale Woodfin's daugher Stacy and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.

Please remember our members who are unable to get to church due to illness or limited mobility: Ann Barlow, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Marie Maida, Nancy Norment, Joyce Nuckols, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, Bootsie Stevens and Tony Underdown.

Our Covenant Woods friends: Carl & Ann Barkley, Margaret Barlow, Elizabeth Davis, Walt & Jan Fadeley, Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh, Mary Gayton, Bill & Phyllis Kerns, Doris McCalla, Glenn & Gerry Miller, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Calvin Pearson, Rick & Diane Richardson, Bob Stevens, Libby Taylor, Richard Walden, Billy and Nancy Walls.

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



I'd like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards and the beautiful prayer shawl I received during my brother's illness and p a s s i n g . This congregation is amazing

and I'm so proud to be a part of it!

Elizabeth Moorhouse

Dear Fairfield Family,

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls in the past few months during my health issues. My recovery is going well. It's very comforting to have a church family. May God bless you.

Nancy Hart

The Presbyterian Missions would like to thank us for our Thanksgiving offering of \$435.00 (One Great Hour of Sharing) and our Christmas offering of \$365.00 (Christmas Joy Offering.) We appreciate your support and contributions to these offerings during the holidays!



Liz Crow	April 2
Betty Ransone	April 3
Jeff Schwartz	April 3
Brooke Magill	April 4
Ryleigh Steveson	April 4
Wray Palmore	April 7
Clare Harvey	April 8
Jeff Wash	April 8
Allison Letourneau	April 9
John Daugherty	April 10
Fran Hansbrough	April 10
Gerry Hinig	April 10
Grady Hutchison	April 10
Leigh Lafferty	April 10
Parker Hohman	April 11
Glenn Miller	April 12
Katherine Wollerman	April 12
Brenda Blue	April 14
Marge Wantz	April 14
Maurine Wolfgang	April 14
Stephen Leigh	April 15
Julie Lowery	April 15
Kevin France	April 16
Neal Stevens	April 19
Emily Hastings	April 21
Brennan Wash	April 22
Amy Hale	April 23
Bryant Lowery	April 23
Norman Wash	April 23
Tara Hilbert Schneck	April 24
Evan Whitaker	April 24
Marsha Young	April 24
Becky Clark	April 25
Anne Sorensen	April 25
Wyatt Wills	April 25
Ann Zweckbronner	April 25
Molly Zweckbronner	April 29
Joyce Nuckols	April 30





Philip & Susan Ciejek	April 5			
Chuck & Janet Chelette	April 7			
Mike & Terri Joyce	e April 7			
Rusty & Amy Hale	April 10			
Ivy & Nancy Gallihugh	April 14			
Dennis & Tena Behling	April 18			
Bruce & Laura Arnette	April 26			
Bill & Judie Thompson	April 26			
Will & Shannon Hendricks	April 28			

### **Special Dates**

- ♦ Holy Week, April 10-17
- ♦ Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10
- ♦ Maundy Thursday, April 14
- ♦ Good Friday, April 15
- ♦ Easter Sunday, April 17
- ♦ Administrative Professionals Day, April 27

### Attention All Ladies!



ellowship The Fellowship Circle will get together again on April Circle 12th in the Open Door Classroom (#20) at 10:00am. All ladies are invited to join

us! The Bible study will be very active as we study the line and lineage of Jesus as recorded in Matthew and angels.

**Beverly Burts** 

The Joyful Readers Circle will meet again on April 12th at 7:00pm in the Heritage We will discuss the book "The Stranger in the

Lifeboat" by Mitch Album. Our meeting in May will be

our annual salad supper.



Barbara Wash



Prayer Shawl
Ministry

Spring is almost here and the warmth and new growth it brings inspires us. As we share ideas for color combinations or designs, more shawls and lap robes are made. While each one is prayerfully made, we also pray

we won't need them. Baby blankets on the other hand are both joyfully made and given. If you would like to share in this ministry, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Your ideas and inspiration are always welcomed! The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The **Super Singles** will be getting together on **Sunday**, **April 10**<sup>th</sup> and will be going to Gus' Italian Café on Bell Creek Road. Everyone is welcome to join us! We will meet right after the 11:00am service and go to

the restaurant. Call Melanie Rubeck (730-5994) if you have any questions about the Super Singles.

# March Nursery Schedule for 8:45am Service



Apr. 3 Nikki Glass & Anne Young

Young

Majken Whitaker & McKenna Blue

Apr. 17 Allison Letourneau & Linda Daugherty

Apr. 24 Marge Wantz & Donna Hohman

The nursery is available for children up to 3 years of age and Sunday School for ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade is available in Room #21 (Vine Art Room).

## Medical Supplies for Loan

The Deacons have some medical supplies that we can loan out if you need an item on a short term basis while you are healing. We are unable to keep a large supply of items due to space constraints. The supplies we have are based on what our congregation has loaned or donated. Currently we have 1 set of wooden crutches, a wheelchair with no footrests, an electric wheelchair, 2 canes, 1 bedside commode, 1 non-electric scooter, 1 bedrail, 2 shower grips, 1 new shower chair unassembled in a box, a raised toilet seat, and a bathtub hand support. All items have been sanitized. We can only accept new or gently used items without tears or cracks due to sanitary reasons.

If you wish to donate an item, please check with Cindy Cattoi (804-221-0764 or Angela Schwartz (804-337-4475) first because we have limited space to house medical equipment. You can borrow a medical item by contacting Cindy or Angela and they will check to see if the equipment is available and get back in touch with you.

We hope this is a helpful service to folks who need it. Please contact Cindy (<u>DDCattoi@gmail.com</u>) or Angela (<u>angelaschwartz66@gmail.com</u>) if you have any questions.



### **EASTER Services & Events**

- Apr. 10 Palm Sunday at 8:45am & 11:00am. Come waive a palm!
- Apr. 14 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion, 7:00pm in the sanctuary
- **Apr. 15** Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00pm in the sanctuary
- Apr. 16 Children's Easter Egg Hunt 12:00 noon. Meet in the Family Center
- **Apr. 17** Sunrise Service, 7:00am Meet at the crosses

8:45am service in the Family Center

11:00am service in the sanctuary.

Please remember to bring fresh flowers to decorate our cross on the lawn.



"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."

(NRSV James 5: 14)

We invite you to join us in worship on Sunday, April 24th, for a Healing Service. In each of our morning worship services that day there will be an opportunity, for those who wish, to come forward for anointing with oil and prayer. Those who come may request prayer for themselves or on the behalf of others. All are welcome.

"The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up ..." (NRSV James 5: 15a)

### Easter Tulips

We are planning on decorating the sanctuary and Family Center with colorful tulips on Easter morning. We are taking orders for potted tulips (6" pot, assorted colors in pot) through Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please fill out the order form that will be in the bulletin each week. The cost for a potted tulip is \$15.



## Library News

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11: 25-26

As I write this article, we are into the season of Lent and moving closer to the Easter season. Let us always remember that Jesus died on the cross for us so that we would have eternal life.

Our library has many titles that will help us to reflect on Jesus' crucifixion as we move closer to Easter Sunday when we will celebrate his resurrection. Look for: He Chose the Nails, Six Hours One Friday and He Still Moves Stones. In the children's library you will find The Parable of the Lily, Little Colt's Palm Sunday and One Surprising Morning.

Have a joyous Easter!

Elizabeth Covington

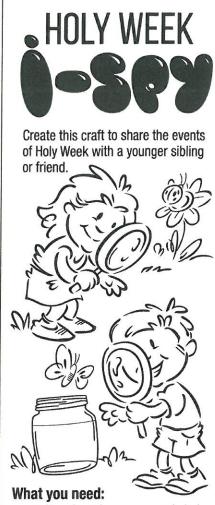
### Session News

Your Elders met on March 15th for a very full agenda during which time they

- Convened the meeting with a study from <u>Mornings with Bonhoeffer followed by prayer</u>
- · Approved the minutes of the February meeting with thanks to clerk pro-tem, Stuart Settle
- Heard of the good work the Deacons continue to do
- Named David Cunningham as church representative for the Boy Scouts
- Voted to receive two new members
- Learned of the number of projects the Facilities Management Team has done and are planning
- Approved the Family Leave of 12 weeks per the recommendation of the Presbytery
- Rejoiced that the APNC is progressing well and are working wonderfully well together
- Thanked the Adult Discipleship Team for their provision for excellent materials and study for the Season of Lent
- Expressed their gratitude to Keith Curran, our Minister in Residence for his good work on the <u>New</u> TULIP study
- Rejoiced that the Children's Nurture Team will be providing an Easter Egg Hunt with lunch on April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Were delighted to hear of the plans to have the children participate in the Palm Sunday worship service
- Commended the Team for their work to rekindle in the Children's Clothing Swap following the break due to COVID
- Learned that the children's Sunday School program will re-start in earnest in the fall under the theme of "Kid's Club"
- Anticipated the return of Professor Jones to talk to the leadership and congregation concerning food insecurity and what we might do to alleviate it
- Heard from the Task Force on solar panels that a conversation is beginning with a congregation in Eastern VA Presbytery which has successfully integrated solar panels into their facility and mission
- Approved the Task Force on Columbarium/Memorial Garden to proceed with the design stage for the possibility of having a columbarium on the grounds of Fairfield Church
- Adjourned to meet again on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Voted to change the contemporary worship service back to 9:00am starting May 1<sup>st</sup> and will reevaluate that decision at the June session meeting.
- · Voted to do Joys & Concerns for the contemporary service in a modified format
- Rejoiced we will re-start the Time for Young Disciples in the fall.



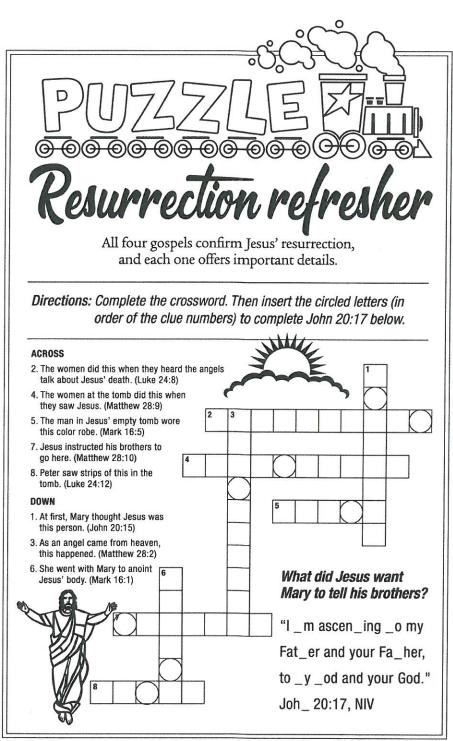
## Under-Age Thinking...



- · Clear bottle or jar with lid
- · White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

#### What you do:

- 1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
- Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
- 3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.



Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen; DOWN 1. gardener, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome; "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17, MIV



Circle the date on your calendar and come help us celebrate!

## Fairfield's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is back on April 16TH @ 12pm!

Don't forget to bring your favorite LARGE Easter basket!

The Children's Nurture Committee has prepared a wish list of items needed to make this event a success. Please help! A box will be placed in the narthex to collect these items. Your contributions to this event would be greatly appreciated! \*In order to ensure a fun time for all, we cannot use candy which contains nuts.

### Ages 0-2

Mini M&M's
Fruit Snacks
Small packs of pretzels, goldfish or animal crackers
Empty Easter Eggs

### Ages 3 & Up

Lollipops Skittles PLAIN M&M's

Starbursts

**Tootsie Rolls** 

Chocolate Kisses or Easter Shapes

Fruit Snacks

### 4 Large Chocolate Rabbits

**Bunny Ears** 

**Empty Easter Eggs** 

We need some golden eggs if you can find them!



### When and how does it work?

Bring baby to teen clothing (no undergarments, stained or torn clothing), coats, shoes and accessories\* on one of the following designated donation days:

- Tuesday, April 19th from 6-8:00pm
- Thursday, April 21st from 6-8:00pm
- Friday, April 22nd from 9:00am-11:00am

## Then come back to SHOP on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00-11:00 am

\*Please Note: For your convenience, please arrive with your clothes sorted according to gender and size and counted for your easy placement on the appropriate tables. (We will have sorting tables available if you choose to sort on site.) You will receive a ticket for each piece of clothing that you drop off to use to shop with on Saturday. Ex: 290 articles of clothing=290 tickets

Located in the Family Center at Fairfield Presbyterian Church

## **BLOOD DONATIONS**





## Fairfield Presbyterian Church

## **Blood Drive**

Family Center 6930 Cold Harbor Rd Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Tuesday, April 26th

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Use sponsor keyword 'Fairfield'

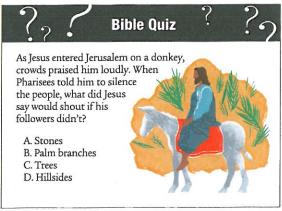
All units are now being tested for covid-19 antibodies. The test results will be available within 7-10 days after your successful blood donation.

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

#### **APRIL 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Youth Group	28 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA Group (#29) 7:00 PM Lent Study Class (Heritage Hall)	29	30 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	31 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	1	2 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA Group (#29) 7:00 PM Lent Study Class (Heritage Hall)	7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#19)	Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	7 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	8	9 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
10 Palm Sunday Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church Basketball (FC)	11 10:00 AM Classical Conversations Year-End Program 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA Group (#29) 7:00 PM Lent Study Class (Heritage Hall)	12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fellowship Circle (#20) 7:00 PM Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	13 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (#20) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	14 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (sanctuary)	15 Good Friday 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	16 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt (FC) 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Easter Sunday Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 7:00 AM Sunrise Service (at the crosses) 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church Basketball (FC)	18 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA Group (#29)	19 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC) 7:00 PM Session Meeting (#20)	,	21 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)	22 Earth Day 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC)	23 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Clothes Swap Day (FC) 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)
24 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM New Beginnings Church Basketball (FC) 3:30 PM Youth Group Movie Night (Family Center)	25 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA Group (#29)	26 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE (Family Center)	Girl Scouts (#20) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	28 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	29	30 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM District AA Workshop (FC) 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM NBC Choir Practice (#14)



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)



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

Return Service Requested



#### **Church Staff**

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Hendricks
Associate Pastor Rev. Sandi Shaner
Minister In Residence Rev. Dr. Keith Curran
Intern Caroline Carneal
Administrative Assistant Donna Carson
Children's Ministry Assistant Angela Blue
Music Director Amy Wenninger
Choir Director Celeste Underdown
Organist Dave Starzer
Praise Band Leader Matt Wenninger
Custodian John Longest