

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

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

September 2022



Debbie and I were humbled that the Session approved our memorial gift to the church. You may have seen it already: a peace pole. It's given in memory of our nephew Matthew who passed away this spring. He was the

same age as our youngest son, and they were buddies. A small plaque honors his life.

A peace pole isn't something new but may be new to many of us. The four-sided, colorful pole is often lettered with the word 'peace' in many languages or a Bible verse or spiritual saying. It's designed to inspire and stimulate conversation about the good things of God. The new peace pole at Fairfield is located at the 3rd entrance in the office parking lot. A bench is nearby offering a place to pray and contemplate the well-known words on the peace pole.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Better words have never been penned. It's a prayer for many occasions and multiple situations, isn't it? But do you know where it came from and who is said to be the author? Here is some background.

Theologian and pastor, Reinhold Niebuhr (June 21, 1892 - June 1, 1971) is the author of the prayer as we know it today. Originally it asked

for courage first, and specifically for changing things that must be changed, not things that simply can be changed:

Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other.

Niebuhr composed the prayer in 1932 - 1933. The prayer spread rapidly, often without attribution to Niebuhr, through church groups in the 1930s and 1940s and was adopted and popularized by Alcoholics Anonymous and other twelve-step programs. Nieburh used it in a 1943 sermon at Heath Evangelical Union Church in Heath, Massachusetts. It also appeared in a sermon of Niebuhr's in the 1944 Book of Prayers and Services for the Armed Forces, and Niebuhr first published it in 1951 in a magazine column. Early versions of the prayer are given no title, but by 1955, it was being called the Serenity Prayer in publications of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Described Niebuhr as "The most influential American theologian of the 20th century" and *Time* posthumously called Niebuhr "the greatest Protestant theologian in America since Jonathan Edwards."

A powerful speaker, he was one of the most influential thinkers of the 1940s and 1950s in public affairs. Niebuhr battled with religious liberals over what he called their naive views of the contradictions of human nature and the

op'timism of the Social Gospel, and battled with religious conservatives over what he viewed as their naïve view of scripture and their narrow definition of "true religion." Martin Luther King Jr. and numerous politicians have also cited his influence on their thought, including Hubert Humphrey, James Comey, Madeleine Albright, and John McCain, as well as presidents Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter. In 2017, PBS released a documentary on Niebuhr, titled *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*.

So, when you walk past or stop and contemplate the well-known words on the peace pole, you'll have a bit of background and insight into the purpose and meaning of this prayer, as well as knowing one of the greatest protestant theologians of all time is the author. So now you know.

Keith Curran Minister in Residence





Member News

Fairfield has lost a great member this past month, **Buford Wade**. Buford passed away on July 31. Our prayers go out to Betty and their three daughters. Buford was a member of Fairfield for 60 years and served in many capacities while alive. We will miss him dearly.

We congratulate **Keith and Debbie Curran** on becoming grandparents again. Their son Dan and wife Mary had a baby girl on July 26 and named her Penny Louise. This is Keith and Debbie's 4 grandchld. May God's blessings flow!



Chloe Mae Hendricks, daughter of Pastor Shannon, was baptized on August 7th at Fredericks burg Presbyterian Church, where her father Will, is a member. To celebrate the connection with her additional church family at Fairfield she had the

blanket that the Prayer Shawl Ministry made for her wrapped around her that day.



Caroline Carneal has a new address: It is 14123 Bolling Avenue, Chester, VA 23826.

Julie Gee has moved. Her new address is: P.O. Box 739, Dumfries, VA 22026-0739.

Dennis & Tracey Sulser have moved. Their new address is: 10145 Tripps Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-4898.

Linda Canyock has a new home telephone number. It is: (804) 401-7400.

Ann Barlow has a <u>newer</u> address than what was given last month. She is still at Westport Convelesence Center, Room # 201. Her new phone number is (804) 287-8699.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: Myra Compton, Jen France's father, Paul, Dot Gammon, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Jean Plott, Larry Rigsby, Gene Rosen's niece, Tracy, Louise Setchel, Joan Sprinkle, Jack and Beverly Ward, Bobby Wilson, 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 limited mobility: Ann Barlow, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Eva Ladd, Lavern Longest, Marie Maida, Nancy Norment, Joyce Nuckols, Calvin Pearson, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, Bob Stevens, Libby Taylor, Bootsie Stevens, Tony Underdown and Billy 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.)



Thanks so very much for the lovely pink rose to celebrate the birth of our granddaughter, Penny. What a wonderful way to thank the Lord for the gift of life.

Keith & Deb Curran

Dear Fairfield Family,

Thanks for all of the cards, visits, prayers and phone calls from my Fairfield friends. Buford will be greatly missed. Please keep my family in your prayers.

Betty Wade & family

Jean Plott would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls. Jean celebrated her 95th birthday on August 22nd. She has an appointment in mid-September with a back specialist to see if she can have kyphoplasty (placing concrete in the compressed vertebra). Please continue to pray for Jean.



Laura Arnette	September 3
Sawyer Harding	September 3
Jane Jones	Sepember 3
Karen Hastings	September 6
Courtney Kulkarni	September 6
Melanie Rubeck	September 6
Gerry Miller	September 7
Brian Croy	September 8
Thomas Cunningham	September 8
Kim Boehme	September 9
Tom Lake	September 9
Charles Warren	September 9
Austin Wilson	September 9
Megan Leigh	September 10
Wyatt Schneck	September 10
Gerald Atkins	September 11
Tanner Franklin	September 11
Chris Palicia	September 12
McKenzie Marker	September 14
Madison Stevens	September 15
Kylee Smith	September 17
Julie Sutton	September 17
Scott Stevens	September 18
Debbie Atkins	September 20
Kelly Daugherty	September 20
Elijah Horn	September 20
Bettina Tanner	September 20
Henry Atkinson	September 22
Sandra Brewster	September 23
Matt Joyce	September 23
Dawn Williamson	September 23
Mary Beth Adams	September 24
Marie Maida	September 24
Aaron Marker	September 24
Joan Sprinkle	September 24
Tony Underdown	September 24
Emily Westphal	September 26
Angela Blue	September 28
Heather Lowery	September 28







The Deacons are sponsoring our annual picnic on **September 18**th at approximately 5:00pm with a barbeque dinner in the Melton Pavilion! There will be pork barbeque, hot dogs and all the trimmings! All you need to bring is a lawn chair.

Reservations forms are in the weekly bulletin. Please fill one out so the deacons will know how many to prepare for. You can also call the church office and leave a message and we'll include you in the count.

See you at the picnic!

Special dates

- Labor Day, September 5
- Patriot Day, September 11
- National Grandparents Day, September 11
- Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15
- First day of autumn, September 22

The beauty of learning

There is divine beauty in learning ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their

footsteps.

The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

-Elie Wiesel

Exercise, Relaxation and Meditation

Interested in gentle yoga-style exercise... deep relaxation... and Christian meditation? Willye Fishburne offers a 40 minute ZOOM class on Thursdays at 3:00pm and is considering a ZOOM evening class as well. Phone the church office (804) 730-7164 with your name, email and phone number for further information.



Sunday School is Cool!

Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Class meets year-round in the church library. It is a class that began meeting as a short-term Christianity 101 study and the members voted to continue as a Sunday School class after the study was over. The class is open to everyone of all ages, married or single, married but worshiping single. For several years one of the oldest members of the congregation attended along with high schoolers. A course of study is decided upon the consensus and interests of the members with the approval of Pastor Steve. Class time is spent on discussion (sometimes quite lively!) As well as studying scripture verses presented by the authors. The class is warm, welcoming, and joyful. Many members have shared that the best part of their week is Sunday morning in the Cornerstone Class!

Union Class

Welcome to the Union Class! Each Sunday morning we gather in the classroom across the hall from the small kitchen to study the Bible. The class is taught lecture style by a group of teachers using the Standard Lesson Commentary as their guide. Each class member has a student book that corresponds to the teachers' material, so we know what will be studied each week. The lessons are informative and stress how the text for the day applies to our lives today. Come and try out the Union Class when we join together to be encouraged by God's Word!

The Rock

The Rock Sunday School Class is our newest class. It is a Bible-based class for all ages. We are going back to the basics, reading the text and having discussions. The first few months we will be discussing the childhood stories, Cain & Abel, Noah & the Ark, Daniel & the Lion, etc. We welcome all levels Bible knowledge - those who know a lot who will help share their knowledge with those who only know a little.

Open Door Class

The Open Door Class is team led with a free discussion-participation format. The curriculum is also free and open covering topics such as current events, philosophy, church history, Bible studies and more. All ages are welcome.



The Children's Nurture Team is excited to announce that we are rolling out a new Children's Sunday School Curriculum called Wonder Ink. All families with children enrolled in Sunday School will be receiving an invitation to register on our new online platform. Once registered, each family will have access to materials, videos and activities that relate to each weekly lesson because....

What if Sunday morning was just the starting point?

Faith formation is not limited to Sunday mornings. Wonder Ink empowers families and invites children to experience the wonder of God every day in every way. This customizable digital curriculum and tool kit creatively engages kids and families in God's Word - connecting the classroom on Sunday to their homes during the week. Supporting Early Childhood and Elementary kids in both large and small group models, Wonder Ink comprehensively explores the Big Questions and Big Ideas of the entire Bible through a 4-part journey of Curiosity, Belief, Faith, and Identity. Rooted in Biblical truth, weekly lessons are enriched with 4 core values:

- God Knows Me
- Jesus Loves Me
- The Holy Spirit Leads Me
- I Am a Child of God

Get Connected!



The Fellowship Circle will get together again on September 13th in the Open Door Classroom (#20) at 10:00am. We continue to discuss angels and the

women of the Bible. All ladies are invited to join us!

Beverly Burts



The Joyful Readers Circle

will begin again on Tuesday, **September 13th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall. The book they will be discussing is: "The Paris Apartment" by Kelly Bowen. Please join us!

(Just a reminder, if you have the Ball container that you took home in May, please bring it with you to the meeting.)



Prayer Shawl you like to learn? We meet the you like to learn? We meet the first Wednesday of every month. Sharing patterns and skills, some really beautiful shawls and lap robes are made. It can be a simple yarn in an intricate design or a simple design using

an elegant yarn. At the same time we enjoy fellowship with each other. If you would consider being a part of this ministry, join us on Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



Calling all students! Sunday, **September 11**th during the **9am service**, we will be holding a Backpack Blessing. Students will be called forward (feel free to bring your backpacks) for a blessing and prayer. As a church family, we stand behind our students and want them each to know that we are praying for them every step of the way.



Labor Day laughs

Take a break and enjoy this work-related humor!

- My first job was in an orange juice factory.
 I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.
- When I couldn't hack it as a lumberjack, I got the ax.
- I wasn't suited to being a tailor.
- Working in the muffler factory was too exhausting.
- I was a banker... until I lost interest.
- I realized there was no future in being a historian.
- Any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard at the deli.
- I studied to become a doctor but had no patients.
- My job at the coffee shop was always the same old grind.
- When I worked as a plumber, the tasks were too draining.
- I was hired at a gym but wasn't fit for the iob.
- Finally, I got a job at a bakery; I kneaded dough!



9:00am Nursery

Sept. 4 Allison Letourneau & McKenna Blue

Sept. 11 Marge Wantz & Abbey Glass

Sept. 18 Anne Young & Majken Whitaker

Sept. 25 Linda Daugherty & Nikki Glass

10:00am Nursery

Sept. 4 Allison Letourneau & McKenna Blue

Sept. 11 Donna Hohman & TBD

Sept. 18 Majken Whitaker & TBD

Sept. 25 Angela Schwartz & TBD

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



We are excited to announce that we are in the planning stages for a new church directory! We will have a photographer on site November 3rd, 4th and 5th to take photos and you will receive a complimentary picture for coming out and having your picture taken! We will be releasing the sign up information soon so stay tuned.....



"By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

As we enter into the season of fall, it is my

hope that everyone has had a nice quiet summer and maybe had the opportunity to enjoy a nice vacation. In the last few weeks of this late summer we have been enjoying a series of sermons based on favorite old hymns. Recently Shannon shared with us a sermon based on the hymn, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Our church provides us with numerous ways to help us to demonstrate our Christian love to others.

Our library has many books that will help us to reflect on and understand the meaning of Christian love. Look for "Amazing Love" by Corrie Ten Boom and "Love For a Lifetime" by Dr. James Dobson. In the children's library you will find "Little One God Loves You" and "Because I Love You."

As we go about our daily lives let us all strive to show that we are Christians by our love.

Elizabeth Covington

Easily Given

It was only a sunny smile, And little it cost in the giving; But is scattered the night like morning light, And made the day worth living...

It was only a kindly word, A word that was lightly spoken; Yet not in vain, for it stilled the pain Of a heart that was nearly broken...

It was only a helping hand, And it seemed of little availing; But its clasp was warm, and it saved from harm A brother whose strength was failing...

A smile may lighten the falling heart, A word may soften pain's keenest smart, A touch may lead us from sin apart. How easily either is given!



IS IT TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR BOOKCASE?

Are your bookcases overflowing with paperback Sunday School quarterlies, devotional booklets or paperback Bibles that you are no longer using? If so, the Mission Committee is here to help! There is a brown box in the Union Class, across from the small kitchen. Just put your old paperback booklets, devotionals and Bibles in the box. When the box is filled, the Mission Committee will send them to a collection site in Alabama. From there the books are sent to missionaries all over the world to be used to teach English to those in their care. Along with English, they are also learning the Gospel along with many other facets of Christianity.

Your donations will give you extra bookcase space and give people far away peace, truth and love that only knowing Jesus can give.

Blessings abound!
The Mission Committee

News from MCEF

(Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions and One Stop Shop (OSS)

www.4mcef.com

Here are a few highlights from the MCEF One Stop Shop:

- Another successful Back to School Shopping Event - MCEF was able to serve 26 families totaling 55 children. Everyone was able to get new socks and underwear, a few outfits to start the school year and most of the supplies on their school/grade list. Lots of happy faces. A BIG thank you to churches, individuals, businesses, and organizations in Hanover County for helping make this possible.
- Remaining school supplies will stay at the OSS

- for the first few weeks of September then will be distributed to guidance counselors at the elementary schools and Tools 4 Teachers for the middle schools.
- Last month it was mentioned that there would be a 9/11 concert by the John Marshall Alumni Band. Sadly, that will not be happening at all. The group has disbanded. We thank the band for providing great patriotic music on a day that we needed to remember and allowing MCEF to raise funds and food at the same time. The concert was enjoyed by all who attended for many years, the first being in 2012.
- MCEF is now accepting fall and winter clothing. No more summer clothes except for school age children.
- Donation days are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 2-3:30pm.

Thank you for all you do here at Fairfield to support MCEF.



Drivers Needed

MCEF needs Volunteers

to help seniors in Mechanicsville: MCEF needs volunteer ride coordinators and drivers for seniors and disabled persons who can no

longer drive themselves. MCEF's Senior Rides program helps our seniors and disabled stay in their homes by giving rides to medical appointments, to the grocery store or to do personal business. Ride coordinators schedule the rides and inform the drivers of the needed rides. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and choose the rides to fit their schedule. Drivers are reimbursed \$.50 per mile to offset the cost of gas. If you can share a few hours each month and have a desire to help our seniors, please contact MCEF Senior Rides at (804) 357-9360. or by email Office@MCEF.com.

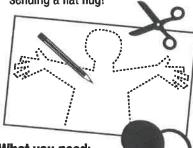
September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	30	31 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	2	3 Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
4 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	5 Church Office Closed Labor Day 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	6 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	7 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	8 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	9	10 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
11 Patriot Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	12 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	13 10:00am – 12:00pm Fellowship Circle (#20) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	14 5:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	15 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	16	17 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
18 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 5:00pm –7:00pm Church Picnic (Melton Pavilion)	19 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	21 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	22 First Day of Autumn 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	23 Wedding Rehearsal for Ashley & Jake (sanctuary)	24 Ashley & Jake's Wedding 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
25 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	26 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	27	28 5:00pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	29 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	30	1 Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)

Under-Age Thinking...

Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



- Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
- 2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
- 3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
- Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
- 5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.

Puzzle!

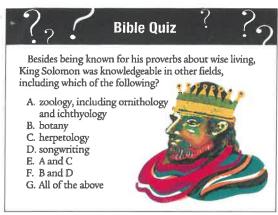
Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1				N							
Philip	pians	s 1:9						Н			
2	Peter	1:5								S	
					Α			2 Timothy 3:7			7
N	latthe	ew 24	1:32				S				
J	ohn i	7:15				R					
							I			Isaia	ah 33:6
	2 P	eter 3	3:18					E			
			W		Proverbs 24:5						
	Ву	wis	don	n a	hou	se is	s bu	ıilt, a	and		
throu	ough its rooms are filled with						with				

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

rare and beautiful treasures.

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power; knowledge



Answer: G (See 1 Kings 4:29-34.)

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Hendricks
Associate Pastor Rev. Sandi Shaner
Minister In Residence Rev. Dr. Keith Curran
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



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

Return Service Requested

