

The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor The Rev. Mike Watson, Associate Pastor

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December 2024



Dear friends,

Advent is a time of journey. It is the start of the year for the Christian calendar, and it marks the beginning of our journey of discovery of the person and work of

Jesus Christ. Advent itself is a reminder of journeys - Mary and Joseph making the trek to Bethlehem. The Wisemen of their long ride to see a newborn king. Our own journey in this season is one of the heart and mind as we seek to fully understand what it means for the "Word to become flesh and dwell among us.

It also brings to mind that congregations are always on a journey from where we have been to where God is calling us to be. There is no standing still in the life of a local church. We are always moving; we are always growing in our faith and practice as followers of Jesus Christ together.

On our journey, God always provides what we need to accomplish what He sets before us. I had the privilege recently of visiting with The Rev. Bob Temple, who served this congregation ably and well as our Pastor. It was Bob Temple who led this congregation on the challenging journey from Harvie Road to Cold Harbor Road. I enjoyed my visit with him immensely as he

recounted some of the challenges that he faced and his expression of gratitude to God for what was accomplished.

I will always respect and admire the leadership Rev. Temple gave to this congregation. Your Session agrees with me. At their most recent meeting, they voted unanimously to name The Rev. Bob Temple as Pastor Emeritus of Fairfield Presbyterian Church. This honor is bestowed upon him as a sign of our deep gratitude and as a recognition that we owe him a great debt.

As Rev. Temple's relationship with Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church ended at its closure, we lovingly will be walking alongside him in his journey. We are glad to be a part of his life. If you are in the area of Autumn Care, stop in to say "hi." He'd love to see you.

In Christ's love,

1

Member News



With sympathy, we mourn Christian the loss of one of our longtime members (68 years), Joyce Nuckols. Joyce passed away

on November 11 at her home. Joyce was active in the choir as well as the member care committee. Please keep her family in your prayers during this time.

Laverne Longest has moved. Her new address is Three Rivers Healthcare, 2960 Chelsea Road, Room 26, West Point, VA 23181.

We have two more college addresses! They are: Andrew Dunn - J. Sargeant Reynolds 8118 South Shall Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111

William Dunn - Elon College 10040 Campus Box Elon, NC 27244

Please add these to your list!

Please continue to pray for: Margaret Barlow, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, John Crowe, Pat Daugherty, Jen France's friend's infant son, Joseph Flint, Tim Gulliver's sister, Pam, Tim Gulliver's friend Neil Mallam, David Jones' sister, Judy Ritchie, Terri Joyce's great nephew Jude, Donna Richbourg's daughter, and all those who serve as Pettis Hilt. missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.

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



Please remember our homebound members who are unable to get to Ann Barlow, John church: Crowe, Reggie Crump, Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne

Longest, Jo Mitchell, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Nancy Norment, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Tony Underdown, Jack Ward, Herta Wenninger and Sherri Woodburn.

thankyou

Dear Fairfield family.

Rick and I would like to express to you how much your calls, prayers, and support for us at my mom's passing has meant to us both. Our church family is great! Thank you for your love & support.

> In Christ's love, Darlene & Rick Shegogue

Dear Fairfield.

Your two pastors are feeling grateful, appreciated, and loved for all the goodies you've provided us with for Pastors' Appreciation Month. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

> In Christ. Mike & Steve

Dear Fairfield.

The last load of coats and blankets that you donated went out to people who need them. We still have clothes to find homes for, but your donations reached many parts of Southwest Western North Carolina, Virginia. Tennessee. Thank you!

Cassie at Green Spring Pres. Church Abingdon, Virginia

Dear Fairfield Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness. Knowing that David and I are being held up in prayer is a great comfort.

Peace and thanks! Sally Kovacs

Dear Fellow Fairfield Members,

Words cannot begin to describe how thankful I am for your heartfelt prayers, the many cards sent to me and the delicious meals prepared for me. I felt that all of you were helping me as I progressed towards my recovery. I struggled to get my energy back but I made it! Fairfield has always been known for its warmth and caring congregation and I could feel the support from all of you. Thanks again.

Fran Hansbrough

Dear Fairfield Family,

Thank you so much for your support following Bonnie's recent death. I appreciated the many sympathy cards that you sent with thoughtful notes. And, I appreciated the gift that was made to Bonnie's memorial fund at the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. Thanks again for your love and encouragement. May God bless you all!

Dave Wright

Thank you to all who filled an Operation Christmas Child shoe box! We collected 53 shoe boxes and they were delivered to the collection center on Wednesday, November 20. Thank you for helping with this mission of love!

Thanks to your generous donations, and a truck and driver from Sandy's Plants, we were able to send a truckload of coats, blankets, hats, gloves, and more down to Green Spring Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, Virginia to help out Hurricane Helene victims. Great work everyone!





The Mission Committee gives thanks to the Men of the Church for providing festive Thanksgiving bags filled with a variety of food for the families at Cold Harbor Elementary School that we are supporting this season to have a joyful Thanksgiving feast. In addition to non-perishable items, each family received a large supply of beautiful apples to be enjoyed. We topped it off with a generous gift card to Krogers to buy perishable items. The counselor at the school was very grateful for the generous contribution that Fairfield made to the familes of Cold Harbor that are in need. The Mission Committee deeply appreciates each person who contributed to this local project.





Ryan & Emily Westphal Courtney & Randy Street Jerry & Sheree Duggan Chad & Lindley Starzer December 10 December 15 December 24 December 31



Terri Helfrich	December 5
Chris Selph	December 5
Noah Clark	December 7
Dana Franklin	December 7
Terri Joyce	December 7
Bruce Watson	December 7
Sheri Wodwaski	December 8
Matthew Leigh	December 9
Jim France	December 11
Madeleine Letourneau	December 11
Heather Brady	December 12
Sam Endicott	December 12
Allen Boyle	December 16
Donna Hohman	December 16
David Kovacs	December 17
Larry Rigsby	December 17
Ayron Young	December 17
Darlene Shegogue	December 18
Matthew Trexler	December 18
Carson Street	December 19
Amanda Ciejek	December 20
Herb Coulter	December 20
Charles Fishburne	December 20
Sara Gaston	December 20
Eric Spott	December 21
Reggie Crump	December 22
Lucas Settle	December 22
Angela Schwartz	December 24
Su Ling Trexler	December 24
Laverne Longest	December 26
Lisa Denton	December 28
Norm Ballmer	December 29
Karen Couch	December 29
Phyllis Kerns	December 29
Rusty Hale	December 30
Pam Wells	December 31

Special Dates in December:

- First Sunday of Advent, December 1
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 8
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 15
- First Day of Winter, December 21
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31

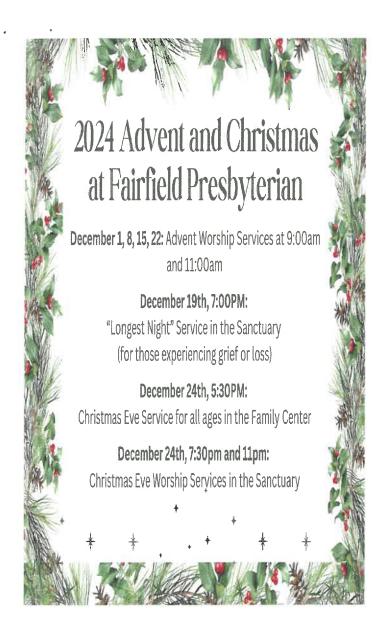


All Church Night Holiday Service Project

All ages are welcome to join us in the Family Center, December 1st, at 4:30pm for an All Church Night holiday service project. We'll be assembling Christmas gift bags for children who are served by Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI). All the materials are already provided, so simply show up prepared to help us put the packs together. Monetary donations to defray the cost are welcomed. (Make check out to "Missions".) Stay for dinner at 5:30pm!

All Church Night Cookie Exchange

Got a favorite cookie recipe? Enjoy sharing with others? At All Church Night this coming Sunday, December 1st, we'll have a Christmas Cookie Exchange! Simply bring 12-24 of your favorite cookies (bought or baked) and place it on our exchange table. After dinner, you'll be welcome to take home a sampler box from everyone's delicious donations.



"The Longest Night" Service

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 19th, for "The Longest Night" service of hope and healing (formerly known as the Blue Christmas Service.) The service will be one of contemplation and meditation, in the style of Taize. All are welcome to attend, with a special attention to those feeling grief or loss this particular season. You'll have an opportunity to light a candle in honor or memory of someone on your heart.

Shawl

"May the thoughts and prayers of your many Ministry) friends bring sunshine into your day and warmth in your heart."

> Sunshine into your day and warmth in your heart... that

is what we pray for as we knit and crochet lap robes and prayer shawls. Amazingly, it is a double blessing as that is what we receive as we are making them. This Ministry meets the first Wednesday of the month and if you would like to get involved, come and join us.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

The Men of the Church will get together this month on Tuesday, December 10, 7:00am at the Cracker **Barrel Restaurant on Bell** Creek Road. All men are invited to join us for a hearty



breakfast, fellowship and to bring up or discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Any questions? Call or see Billy Putze (804) 510-8719 o r email him billyputze@comcast.net.



The Fellowship Circle

cllowship will meet again on Tuesday, December 10, 10:00am in the Open Door Classroom (#20). This year the group will be studying the Book of

Ephesians. Come join our group for a great year of Bible study!



The Joyful Readers will meet again on Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm in the Family Center for their annual Christmas dinner. We hope all the ladies can join us. Please call Sue Putze if you plan to attend.

Thank you!



12/1	Abbey Glass & Marge Wantz
12/8	Angela Blue & Majken Whitaker
12/15	McKenna Blue & Barbar
	vanSteenburg
12/22	McKenna Blue & Nikki Glass
12/29	Anne Young & Angela Blue

	Liturgists for Sunday		
	Morning Worship		
12/1	Hunter Glass (9:00am)		
l	Nancy Gallihugh (11:00am)		
12/8	Grayson Palmore (9:00am)		
l	Jerry Williamson (11:00am)		
12/15	J. R. Marker (9:00am)		
l	Topher Carson (11:00am)		
12/22	Gene/Peggie Rosen (9:00am)		
l	Marge Wantz(11:00am)		
12/29	Allison Letourneau (9:00am)		
	Deborah Wood (11:00am)		



On Saturday, November 9th, our youth group had a great time volunteering with Boaz and Ruth. On Sunday, we had a wonderful trip to Swaders Sports Park! Our last youth event for 2024 will be an evening of Christmas Caroling concluding with a Christmas party on December 15. Tis the season!

Mike



news

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him CHURCH LIBRARY may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

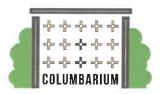
In this Christmas season we are reminded of the love God has for us by sending his own son for our salvation. This season has always been a favorite of mine where families and friends give gifts of time, food and thoughtful presents to their loved ones. This season is also a time when our thoughts go to those in need who, without our help, would not have a joyous Although stores have Christmas. commercialized Christmas into a "spending holiday," we Christians know the true meaning of the season and why we and our church give to others.

Our library has a number of books that will help us find the true meaning of the Christmas season. For a look at the spiritual nature of Christmas, we have The Purpose of Christmas, The Christmas Cross and Christmas Presence -12 Gifts That Were More Than They Seemed.

Our Children's library has a number of excellent books to help our younger people learn the true meaning of Christmas: God Gave Us Christmas, The Candle in the Window and Fear Not.

Our libraries have wonderful resources to strengthen our faith. May you have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

> Merry Christmas! Elizabeth Covington



In the coming months, the Memorial Garden/Columbarium Committee will be working on fundraising. There is a line item for this effort and we have received over \$1,000 so far. You can fill in "other" on your envelope or online with "Memorial Garden" so it can be properly directed.

Although we have received reservations for niches and nameplates, there is an equal need for the grading, concrete brickwork and landscaping.

We hop you will join us in this effort to see this project to completion!

Marge Wantz



planning to support a struggling family with children attending Cold Harbor Elementary School, helping them to have a wonderful Christmas this year. The school counselors will select the family, as the parents about their children's basic needs and wishes and then give the Mission Committee their list. The committee members will purchase the items and deliver them to the school. The counselors will then

deliver the gifts to the family.

To become an Angel, send your financial contributions to Fairfield Church. Please write "Angel Tree Project" on the check or the envelope so the money will go into the correct fund. When you contribute, know that you are bringing great joy to the little ones and making Christmas very special for one of our local families!

Thank you for your help! The Mission Committee

Advent Sermon Series "Boundless"

Dec. 1 "Boundless Love"

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Dec. 8 "Boundless Joy"

Luke 3: 1-6

Dec. 15 "Boundless Peace"

Luke 3: 7-18

Dec. 22 "Boundless Hope"

Luke 1: 39-45

Dec. 24 "Boundless Spirit"

Luke 2: 1-20



We have ordered 20 red and 20 white poinsettias for Christmas. The cost of each is \$18. If you would like to purchase one in celebration/memory/honor of someone special, please fill out the order form found in the Sunday bulletins for the next three weeks. All orders are due by December 15. Please get your orders in soon!

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship and Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for making their pledges during the Stewardship Campaign. Your financial commitment for 2025 allows us to effectively plan for the coming year.

If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, feel free to drop it in the off in the offering plate next Sunday or mail it to the church.

As the year draws to a close, we want to express our appreciation to the many members who "catch up" their pledges during the month of December. If you are unsure if you have fallen behind or by how much, give the church office a call to find out where your pledge for 2024 stands.

J. R. Marker



News from Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF) and the One Stop Shop (OSS)

Thank you to Fairfield and all the churches in Mechanicsville who support MCEF. The ability to give clients and extra bag of "Thanksgiving food" has been wonderful and only made possible because of all the food that was donated. Just starting the last few weeks in October, 54 Thanksgiving bags went out - there will be more up until Thanksgiving. MCEF will be able to offer a Christmas bag this year too.

The One Stop Shop has been busy. Client sign-ins were up to 172 in October with 11 new clients. 226 bags of food went out in October plus 54 Thanksgiving bags. MCEF continues to collect styrofoam egg cartons (dozen size). Food requests are canned meat, hearty soups, jelly or jam.

The Hanover Senior Rides program gave 157 one-way rides in October to doctor appointments, grocery stores, errands, etc. for Mechanicsville residents who can no longer drive. MCEF pays drivers 50¢ a mile.

If you would like to become a volunteer for MCEF, please see the updated volunteer application on the MCEF website (4mcef.com) Download, fill out and submit to MCEF by mail or in person. Remember, MCEF is an all-volunteer organization.

Nancy Gallihugh

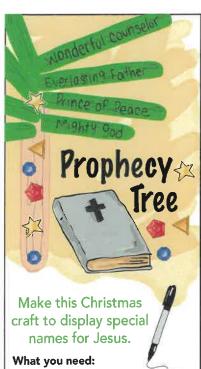
Join us for a Magical Christmas Eve Puppet Show!

Get ready for a heartwarming holiday adventure as we bring Santa's Favorite Story by Hisako Aoki and Ivan Gantschev to life - puppet style! With whimsical characters, lots of fun, and a gentle reminder of the true meaning of Christmas, this special puppet show is perfect for kids and kids-at-heart alike.

Gather your family and friends, and don't miss this festive storytelling experience during our Christmas Eve service (5:30pm). Let's make merry memories together!



Under-aged Thinking



- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

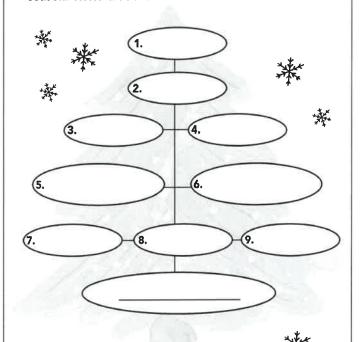
- 1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
- 2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
- On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
- Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
- Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.



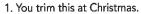
Puzz]e!

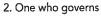
Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.

Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES





3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"

4. You burn this to make the air sweet.

5. "For unto us is born this day a

6. She was betrothed to Joseph.

7. Shepherds heard them sing.

8. A Christmas song

9. 'Tis the _____

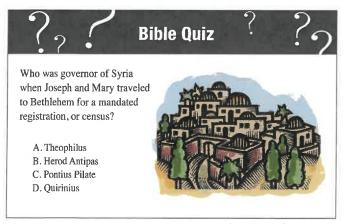
ing. to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Advent No YG 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30pm All Church Night! 4:30pm Connect Women's Ministry (#20)	2 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	3 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 4:00pm -8:00pm Classical Conversations Dinner (FC & kitchen) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	4 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	5 7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	6	7
8 No YG 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 2:00pm –8:00pm Hanover Towne Garden Club (HH)	9 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	10 7:00am -8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am -1:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:30pm -7:30pm Joyful Readers Circle Christmas Dinner (Family Center)	11 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Cholr Practice (sanctuary)	13	14 5:00pm –9:30pm AA Christmas Gathering (HH)
9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30pm YG Christmas Caroling and White Elephant Gift Exchange (#31)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	17 CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm -6:00pm RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE (Heritage Hall) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	18 5:30pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	19 7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00pm Longest Night Service (sanctuary)	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 First Day of Winter 4:00pm -6:00pm Santa's Workshop (#20 & HH)
9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00pm -2:00pm New Beginnings Christmas Program (FC)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm -6:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service (FC) 7:30pm -8:30pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) 11:00pm -12:00am Christmas Eve Service (sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed 7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	27	28
29 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	30 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	31 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	3	4 Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen)





Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor Rev. Mike Watson
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Bob Temple
Minister In Residence Rev. Dr. Keith Curran
Minister in Residence Rev. Fred McCall
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

