



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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January 2025



Invisaligning for the New Year

If my teeth look a little bit funny, or if you hear me speak in a bit of a lisp sometime in the next few weeks, there's a good reason for it. I recently got Invisalign braces for my teeth as a preventative measure (it's been a long time coming). Other than feeling a bit funny, it's really not so bad and of course, I'm eager to get my teeth functioning the way they should.

For those who have used this orthodontic practice before, it's a long game. I'm expected to keep these braces in for over a year - while changing them out every week for a slightly adjusted shape each time. Getting my teeth in shape will be a long, tedious process, but with undeniably important results.

As a theologian, I certainly can't escape the metaphors within this process, especially at the dawn of a new year. I imagine many of us have already, or will soon, take time to consider what another year has in store, individually and as a community. Life is full of small changes and adjustments, tedious maintenance, and tiny movements. New opportunities or relationships may feel like a strange fit at first glance. And yet, we carry on with these moments and changes because we know we are becoming better versions of ourselves a little more each

day. We know God is continuing to work within and through us so that Christ's purposes for our lives may happen the way they are meant to.

So perhaps this is the year to try something new, to take on a new risky venture, to reach out to someone we've been meaning to connect with. We likely won't be comfortable at first, but over time, the more we learn to trust that God is at work in every moment, in every situation, in every relationship, the more we'll realize that we are being aligned to our greater purpose, to God's will for our lives.

May your 2025 start out in joy. May you be surrounded by loved ones as you consider another year ahead. And may you know that in every moment, God continues to align and shape our lives to mirror whom God is creating us to be.

In Christ,
Mike



Member News

Directory Updates:

Margaret Barlow's mail should be forwarded to Nora Foster, 12326 Hillcreek Circle, Midlothian, VA 23112. Margaret is still at Covenant Woods in heathcare unit C-222.

Bettina Tanner's new cell phone number is (804) 219-9749.

Richard Tanner's new cell phone number is (804) 366-9369.

Kirk Aliotti's father, John, **Linda Canyock**, **Danny Couch**, **Tim Gulliver's** sister Pam and friend Neil Mallam, **Fran Hansbrough**, **Sally Kovacs' husband**, **David**, **Julie Lowery**, **Susan Patterson's** friend, Susan, **Cheri Selph**, **Darlene Shegogue's** brother-in-law, **Marsha Young & Bryant Lowery's** sister, Cathy, **Tracy Young** and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.



"Thank you all for the many kind and generous expressions of concern and support extended to Beth and me during my recent hospitalization. They all were most welcome and deeply appreciated."

*Sincerely & faithfully yours,
Tracy Young*



to the elders and deacons who have rotated off in 2024. They are:

- Jeff Blue (elder)
- Patty Gulliver (elder)
- Billy Putze (elder)
- Stuart Settle (elder)
- Deborah Wood (elder)
- Sandra Brewster (deacon)
- Shirley McGhee (deacon)
- Majken Whitaker (deacon)
- Richard Wood (deacon)
- Dale Woodfin (deacon)



Please remember our homebound members who are unable to get to church:

Ann Barlow, **John Crowe**, **Reggie Crump**, **Nita Dunkum**, **Dot Gammon**, **Ruth Harpster**, **Eva Ladd**, **Laverne Longest**, **Nancy Norment**, **Joyce Nuckols**, **Virginia Phipps**, **Helen Rigsby**, **Larry Rigsby**, **Faye Sandridge**, **Tony Underdown**, and **Jack Ward**.

(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.)

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

We now welcome our new Classes of 2027. The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **deacons** this month:

- Martha Houchins
- Donna Richbourg
- Darlene Shegogue
- Richard Wood

The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **elders** this month:

Jeff Blue
 Luke Denton
 Sam Endicott
 Patty Gulliver
 Billy Putze

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!

Jo Mitchell	January 14
Sydney Westphal	January 14
Jack Briel	January 15
Laurel Denton	January 15
Jeff Harding	January 18
Morgan Wills	January 18
Nancy Hart	January 19
Diane Brown	January 20
Anna Barrowclough	January 21
Louise Setchel	January 23
Elizabeth Davis	January 24
Troy Horn	January 24
Will Dunn	January 25
Mike Hohman	January 26
Virginia Phipps	January 26
Hailey Weis	January 26
Rick Richardson	January 27
Caleb Boyd	January 28

Special Dates

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



Jeff & Becky Cumins	January 4
Sam & Elaine Endicott	January 20
Scott & Megan Stevens	January 30
Tracy & Beth Young	January 31



Zachary Letourneau	January 3
Collin Humphrey	January 4
Tess Wenninger	January 4
Kelly Wolfgang	January 5
Ashley Clark	January 9
Luke Denton	January 10
Dale Woodfin	January 10
Eva Ladd	January 11
Richie Tanner	January 11
Ryan Westphal	January 12
Richard Wood	January 12
Cooper Irwin	January 13
Vivian Jones	January 13
Debby Starzer	January 13



Gracious God, I thank You for the many blessings You have already bestowed upon me. As I step into this new year, I ask for Your continued favor and grace. Bless my home, my family, my work, and all that I put my hands to. Let this be a year of abundance in every area of my life, not just materially but spiritually as well. Open new doors of opportunity, and may I walk into them with confidence, knowing that Your hand is upon me. Amen.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

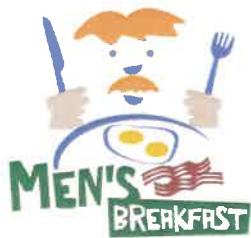
The Prayer Shawl Ministry was busy this past year. While keeping the closet full of shawls, lap robes and baby blankets, we gave out eleven Prayer Shawls and fourteen Lap Robes. Each one was prayerfully made and we hope they provided the warmth, comfort and love that was intended. If you would like to join this Ministry, we meet the first Wednesday of each month. Because this year, New Years Day is on Wednesday, we will be meeting a week later.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor. We would love for you to join us.

Anna Barrowclough



The Joyful Readers will meet again on Tuesday, **January 14th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be discussing the book "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson. Barbara Wash will be the discussion leader and will lead the devotions. We hope all the ladies can join us.



Men of the Church - join us on **Tuesday, January 14th** starting at 7:00am at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Bell Creek Road for our monthly Men of the Church

Breakfast! It is a great time of fellowship and a good way to fulfill the mission statement of the church: ***As a Christian community, together we BELONG to God, GROW in Christ and SERVE led by the Spirit.*** We encourage any and all men of the church to join us. Bring a friend!

Call or email Billy Putze (804-510-8719) or billyputze@comcast.net with any questions about the men of the church activities. See you on the 14th!

Service in Christ,
Billy Putze



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **January 14**, 10:00am in the Open Door classroom. All women are invited to join us for

this daytime Bible study.



As fall turns to winter, our homeless population often suffers due to the cold. Please prayerfully consider Giving the Gift of Warmth to those less fortunate by providing your gently used blankets and gloves. Please place your contribution in the box located in the narthex through the month of January.



The Youth Group had a wonderful time in December, sharing Christmas Carols and MUCH holiday cheer with residents at Covenant Woods and Heritage Green. The youth were able to connect with some of our Fairfield folks at both locations. We concluded our evening with a Christmas party back at the church! We'll be starting 2025 a bit later than usual - taking a few weeks to breath and catch up in the new year before starting back you group programming Sunday, January 26. Stay tuned for more details!



The Rock Class will be continuing with our study of Jesus in the gospels until Mid-February. Amy and Richard lead us through lessons with people taking turns reading the scripture. Often even well-known verses and stories are spotlighted in a different way through questions and reading different versions of the Bible with study notes. After February we plan on looking at several of Paul letters to the Early Christian community. Come for a great opportunity of learning and understanding.



Cheers for Fairfield's Angels

The Christmas Fairfield's Angels, those who contributed to the Angel Tree Fund, provided new winter clothing and requested toys to six children from Cold Harbor Elementary School. The children, 4 boys and 2 girls ranging in age from 5 years old to 10 years old, received shirts, sweaters, pants, hats and gloves, items requested by their parents. They also received a variety of toys including arts and craft supplies, different types of balls, board games, a crawling doll, stuffed animals, X-Box gift cards, Bible based coloring books, Super Hero items, PJ Mask, a fashion design craft book with stencils, a Barbie doll, magnetic building tiles, a set of walkie-talkies, and Paw Patrol cars. Each child received a large plastic Christmas bag filled with all of their gifts and each family received a Walmart gift card so they could buy additional items that their children might need.

The Mission Committee thanks you for helping these local children and their families have a wonderful Christmas filled with love and joy, letting them experience the true spirit of this Christmas season.



9:00am Nursery

- Jan. 5 Angela Blue & Marge Wantz
- Jan. 12 Angela Schwartz & Nikki Glass
- Jan. 19 McKenna Blue & Marge Wantz
- Jan. 26 Anne Young & Abbey Glass



Pickleball continues here at Fairfield! Everyone is invited to join us - young and old! Here is the schedule for games. All games are played in the Family Center.

Monday 5:30-7:30pm - Fairfield members only

Tuesday 11:00-1:00pm - Open to everyone

Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm - Open to everyone

Thursday 11:00-1:00pm - Open to everyone

Come join us! If you don't have your own equipment - no worries. We have paddles available for you to use.

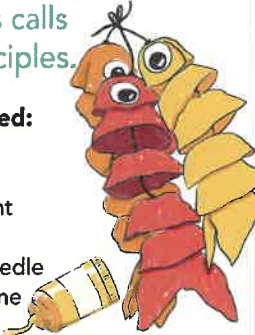
Under-aged Thinking



Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue

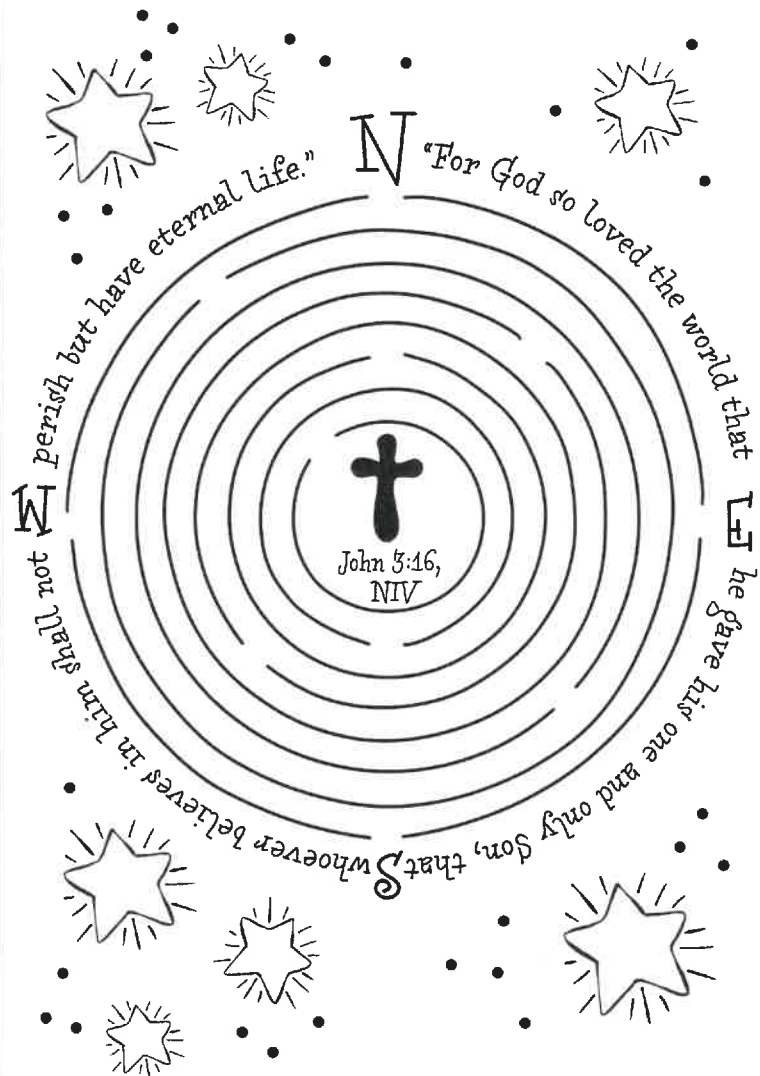


What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office closes @ 12pm</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:00pm –8:00pm AA Class (Heritage Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p> <p>4:30pm All Church Night!</p> <p>4:30pm Connect Women's Ministry (#20)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (Barlow Parlor)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:00pm –8:00pm AA Class (Heritage Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel)</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:00pm –8:00pm AA Class (Heritage Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:00pm –8:00pm AA Class (Heritage Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Set up FC for Saturday's dinner</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)</p> <p>6:00pm Beat the Winter Blues dinner (FC)</p>

Bible Quiz

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

A. 1 day
 B. 2 days
 C. 3 days
 D. 7 days



Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)

Church Staff

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



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Return Service Requested

