



# The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor  
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## July 2025

### Sleeping on the Floor

*"Foxes have dens and the birds in the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." -Luke 9:58*

This July 20-26, I will be joining 10 youth and 3 other adults on our summer mission trip to Wise, VA. Partnering with Appalachia Service Project, we'll be working on a number of homes around the area, doing whatever needs to be done. We will also be staying at a community center, sleeping on the floor of a gym, on air mattresses and cots.

In my youth ministry years, I've slept on the floor in large gym-like spaces at least twice, both on different mission trips. One of these accommodations was at Broad Street Ministry, in downtown Philadelphia (One place I had interned previously as a seminary student). With a group of high schoolers, we worked at a number of urban ministry sites during the day and at night, slept on the floor of an old church fellowship hall that had no air conditioning. It was hot, humid, and only made slightly better by the great number of fans we had scattered throughout the building. Cold "alley showers" provided a bit of relief during our week of service.

My other time sleeping on a gym-like space floor was quite a bit more exotic. In 2016 I had the wonderful opportunity to take a group of high schoolers to visit a sister church in San Jose de los Ramos, in Cuba. We slept on the floor of their

sanctuary in, you guessed it, a non-air conditioned building. Once again, fans were our best friend in the hot and humid summer of Cuba. During the day, we put on a vacation Bible School for the children of that church, which was incredibly fun and transformative.

As you might imagine, both of these trips were very taxing, physically and emotionally, for me and our crew. Yet at the same time, they were truly transformative for all of us. Something about sleeping on the floor of a large space that's also used for sacred and important purposes feels special. In both scenarios, as I'm sure it will also be for us in Wise, VA, there's little problem finding sleep after spending a day doing hard labor with grateful, hard-working volunteers alongside you.

Pray for our team this summer! We'll be doing hard, but important work. I have no doubt we'll have fun, meet great people, and learn a lot of great things. Though we may not have the finest of sleeping arrangements, it will be just fine, and I'm hopeful it'll actually even enrich our experience further. Christ is present wherever we gather to serve, worship, or sleep. May we find that to be true as well.

In Christ,  
*Mike*

# Member News

With sympathy we mourn the loss of our **Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Robert Lee Temple** who passed away at the end of May. His service was at Bennett Funeral Home and interment was at Hanover Memorial Park. Please keep his family in your prayers.

With sympathy we mourn the loss of **Ed Baggett** who passed away on June 6. His service was here at Fairfield on June 12. Please keep Judy and her family in your prayers.



**Kathy Boyle's father, Linda Canyock, Sally Kovac's husband, David, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Donna Richbourg, Herta Wenninger, K. C. Whitaker's uncle, Bruce, Ed Wolfgang, Tracy**

**Young** and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.



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

**Longest, Nancy Norment, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Jack Ward, Herta Wenninger and Sherri Woodburn.**

*(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.)*



"The kindness of others is a genuine reflection of the kindness of God." Thank you, Fairfield for once again hosting Mechanicsville High School IB testing students. You provide the perfect place for our students to test. It's a quiet and relaxing atmosphere without the typical interruptions of the school day. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you!

Blessings, Lesa Berlinghoff

Dear Fairfield,

We had a fun and wonderful recital last Sunday! The kids and parents all enjoyed Fairfield's beautiful piano. We have pizza and a piñata party afterwards. It had been 5 years since our last recital, so this was a first-time performance for almost all of the kids! Thanks so much for hosting our crew of "local budding musicians!"

Amy Wenninger & the Romper  
Room Music Piano Studio

## Hello from California!

We want to thank all of you at Fairfield. So many great friends and memories were made. Our send off was amazing, one we didn't expect but truly appreciated! You showed us what a true church family is. We miss you so much. Getting lots of time with Logan & Leam. Their parents too! Attended church with them and that was a blessing. Baby Gulliver will be here on June 8. Can't wait to meet her!

Did we make the right decision? Only God knows that and I pray we heard Him right! We do know that we have made some lifelong connections in Mechanicsville. You are much more to us than acquaintances. You are family and we will be back to visit. We pray you all stay happy and healthy and we will see you soon! Terri & Mike Joyce, Janet & Chuck Chelette, Becky and Stuart Settle, be ready! We will be taking you up on your offers!

With all our love!

Tim & Patty Gulliver

## ***Congratulations Fairfield Mission Supporters!***

Thanks so much for so generously supporting the Spring Mission Drive! The Mission Committee met recently and was able to send your contributions to help fund the Fairfield Youth Mission trip, the Covenant Fund at Covenant Woods, and other local organizations that use various programs to provide support for our community. In addition, funds were sent to national and international organizations who spread the Gospel in a variety of ways, reaching many who have never heard of Jesus. Your support is helping people near and far to meet Jesus, experience His love and compassion and grow strong in faith. Well done!

Blessings, .

The Mission Committee



Sandra Brewster will be stepping down from the annual Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes at the end of this year. We are looking for someone to take

her place. If you are interested, please email Sandra at [smbrewster65@gmail.com](mailto:smbrewster65@gmail.com)



Marcia	Cramer	July 1
Tanner Lightsey		July 1
John Longest		July 1
Justin Weis		July 1
Chuck Chelette		July 2
Rebecca Mumpower		July 2
Mac Spencer		July 3
Dave Compton		July 4
Debbie Palicia		July 4
Sharon Tuckwiller		July 4
Sarah Wash		July 4

Brantley Clark	July 5
Rae Hayden	July 5
Jerry Williamson	July 5
Crystal Bessette	July 6
Linda Gruenhagen	July 6
McKenna Blue	July 7
Arlene Butchyk	July 7
Jackson Wash	July 7
Ryan Lafferty	July 8
John Kosek	July 10
Bill Lythgoe	July 11
Debbie Lynn	July 14
Ben Hohman	July 17
Elliana Wills	July 17
Melody Watson	July 18
Jenny Young	July 18
Judie Thompson	July 19
Susan Patterson	July 21
Jack Ward	July 23
Gloria Dunham	July 25
Madeline Dunn	July 25
Graham Magill	July 25
Herta Wenninger	July 25
Willye Fishburne	July 26
Craig Baughan	July 27
Nancy Walls	July 27
Robin Wilson	July 27
Merrill Hastings	July 28
Lillian Boyle	July 29
Rachel Underdown	July 29
Sheree Duggan	July 30
Mary Gayton	July 30
Victoria Ornelas	July 30
David Schwartz	July 30
Gerry Nuckols	July 31



Brett & Katy Underdown	July 2
Herb & Sue Coulter	July 3
Brian & Allison Letourneau	July 5
Gene & Peggie Rosen	July 9
Miheer & Courtney Kulkarni	July 11
Troy & Ana Horn	July 12
Mike & Erin Reasor	July 12
Jack & Lori Briel	July 13

Allen & Kathy Boyle	July 19
Mark & Lindsey Irwin	July 25
Bryant & Julie Lowery	July 25
J. R. & Mitzi Marker	July 28
Rick & Darlene Shegogue	July 29

located in the Heritage Hall and near the Family Center. These supplies will be checked and replenished as needed.

We are implementing the routine locking of the entrance doors when church services, Sunday School and meetings are going on. The middle doors going to the classrooms will be open prior to Sunday School starting.

We appreciate your cooperation and will continue to improve the safety of the congregation.

Marge Wantz



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Summer is upon us and as the temperature rises, the idea of a prayer shawl or lap robe seems odd. At the same time, they provide a different kind of warmth and also give comfort in a time of need. We continue to knit and crochet to provide this warmth and comfort. If you would like to join us, we would welcome you. Don't know how to knit or crochet?... we can teach you. Everyone is welcome!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, July 2 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



**The Safety and Security Committee**, one of the committees of the Session, has been meeting for a number of months. This committee is tasked with being prepared for medical emergencies and

surveillance of the church building and grounds.

This committee is chaired by Sam Endicott and its members are: Elaine Endicott, Deborah and Richard Wood, Tom Lake, Billy Putze, Larry Hansbrough, Wray Palmore, Larry Covington, Mark Young and Marge Wantz.

In addition to the 3 cameras already placed at some of the entrances, the Session approved 3 more to cover other areas. There will be surveillance signs placed at the driveway entrance and as you come into the parking lot.

There are now 2 AEDs and other first aid kits



We continue this summer with our sermon series called Mark Time, March! This series will go through August 3 and then we'll start to gear up for the fall.

- July 6 "Anointed" - Steve preaching  
Mark 8: 27-30
- July 13 "Purpose" - Mike preaching  
Mark 10: 32-45
- July 20 "Authority 2" - Steve preaching  
Mark 12: 1-23
- July 27 "Theological Challenge" - Steve preaching  
Mark 12: 35-37

## Youth Group

Pray for our youth group! July 20-26th, we will be traveling to Wise, VA to volunteer with Appalachia Service Project, alongside youth from other churches. We don't know our projects yet, but we do know it will be hard work. Each day will conclude with rest, refreshments, and fellowship with one another in the community center where we are staying.

We will be commissioning this mission team on **Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>** at both worship services. Be there to cheer on the team and commit to praying for and with us!

Trip members include: Evan Whitaker, Munira Dunn, Madison Blue, McKenna Blue, Andrew Mitten, Kylee Smith, Zoe Marker, Tess Wenninger, Jack Letourneau, Topher Carson; and our adult leaders - Mike Watson, Mitzi Marker, Jessica Ingerman, and Grayson Palmore.



## *Summer Adult Sunday School*

All of our adult Sunday School classes will continue to have opportunities during the 10am Sunday School hour throughout the summer. Drop by any of these classes - you're always welcome! Here's an update for what they are all doing over the next 3 months:

**The Open Door Class** will host Rev. Fred McCall and he will be doing Parables this summer.

1. July 6: Luke 16: 1-13, the dishonest manager
2. July 13: Luke 14: 15-24, the great dinner
3. July 20: Luke 12: 35-48, faithful servants
4. July 27: Matthew 13: 24-30 & 35-43, weeds among the wheat

**Union Class:** They are continuing their study using the Unified Lesson Plan using the book by D. C. Cook.

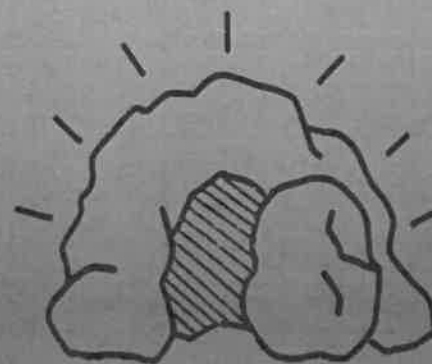
**Cornerstone Class** is doing an in depth study of the parables using the book *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* by Kenneth E. Bailey.

**The Rock Class** is not meeting officially. Interested people are using Richard Dunn's *Wright Essential Biblical Text* video and will meet to discuss and pray at various times. Please contact Richard if you have any questions about their plans or schedule.

7/6	Anne Young
7/13	Barbara vanSteenburg
7/20	Marge Wantz
7/27	Nikki Glass

*We are so grateful to have our nursery worker, Emily Tayman back with us every Sunday this summer!*


## BEGINNING AT THE END



VBS with Fairfield Presbyterian  
and New Beginnings Churches  
July 13th, 14th, and 15th  
5:30-7:30pm  
Activities and food for all ages!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 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 - 2:30pm New Beginnings Workshop (FC)	<b>30</b> 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm - 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>1</b> 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	<b>2</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>3</b> 11:00am - 2:30pm Pickleball & Mahjong (FC) 6:30pm - 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed Independence Day	<b>5</b> Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen)
<b>6</b> 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)	<b>7</b> 8:00am - 3:00pm Classical Conversations Director Orientation (HH & #20) 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm - 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>8</b> 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Classical Conversations Challenge A Orientation (#20) 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>10</b> 11:00am - 2:30pm Pickleball & Mahjong (FC) 6:30pm - 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Security Team Meeting (#26)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00am - 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am - 12:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm - 2:00pm New Beginnings Basketball Tournament (FC) 5:00pm - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School (HH)	<b>14</b> 5:00pm - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School (HH) 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm - 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>15</b> 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:00pm - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School (HH) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	<b>16</b> 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>17</b> 11:00am - 2:30pm Pickleball & Mahjong (FC) 6:30pm - 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00am - 3:30pm AA Ice Cream Social (HH)
<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> Youth Mission Trip 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)	<b>21</b> Youth Mission Trip 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm - 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>22</b> Youth Mission Trip 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	<b>23</b> Youth Mission Trip 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>24</b> Youth Mission Trip 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm - 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>25</b> Youth Mission Trip	<b>26</b> Youth Mission Trip
<b>27</b> 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 - 2:30pm New Beginnings Family & Friends Day (FC)	<b>28</b> 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm - 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>29</b> 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	<b>30</b> 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>31</b> 11:00am - 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm - 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 6:30pm - 8:30pm CC Essentials Orientation (HH)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen)

# Under-aged Thinking




## SHOO fly!

Make this candle to keep  
uninvited insects from your  
outdoor summer meals.



**What you need:**


- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help




**What you do:**

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half.  
Cut off the rounded end of one half  
so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of  
each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate.  
Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side  
of the bottom half. Then place the  
other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the  
candle that's between the two lime  
halves. The flame's heat will warm the  
lime and create a smell that insects  
don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when  
it reaches the bottom lime.



## PUZZLE



### TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

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*Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words  
in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.*

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This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. \_\_\_\_\_

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. \_\_\_\_\_

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. \_\_\_\_\_


A person in charge of military troops. \_\_\_\_\_

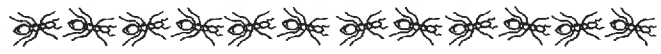
A person in authority. \_\_\_\_\_

The season when daylight hours are longest. \_\_\_\_\_

A substance you eat for nutrition. \_\_\_\_\_


When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. \_\_\_\_\_





*Go to the \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_;  
consider its ways and be \_\_\_\_\_!*

*It has no \_\_\_\_\_, no overseer or \_\_\_\_\_,  
yet it stores its provisions in \_\_\_\_\_  
and gathers its \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.*



**Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV**

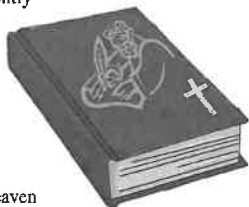
Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed.

Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)

## 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  
 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**