



The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Richard Haney, Pastor
The Rev. Nancy Clark, Pastor
The Rev. Mike Watson, Associate Pastor

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January 2026



Continuing Education

Us pastors are blessed, and very grateful, to have as part of our terms of call: "continuing education." In my early years, I felt the need to fill this time with seminars, classes, and in-depth conferences to deepen my knowledge

base. Over time, I realized that education has all sorts of shapes and sizes. Most recently, on my trip to walk the Camino taught me a great deal about cooperation, prayer, pilgrimage, and finding God's grace in unexpected places. Every year I gather with my cohort to learn new things about myself and my calling, in a variety of different locations.

Education continues throughout all of our lives, and in ways that don't always look like a classroom.

This month, Fairfield will be re-igniting officer training for our incoming elders and deacons. Even here at Fairfield, while we have an impressive, ongoing adult Sunday School lineup of 4 classes, education also happens in worship, in times of fellowship, and even in the one-on-one and small group opportunities that present themselves. The Holy Spirit continues to speak through all of these places and people in our church, we are merely invited to pay attention, and ask of ourselves what it is we are needing to learn.

This January, your incoming Fairfield elders and deacons will be embarking on a newly

focused officer training schedule. Over 2 class sessions and a dinner, we will be learning things about God, about our denomination (the PC USA), and about our particular church. I've done officer training many times in previous churches and am always surprised at my own ability to learn new things, even when I thought I knew it all.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" God speaks, in the book of Isaiah 43:19.

As we enter a new year, with our still...mostly new... interim pastors, God continues to do a new thing in our midst, in this season of transition. Let us pay attention to what new thing we may be learning in this season. The Holy Spirit is speaking and moving among us. There remains so much for us to learn, together, in many different ways. Thanks be to God for new pastors, for new church officers, and for a new year, for the new ways God speaks and moves among us. Our education continues, and what a joy that is.

In Christ,
Mike



Member News



this time of loss.

In sympathy, we pray for **Kathy Thomas** who lost her mother in December. May God be with her in

Directory Updates:

Marie Maida has a new apartment number in her address. 7106 New Hunter Road, Apt. 315, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.



Kathy Boyle's father, Bill, Linda Canyock, **Becky Clark**, Jerry Duggan, Kaylyn McGee, Helen Rigsby, Serena Vignola, **Barbara Wash**, **Herta Wenninger**, 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: **John Crowe**, **Dot Gammon**, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Nancy Norment, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Jack Ward, **Sherri Woodburn**.

(Please update Pastor Richard, Pastor Nancy Clark, 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.)



to the elders and deacons who have rotated off in 2025.

They are:

Bruce Arnette (elder)
Larry Hansbrough (elder)
Tom Lake (elder)
Marge Wantz (elder)
Myra Moore (deacon)
Wray Palmore (deacon)
Angela Schwartz (deacon)

These members have 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 2028. The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **deacons** this month:

Sandra Brewster
Becky Clark
John Daugherty
Barbara vanSteenburgh

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

Jim France
Keith Franklin
Allison Letourneau
Majken Whitaker
Deborah Wood



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!

Special Dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2026*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2026*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 11, 2026*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 19, 2026*

HAPPY Birthday

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
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
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



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

When All Else Fails—God Reigns



When we deliberate, God reigns;
 When we decide wisely, God reigns;
 When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
 When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
 When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
 When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns —
 The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

— William Temple
 at the Lamberth Conference, 1930

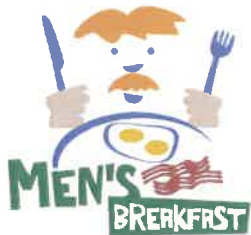
Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has grown in number this year and we continue to fill the closet with beautiful and colorful crocheted and knitted shawls, lap robes and baby blankets.

Since January 2025 the Prayer Shawl Ministry has delivered 20 lap robes and 7 prayer shawls. We pray they have provided the comfort, warmth and solace needed.

If you would like to join this ministry, we meet the first Wednesday of each month. **The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.**

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church - join us on **Tuesday, January 13th** 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 time for planning. 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 13th!



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **January 13**, 10:00am in the Open Door classroom. All women are invited to join us for this daytime Bible study.



The Joyful Readers will meet again on Tuesday, **January 13th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be discussing the book "Don't

Let Me Go" by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Robbie Dobson will be the discussion leader and will lead the devotions. We hope all the ladies can join us.



Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols



9:00am Nursery

Jan. 4 McKenna Blue & Anne Young
Jan. 11 Nikki Glass & Barbara vanSteenburgh
Jan. 18 McKenna Blue & Marge Wantz
Jan. 25 Abbey Glass & Angela Schwartz



The Gift of Joy



This year the Fairfield Angels carved out time in their busy schedules to shop for JOY in the shape of a bike for a six year old, car seats for infants born and waiting to be born, strollers to take tiny ones out into the world, clothes for moms, daughters, and sweet little babies, along with shoes, boots, coats, and lots of diapers and wipes. So many items were found by our dedicated Angels, including gift cards to local stores, that are guaranteed to make everyone on the gift list marvel at the generous spirit of our shoppers!

THANK YOU for considering the plight of these moms and children and reaching out to them with your many gifts, showing that the **LOVE** that comes with Christmas has not forgotten them, but has remembered them in this very tangible way.

JOY ABOUNDS!

The Mission Committee



Memorial Garden & Columbarium Update

Progress is being made! A special thank you to those who made very generous donations to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Fund this year. Thank you also to those who have purchased niches and memorial plaques. The fund is now over \$90,000 and will hopefully have sufficient funds to begin construction before long. Notice how the flowers in the garden posters are blooming!

This garden will serve as a lovely and peaceful place for all members of the congregation to sit, meditate and pray in a serene and beautiful place on the church grounds. It will also be a place to remember those who we love and those who were so vital in your life and the life of this church. Please take a moment to look at the model and rendering found in the Narthex.

The Memorial Garden will include a Columbarium that will be the final resting place of ashes of you, your family or friends of this church. The first phase will include ninety niches that each will be able to hold the ashes of two people. On the front of each niche there will be a place for the occupants' names and birth and death dates. These niches may be purchased and reserved now for \$5,000. **If you are planning to purchase a niche, now would be a good time to do so to help the fund reach the amount needed to begin.**

This Memorial Garden will also give you the opportunity to place a Memorial plaque that will have inscribed the name plus the birth and death dates of anyone who is or was a member or friend of this congregation. This is a wonderful chance to memorialize one of the many church mothers and fathers who did so much to make Fairfield Church so special. These plaques may currently be purchased for \$450. **This is a great way for a Sunday School Class or family to remember someone special.**

How Can You Help?

1. Consider donating to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Fund.
2. Purchase a niche for yourself or family members. **If you are planning to purchase a niche in the future, please notify a committee member. This will help us with planning.**
3. Purchase a Memorial Plaque in memory of a family member who has passed and was a special part of your Christian journey.
4. Purchase a Memorial Plaque in memory of a family member who is buried somewhere else.
5. Volunteer to be a member of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee or the Board about to be established.

Death is not a subject we like to think about, but when you suddenly lose a close family member or friend you realize that having plans in place helps those left behind to deal with the loss. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this important project. If you have questions or wish to be a part of this project, please contact the church, leave a question or message on office@fairfieldpcusa.org, or contact one of the committee members listed below.

Thanks again to all who have contributed to this special project.

The Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee:

Larry Hansbrough - 804 - 393-1042

Donna Hohman - 804-937-4095

Billy Putze - 804-746-1578

Marge Wantz - 828-231-8491

Beth Young - 804-938-0945



Under-aged Thinking



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.
"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=∕	S=■
B=X	H=◀	N=□	SH=■
D=◀	I=▲	O=☆	T=♫
	K=	P=□	TH=■

Y

W F

W

W

U

Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks.
Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)

C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)

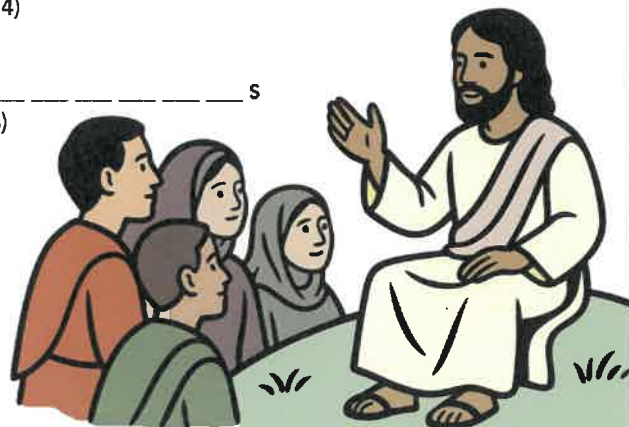
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

28 10:30am Combined Worship Service (sanctuary) 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)	29 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	30 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	31	1 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	2	3 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)
4 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 –6:30pm All Church Night	5 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	6 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm –8:00pm Officer Training (#20) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#29)	7 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)	8 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	9	10
11 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 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations & Pancakes and Pajamas (HH) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	13 7:00am –8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am –11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm –8:00pm Officer Training (#20) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (HH)	14 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	15 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	16	17
18 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)	19 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	21 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	22 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	23	24 6:00pm Officer Dinner
25 Officer Ordination/Installation 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)	26 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	27 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	28 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	29 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	30	31

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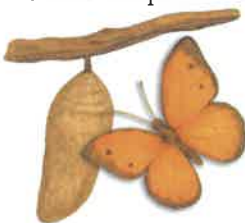
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Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."



A) Creation

B) Beginning

C) Season

D) Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

Church Staff	
Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Richard Haney
Interim Pastor	Rev. Nancy Clark
Associate Pastor	Rev. Mike Watson
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
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Return Service Requested

