



SAINT TO SAINT... *The Gifts of God Made Manifest*

A recent article in the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* described the rise once again of panning for gold in the streams of the Sierra foothills in Northern California.

While the bulk of the mother lode was exhausted in the 1850's, the recent Sierra snowmelt is supplying lots of water for stirring up bits of gold for the patient to try to discover in their pans and screens. One successor to the Gold rushers of '49, in the article, who found a gold nugget slightly smaller than a pea exclaimed, "This is what's it's all about!"

The excitement and satisfaction that comes with finding unexpected treasure is a human experience that spans ages and cultures. It is found in rushing freshwater streams but also, thankfully, in the small church! I've had the privilege of both being a member of and serving in congregations of a variety of sizes over the years. In the large church, due to its size, there are often many gifted people to help out.

Sign-up sheets fill up fast. Need a retiree present to be available for day ministry? They're there. Younger, physically strong folks to do some hard labor? Just call. Looking for a techie to staff social media? The youth are raising their hands.

In the small church, however, by definition, not all age and skill and gift groups are represented and yet the Lord provides... and the small church thrives. Laurel has so many of these "gold nuggets" of giftedness that thrill and inspire me that it would be folly for me to start naming all of them here, but some recent events and the individuals that made them successful need to be recognized.

I think, for instance, of the renovation of the bathroom plumbing, the need for which has been years in the making. We were initially presented with a bid for \$30,000 plus which was approved

by the Session. Pete Rose believed it could be done differently, divided into skill sets, with different crews hired for specific projects, and importantly, more cheaply. Several weeks later, indeed, the renovation was completed, under \$20,000 with Pete's leadership, with several others like Marshall Chamberlayne lending their guidance. A separate article recognizes their efforts.

The recent purchase of new sound equipment to upgrade our aging system necessitated the expansion of our existing sound booth. How would it be done? How much would it cost? Who could do it? Hiring professionals was out of the question. Our gold nuggets here came in the form of Steve Searce, Duane Berger and Reggie Fitch, and Marshall Chamberlayne again as our electrician. What they thought was a kind of weekend DIY project turned into an enterprise requiring full days of preparation and woodworking. The result is outstanding, like a piece of fine furniture, which should serve our needs for years to come.

The right people in the right place at the right time might be one definition of the providence of the Lord. But, of course, it doesn't stop with construction. Those who organize our social events, who serve and comfort our ill and disabled members, who inspire us with their music and grow us through their teaching..., precious nuggets all that the Lord has sent our way!

The Apostle Paul summed it up this way, "The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others." (1 Cor. 12:7) Oops! Did he say "each of us?" Then there's really lots of gold in "them thar pews!" It's just a matter of exposing it to the light of day! I guess with God, it's always happily a matter of raising one's expectations.



Together with you in ministry, *Pastor Mark*

September Events



The Shepherd on Call for the month of **September** is Michelle McBane. She may be reached at 804-432-3760.

September 2 7:30 am Men's Church Breakfast
@ IHOP West Broad St

September 3 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship/Communion
Good Samaritan Offering
11:15 am Ministry Team Meetings

September 5 Labor Day!

September 6 7:00pm Choir Meets

September 10 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Session Meeting

September 12 10:00 am Elsie Bradshaw Circle

September 13 6:15 pm Pot luck Church Dinner
7:00 pm Choir Meets

September 17 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Lingering/Nurse Is In

September 20 7:00 pm Choir Meets

September 23 Glen Allen Day!

September 24 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
5 Cents a Meal offering

September 27 7:00 pm Choir Meets

September 28 9:15 am Older Adult Retreat @
Camp Hanover

*Choir meets each Wednesday evening at
7:00pm

*LAMB's Basket 1st Monday and 4th Tuesday
of each month

**Faith Revival Church will meet each Sunday
6:00 pm. Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Fridays 7:30 pm,
Saturdays 7:30pm

***Toastmasters meet the 1st, 3rd and 5th
Mondays of each month 6-8:30 pm



SEPTEMBER FLOWERS

September 3 Laurel Roeder in honor of Clint and
Glenda Miller's anniversary.

September 10 Joshua and Katie Stanton - to
honor and remember their grandparents, Paw
(Boo Bell) and Nanny (Sue Bell) on this
Grandparents Day.

September 17-Jackie Cooper in memory of her
Grandfather, Bunny Terry.

September 24-Phyllis Perross -In memory of her
Mother, Laura Perross.

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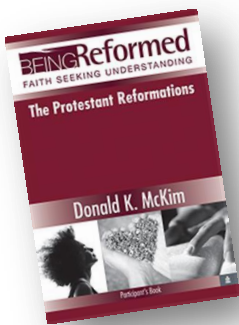
Please continue to sign up to mow
the lawn. Help keep our church yard looking
beautiful! Thank you to everyone that has pitched
in to help this summer!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF LAUREL CHURCH!

Andy Keller (1)
Marie Burton (5)
Gladys Bowles (6)
Jean Cole (8)
Trudy Moolenaar (14)
Joanna Diaz (15)
LaVerne Miller (17)
Karen Johnson (23)



NEW ADULT CLASS ON THE "PROTESTANT REFORMATIONS"

You thought there was just one Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther tacked up those complaints on the

church door? Actually, the Reformation took several forms according to the country and setting, and we're going to learn about all of them with our new study beginning Sunday, September 3 at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

For six weeks, we'll consider the causes, the responses and influences in the church today. Each participant will receive a free student book and asked to ready a brief passage before class each week. You may obtain them in class or by calling the church office.

Come on, it's going to be the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in October! Get ready to impress your friends and neighbors!



CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE...

Ruth Doering
10281 Brook Road #404
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804-261-7858

Geoffrey K. Wariuki
5920 Queens Thorpe Ct
Apt. 202
Henrico, VA 23227

"Reconciliation and Embracing Aging" will be the theme at this year's "Fall Retreat" sponsored by



Older Adult Retreat

the Presbytery's Older Adult Purpose Group. As in the past, the day-long

event will feature a main speaker, workshops, lunch and some time to enjoy the beauty of Camp Hanover. It will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm.

Dr. Samuel Adams, UPsem professor is the keynoter and workshops, taught by local clergy, will feature subjects like dealing with technology as we age, aging and family relationships, adjusting to changes in independence, etc.

The cost for the day is \$20.00 and you may register online @ www.presbyteryofthejames.com or by mail. The deadline is September 22. Registration forms are available in the church lobby.

FALL FESTIVAL – LET'S DO IT AGAIN!



Photos of last year's very successful Fall Festival still adorn the church hallway, and the decision has been made to "do it again!" This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 28.

Ruling Elder Nana Sarfo-Kantanka is heading up the enterprise, but she is going to need a lot of help. As last time around, we are going to need helpers to... make and sell baked goods, oversee children playing, setting up for vendors, guiding traffic, cooking hot dogs, providing snacks, etc.



New additions to the list are in bold type

Let us keep the following people in our prayers, sharing in both their joys and needs:

Our First Responders – Police, Fire, Rescue
Our Military Personnel

Corinne Augustine – mother of Carol Short

Sue Bell

Lorraine Binford

Flash Bowlin

Vickie Chaplin

Jean Cole

Randy Duff – brother of Lorraine Duff

Susan Dyson

The Hayes Family

The Keller family

The Kinch Family

Sherri Kolb, daughter of Vickie Chaplin

Ann Leveridge

Buddy Mallory

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott

The Mertens Family

Shirley Milliken

Trudy Moolenaar

Richard Rader, nephew of Bonnie Poff

Cathy Roeder

Laurel and Greg Roeder and family

John Schutrumpf

Tripp Shepherd

Jackie and Jan Stevens

Dan and Andrea Stone

Billie Summers

Prayers for Ruling Elders

Prayers for friends and families

Prayers for the Middle East countries

Prayers for the homeless

Prayers for Laurel's mission

Prayers for New Beginnings

If you know of someone in need of prayer or are in need of prayer, please call Flash Bowlin at 672-6009

YOUTH GROUP REUNION

They snacked on pizza, soda and cheesy poofs, reminiscent of their past when on Sunday evenings, they were our Youth Group. Seven young men and women gathered at Laurel on Sunday, August 20th to catch up with each other, telling their stories of life since high school

graduation. Left to right in the photo: Colleen MacRae, Emily Berger, Amber Horigan, Kristina Person, Jake Anderson, leaders Michael Henderson and Duane Berger, Alex MacRae and Melanie Searce. Michael Henderson organized the event having heard that Jake Anderson would be home on a short leave from the Army.



GLEN ALLEN DAY – SEPTEMBER 23

Glen Allen Day is a neighborhood get-together



sponsored each year by the Ruritans.

Thousands of individuals and families come for the music, food, vendors and over all fun! For the last few years, we've sponsored a booth to let folks know about the Good News

at Laurel Church. We have a children's game. We give away Bibles and other handouts. We have water for thirsty dogs, and this year we plan to have an activity for adults!

It's all a great way to get to know our neighbors, which is an essential part of the church's vision statement. But we need you – your smile, your hands, and your voice – to greet and welcome. Our two-hour shifts begin at 9:30 am and conclude at 3:00 pm. We'd like to have at least two at each but the more the merrier. We also need some help with put up and take down of the booth. We have a canopy and chairs and water.

Sign up today on the easel at the church and spread the love!

ELDERS THANKED FOR SERVICE

During worship on Sunday, July 2, outgoing Ruling Elders **Marcy Deisher, Michael Henderson** and **Michelle McBane** were honored for their years of service. Each received a certificate and framed photograph. Pastor Mark in his remarks took special note of Michelle's time on the Session, noting that she had served two consecutive terms!

CENTURY GROVE ALIVE AND WELL!

In 2014, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of Laurel Church, scores of our members and friends made contributions to the "Century Grove" fund which permitted us to purchase and plant a number of crape myrtle trees on the church campus. Good news: they are alive and thriving! All are showing their red splendor this summer!



RULING ELDERS ORDAINED AND INSTALLED



On Sunday, July 16, the congregation installed five elders, two of which were newly ordained (note: in the Presbyterian

Church, once a ruling elder is ordained, he or she remains so unless they leave the denomination.) Rulings elders ordained and installed were **Nana Sarfo-Kantanka** and **Becky Zolnai**. Ruling elders installed included **Duane Berger**, **Peter Coulson** (previously ordained at Three Chopt Church) and **Rudy van't Riet**.

In the ritual of installation and ordination, in a series of questions, each ruling elder confesses their faith in Jesus Christ and vows to be guided by Scripture and the creeds of the church, to be a faithful leader in the Church of Christ and to seek to live out the teachings of Jesus in day-to-day life.

Perhaps the highlight of each service is the "laying on of hands" where new elders kneel submitting themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as shown by hands laid on them by those previously ordained to ministry.

All members of Session are part of a Session ministry team. The new elders have chosen: Duane Berger (Worship & Education), Peter Coulson (Stewardship & Property), Nana Sarfo-Kantanka (Member Care & Mission), Rudy van't Riet (Worship & Education) and Becky Zolnai (Member Care and Mission). Please keep our new elders in your prayers as they serve you! *[In photo, Duane, Peter, Becky, Nana and Rudy]*



Do you like to sing?

Think about joining our wonderful choir. See our choir Director David Clatterbuck after service to learn more.

MEMBER CARE AND MISSIONS AGENDA August 6, 2017

Prayer

Member Concerns:

Welcome to new elders: New elders told us a little about themselves.

Fall Festival: October 21 - Nana will be in charge and schedule meetings.

September dinner will be pot luck and Mark will lead singing. Margaret will put up signup sheet.

Member Care and Mission will be sponsoring the lingering on September 17,

We will collect coats for the children at VA Randolph in September.

Gladys Chamberlayne



At the peak of Summer when thoughts turn toward travel and vacations, a good number of Laurel members and friends rolled up their sleeves and gave the gift of life. Our Church hosted its first blood drive on July 16th. Virginia Blood Services collected 15 pints that day. Donors were made comfortable in the Blood Mobile where they were given professional care and a bounty of snacks afterward.

The drive was organized by the New Beginnings team as an opportunity to help others in need. We're hoping to make this a yearly event – especially during the summer when the need for blood is much higher. Thanks go out to everyone who donated and to those who promoted it among their family and friends.

The New Beginnings team

CHAIR YOGA



On Sunday afternoons for a few weeks now, members have enjoyed the low-stress experience of chair yoga. Led by Annie Peace, eight women along with three men stretch to give them better motion and fewer aches. Although it is a meditative exercise, humor seems to present itself and a good time is had by all. The class continues through August and if the interest is there, possibly longer. If interested, please contact Sue Bell.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL – BINGO NIGHT A SUCCESS!

Many turned out on Wednesday, July 12 for our night of ice cream and bingo. Things started out cool with important decisions about toppings and sauce but heated up as the bingo cage began to roll. Marcy Deisher was the caller, and lucky winners got their pick of a wrapped mystery package from the table. Some were able to say, “Bingo!” twice in the evening! Many thanks to our Member Care & Mission team for a fun night of fellowship!



From the Stewardship & Property Team

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a short narrative of the extensive work completed during the restroom project. Over many years, we have had numerous calls to clean out the sewer line in order to keep the restrooms operable for our church, the FRC church, and Gingerbread pre-school. At the beginning of 2017, it became evident the church was facing a major maintenance problem concerning the sewer system. Pete Rose scheduled a plumber with a camera to look at the pipe and discovered the pipe had become partially disconnected at a joint due to deterioration. Pete sprang into action to secure bids for the replacement of pipes during

the summer months. Only one contractor submitted a bid in the amount of \$30,000. When Pete realized the bid did not include all the work required to successfully complete the project, he came up with another plan. First, he enlisted Dennis Wright to come in and remove all the stalls and fixtures and store them in the garage. He then coordinated the work in the evenings by personnel from the Pete Rose Company to jack hammer the concrete and excavate down to the pipe. Once he had access to the pipe, the Carroll Plumbing and Heating Co. came in to replace the pipe and reconnect all the drain connections from each restroom. The plumber also repaired some existing plumbing in the wall that had been leaking. After that phase was completed, C. A. Branson Inc. came in to fill and pour concrete. Dennis replaced the stalls, and the plumber returned to install the toilets and sinks. Dennis then painted the restrooms and installed replacement tile to complete the initial phase of the project. The next phase calls for the replacement of the cabinets, sinks, and vanity tops in the women’s restroom over the Christmas break. The final cost of the project, to our balance sheet, should be less than \$15,000 when taking into account the \$5,000 grant we received from the Presbytery of the James. We owe a great deal of thanks to Pete (and Barbara) for spending countless (and I’m sure stressful) hours on this project.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Anderson, with the assistance of Peter Coulson, for coordinating the project of painting the sanctuary. The successful bid was from Coastal Painting for \$7,475. The project was started on Monday, August 14th and completed on Thursday the 17th. No one can remember the exact date when the sanctuary was last painted but it was really overdue. The money for this project came from the Berk McDermott Memorial Funds and had been approved by the family. I would also like to add that the sanctuary was cleaned by a group from the FRC church. When they were in Saturday morning to set up for special services on Saturday and Sunday, they noticed a fine mist of paint overspray in the sanctuary even though everything had been covered by the painting company. They dusted, vacuumed, and moved furniture from the hall to the sanctuary. As Pete MacRae said – “a fine example of team work”.

Blessings, Carl Carpenter

September 2017

Task/ Responsibility	9-3-17	9-10-17	9-17-17	9-24-17	
	<i>Communion</i>				
Usher Captain	Michael Henderson	Rob McBane	Peter Coulson	Bob Anderson	
Usher Team	Carolyn Stinger	Michelle McBane	Linda Coulson	Caroline Stinger	
Usher Team	Judy Smith	LaVerne Miller	Becky Zolnai	Ann Whitby	
Usher Team	Jim Smith	Lorraine Duff	Ginger Lanier	Michael Whitby	
Sound System	Bob Anderson	Rudy van't Riet	Rob McBane	Steve/Mary Scearce	
Projectionist	Karen Johnson	Jacob Scearce	Rudy van't Riet	Karen Johnson	
All month prep: Rick Short					
Lay Reader	Duane Berger	Michael Henderson	Cheryl Dorman	Rudy van't Riet	
Nursery	Gladys Chamberlayne	Michelle McBane	Kathy Horigan	Gladys Chamberlayne	
Children's Church	Margaret Fitch	Mary Scearce	Gladys Chamberlayne	Mary Scearce	
Communion Prep	Mary Lawrence				
Communion Prep					
Communion Captain	Pete McRae				
Communion Server	Brenda McRae				
Communion Server	Rudy van't Riet				
Communion Server	Judy Smith				

If unable to serve your commitment, please contact another to serve in your place and contact the Pastor with the updated information. Thank you for volunteering!!!

DEADLINE FOR GAZETTE – 19th OF EACH MONTH

Consider going paperless and receiving the Gazette via email. Just send a message to the address below and I will add you to the email list.

Gazette email: pamacrae@comcast.net

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