



SAINT TO SAINT.... *Blessed to Be a Blessing*

A favorite hymn... To me, one of the most fun (and meaningful) Christian hymns that didn't make the cut for our Presbyterian hymnal is an old standard in many other collections, "Count Your

Blessings." Its refrain goes,

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done!*

Counting our blessings... Of course, this sentiment is welcome throughout the year, but it becomes especially meaningful in November as we celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving and also renew our stewardship commitment to our congregation. Some of us may view giving to the church as a kind of fee or dues to support the budget, and that is true of donations to many worldly charities. Giving to the church, however, becomes much more of a very personal response in our relationship with the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer. It is indeed in "counting our blessings" that we develop a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to God and, in turn, seek to give back.

Blessed to be a blessing... Scripture tells us that the children of God are blessed so that we may then be a blessing to others. This theme is first found in the Bible in Genesis in God's call to Abraham and Sarah. In Chapter 12, God makes the promise: "I will make of you a great nation and bless you... all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you." When this Old Testament couple said, "yes," to God, the grace-filled process was begun that ultimately produced humankind's greatest blessing, Jesus Christ.

Abraham and Sarah were faithful, and the Lord was faithful!

A special season... I hope that at this special season, you will count your own blessings and discover a renewed sense of gratitude to the Lord who never fails us and provides for our needs. The Church, of course, is a means for God to bless each of us as followers of Jesus, and I hope you will again choose to share your material blessings through a pledge of financial support in the coming year.

A story Jesus told... This year we have chosen the theme, "Faithful Servants," for our stewardship emphasis. It is based on Jesus' story of the three servants given money to invest by their master in Matthew 25:24-30 in the hopes they may increase his holdings in his absence. Two of the servants were faithful to the master's hopes, but one, out of fear, chose to take no risk and rendered back to the master the same amount given, to his master's displeasure. The story reminds us that what we have is given to us by God, and that the Lord challenges us to step out in faith. Disciples are not called to "play it safe" with our gifts and blessings!

Pledges invited... It is with that spirit, your elders hope and pray that you will again pledge your support to the ministry of Laurel Church. During the first week of November, you'll receive a letter outlining the stewardship program, with a challenge budget and a pledge card for your use. We ask you to prayerfully consider how the Lord may be speaking to your heart at this time, decide on a pledge amount, and return the completed card to the church on Sunday, November 12. You may also send it in to the office.

Our blessings begin with you! The leaders of Laurel Church begin counting our blessings with each and every member and friend of the church, whatever financial commitment you make and however you choose to share your gifts with the congregation. Your pledged blessing will once again enable us to bless our neighbors beyond. And we give thanks to God for you!

Together with you in ministry, *Pastor Mark*



November 4 7:30 am Men's Breakfast @ IHOP.

November 5 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship/Communion
Good Samaritan Offering
11:15 am Ministry Team Meetings
3:30 pm Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

November 8 7:00 pm Choir Meets

November 11 Veteran's Day

November 12 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Session Meeting

November 13 10:00 am Elsie Bradshaw Circle

November 15 7:00 pm Choir Meets

November 19 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Lingering

November 21 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service @ Hunton Baptist church

November 22 7:00 pm Choir Meets

November 23 Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26 8:45 am Adult Sunday school
10:00 am Worship
5 cents a Meal Offering

***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**



Fall back 1 hour November 5

Worship Themes

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Our old friend and former intern, Rev. Nancy Summerlin, preaches. The Lord's Supper will be served, and we will receive the Good Samaritan Offering.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 – At times of desolation and discouragement among the people of Israel, the Lord would send a word of encouragement. One instance is in the story of the revitalization of the "dry bones" in Ezekiel 37:1-14. What in your life may seem like dry bones, past help or redemption? This story reminds us, with God, all things are possible! We also receive pledge cards on this Sunday.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – On this Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday, we recall the story of Jesus' healing of the lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Not all of those healed remembered to give thanks to God. Hmm... every happen to you? We'll also be singing some favorite Thanksgiving hymns.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – On the "ecclesiastical" calendar, this is "Christ the King" Sunday. It always comes the Sunday before the beginning of Advent, and we closeout the church year with the affirmation that Jesus is indeed the King of Kings. So, if we call Jesus "king"... what does that make us? And how do we act before a King? Join Pastor Mark on this morning as he explores spiritual bows and curtsies. To prepare, read Psalm 100 and Ephesians 1:15-23. We receive the 5-Cents-a-Meal Offering.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join the men of Laurel this month for their breakfast on Saturday, November 4 at 7:30 am at the IHOP on West Broad near Gaskins. Good food and good fellowship!





The **Shepherds on Call** for the month of **November** are Margaret and Reggie Fitch. They may be reached at 755-7201.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 5 - Mary Jane Bowlin - to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Wallace Kelley.

November 12 - Becky Zolnai - to the glory of God and in memory of my husband, David.

November 19 - Clint and Glenda Miller - to the glory of God and in honor of Glenda's Mother, Mary Lawrence.

November 26 - Ruth Doering - To the glory of God and in loving memory of Roger.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER BABIES!

- Bob Anderson (1)
- Neal Davis (3)
- Jacob Searce (15)
- Colleen MacRae (17)
- Mary Lawrence (21)
- Lilah Arthur (24)



A SIGN OF THE TIMES

A church street sign shoulders the double duty of conveying important information about the church to passersby and also of making a good impression. In the opinion of many at Laurel, our aging sign on Staples Mill no longer meets those requirements.

In order to look into a new sign, the Session has authorized a special committee that includes Duane Berger, Carl Carpenter, Marshall Chamberlayne, Bonnie Poff, Bernie Cheatham and Pastor Mark. Billie Summers is the chairperson of the committee, and she is excited about her new role. She says, "As chairperson, I want to get your ideas and ask each of you to spend some time observing other signage, its clarity, readability, size, angle, location, purpose, etc. Both digital and traditional. What grabs your attention? Invites you in? We need your prayers!"

The Committee will consider both traditional (non-digital) and digital signs. Other considerations will include location on the church property, size, readability (especially with our location where autos may whiz by), County ordinances, and, of course, cost. Many churches have opted for changeable digital signs that promote church activities, give time and temperature, and provide many other options.

The Committee has begun to meet with vendors to determine what kind of sign will best meet our needs both now and into the foreseeable future. When the best options have been identified, the Committee will share these with the congregation for your input. Billie is interested in hearing the thoughts from everyone on this important project. You can call her at 804-262-6800 or email her at billiesummers@verizon.net. As Billie says, "Pray and communicate!"

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE...

Ann McDermott
 Sunrise of Richmond
 1807 North Parham Road #103
 Richmond, VA 23229
 804-986-9473

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts toward the Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We raised \$115, a portion which was retained to support peacemaking ministry in our area.



PASTOR MARK ON STUDY LEAVE

Pastor Mark will be out of the office on study leave October 30 – November 5. We have arranged emergency pastoral care if you need it during this time. Please call Carl Carpenter 804-447-4383 or Margaret Fitch 804-755-7201.



AN OLD FASHIONED HYMN SING!

The choir is sponsoring a wonderful program filled with beautiful hymns and anthems and they want you to attend. There will be opportunities for you to select the hymns you would like to sing! The program is scheduled for **Sunday, Nov. 5th beginning at 3:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Please bring your family and friends to share in the music making! There will also be refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following the program.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are accepting donations of all items asked for in the past months up until November 5. We are especially in need of boys items.

NEW ADULT CLASS BEGINS NOVEMBER 12!



For three weeks in November (November 12, 19 & 26) Pastor Mark will lead the class on the theme of Christian stewardship, "Our Time, Talent and Treasure.

Some think of stewardship as just a period each fall when we focus on giving to meet the church budget. Really, however, stewardship encompasses all of life, and Pastor Mark will share biblical examples in a fun and discussion-oriented way. Join him Sunday mornings at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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So many folks do so much around the church, but from time to time we want to thank special efforts. So we give our thanks to...



CAROLYN STINGER

and **LAVERNE MILLER** – for faithfully copying the bulletin each week and preparing the sanctuary for worship on Sunday.

MARY JANE BOWLIN – for providing us engaging new sanctuary bulletin boards for us each month and so marvelously decorating tables at meals.

JANICE BERGER – for keeping up with the Sunday worship responsibility lists throughout the year.

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THEY REALLY CLEANED UP!

Thank you to the industrious group that helped us to clean up on Saturday, October 7. The grass was trimmed as well as other bushes around the church buildings. Floors and stairs and baseboards too were swept helping to ready our church campus for visitors at the Fall Festival on the 29th. If cleanliness is next to godliness, our hardy workers have proven they're at least half way there! (Shown: Clint Miller putting some style into blowing.)

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING
WORSHIP – NOVEMBER 21**



Join your Laurel area friends for this annual service of thanksgiving. This year held at Hunton Baptist Church, 11660 Greenwood Road on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 pm. Area clergy, including Pastor Mark will lead. The offering taken that evening will go to Lamb's Basket. Always a joyful time of song and community!

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**...FOR COAL PIT
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES!**

On Monday,
December 11 at

6:00 pm, the New Beginnings Team is organizing a Christmas party for the children and families of the Coal Pit Education Center in the Fellowship Hall. Throughout the year, Laurel supports Coal Pit with fundraisers, reading volunteers, etc., and we thought this would be a fun addition to the ways in which we can assist the school. We will need setter-upper's and take-downer's, cooks, decorators, servers and greeters. We expect up to 80 people in attendance, and so we hope many will take this fun opportunity to help out. Check out the sign-up sheet on the board in November. And...ho,ho,ho... are there any Santa's out there?? – *The New Beginnings Team*

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The Chamberlayne family wishes to express our sincerest gratitude to each of you for your kind words of comfort, thoughts, prayers, visits, food, love and support during this difficult time of losing our grandson, Brad. Words cannot express how truly grateful we are. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers.

Gladys and Marshall Chamberlayne



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
- Lorraine Binford
- Flash Bowlin

The Chamberlayne Family

Vickie Chaplin

Don and Bonnie Clatterbuck

Jean Cole

Randy Duff – brother of Lorraine Duff

Susan Dyson

The Hayes Family

Jimmy Hicks

The Keller 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

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

MEMBER CARE AND MISSIONS REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2017

We had prayer and member concerns.

The school supplies have been delivered to Virginia Randolph. They were very thankful for the supplies.

Both Virginia Randolph and Coal Pit Learning Center are providing Christmas and Thanksgiving families for us.

The Fall Festival is coming along. Nana and Becky have sold tables. We would like to sell 12 tables. Barbara is in charge of the baked goods. The raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 each.

We decided not to glean this year as we felt we did not have enough people able to do this.

The Italian pot luck dinner is October 11 at 6:15 pm. We should have lots of good food.

We discussed the new budget and everything will stay the same.

Margaret Fitch

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ENGAGING OUR NEIGHBORS ON GLEN ALLEN DAY

Once again this September Laurel put some flesh on the command to "love our

neighbors" with our presence at Glen Allen Day. Hundreds of people came by the booth, many of whom stopped to play a game, get materials or Bibles or give Fido a drink at our "always full" water bowl. Helpers put up the booth and took it down and staffed it from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 23. We thank all who choose to spend part of their Saturday making this outreach possible: Duane Berger, Mary Jane Bowlin, Peter Coulson, Cheryl Dorman, Margaret & Reggie Fitch, Michael Henderson, Mary Scarce, Mark Sprowl and Rudy van't Riet. (Shown: Margaret Fitch helps one of our younger visitors play a game.)



DELICIOUS ITALIAN FARE & GARDEN ADVICE TOO!

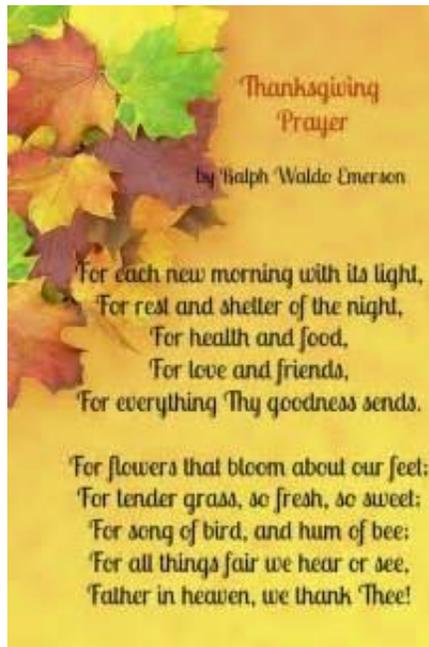
At the church potluck on Wednesday, October 11, those gathered ate some delicious themed Italian food and received advice from two master gardeners about how to tend our gardens in the late fall and winter. Jim Smith and Gladys Bowles, who between them have 30 years of experience as Master Gardeners, briefly shared about pruning, fertilization and other care for late season shrubs. Both emphasized the services of the County Extension services to analyze soils and give advice on other issues. Thanks to Jim and Gladys and to the Member Care and Mission Team for organizing another fun and interesting event. (Shown: Gladys Bowles sharing some Green Thumb secrets.)



CHANGE OF ADDRESS...

Marie Burton
449 River Run Drive
Hartfield, VA 23071-3082

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November 2017

Task/ Responsibility	11-05-16	11-12-16	11-19-16	11-26-16
	Daylight Savings Time Ends Communion			
Usher Team Captain	Ann Whitby	Steve Searce	Wayne Deisher	Bob Anderson
Usher Team	Michael Whitby	Mary Searce	Marcia Deisher	Carolyn Stinger
Usher Team	Peter Coulson	Michelle McBane	Becky Zolnai	LaVerne Miller
Usher Team	Linda Coulson	Rob McBane	Michael Henderson	Lorraine Duff
Sound System	Mary/Steve Searce	Bob Anderson	Rudy van't Riet	Rob McBane
Projectionist	Karen Johnson	Rudy van't Riet	Jacob Searce	Rudy van't Riet
All month prep: Pastor Mark				
Lay Reader	Gladys Bowles	Carl Carpenter	Pete MacRae	Carol Short
Nursery	Michelle McBane	Kathy Horigan	Gladys Chamberlayne	Michelle McBane
Children's Church	Gladys Chamberlayne	Margaret Fitch	Mary Searce	Gladys Chamberlayne
Communion Prep	Mary Lawrence			
Communion Captain	Carl Carpenter			
Communion Server	Bernie Cheatham			
Communion Server	Rudy van't Riet			
Communion Server	Michael Henderson			

If unable to serve your commitment, please contact another to serve in your place.
Thank you for volunteering!

DEADLINE FOR GAZETTE – 19th OF EACH MONTH

Consider going paperless and receiving the Gazette via email. Just send me a message at the below address and I will take care of the rest.

Gazette email: pamacrae@comcast.net

Laurel Presbyterian Church
9675 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060





Veterans Day November 11th

United States Army

Tod Balsbaugh, Vietnam

Stafford "Flash" Bowlin, Sergeant/E5
1957-1968, Medical Company, National Guard

Wayne Deisher, Sergeant/E5 1971-1972

Jim Smith, Colonel 1959-1989
82nd Airborne Division
2nd Airborne Battle Group
503rd Infantry Combat Team

United States Air Force

Mary Searce, Captain 1989-1996
Served State-side during Desert Storm

Rick Short, Sergeant/E4 1966-1970
Vietnam

United States Navy

Larry Runyon, Petty Officer First Class,
1964-1971 Submarine Division

United States Marine Corps

Bernie Cheatham, Sergeant/E5 1963-1967

Kenya Military

Geoffrey Wariuki, Major 1975-1993