



### **SAINT TO SAINT... *Bringing Healing to the Wounded***

**Symphony for a Broken Orchestra** Last month in Philadelphia a group of music public school music students, members of the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra, and a number of recording artists

formed an *ad hoc* orchestra to perform a composition entitled, "Symphony for a Broken Orchestra."

The title was literally true for the instruments they played were broken. The instruments formed part of a collection of 1,500 instruments used in the Philadelphia public school system that over the years had become broken, and there had been no funds to repair them. Meanwhile, students in school instrumental ensembles didn't have enough instruments to go around.

Robert Blackson, the director of a local art museum, came up with the idea of staging a performance to help raise funds to repair the broken instruments. Award-winning composer, David Lang, was commissioned to compose a piece to perform.

**"Healing Wounded Instruments"** Composer Lang relished the task, and insisted that the musicians must perform with the broken instruments. He says, "I really thought of this whole thing as a kind of healing exercise, and from the very beginning, I made everyone here refer to these instruments as 'wounded' instruments." He explains that he chose the term "wounded" to personalize the task for the organizers and performers.

And it would not be easy, because the instruments, being "wounded," would sometimes be out of tune or require repeated attempts to reach a particular note... and the composer wrote this into the score! He wanted the audience to appreciate the commitment and care each performer was giving to the performance.

**Rephrasing the Task** And so, when the fundraising concert was organized, it was advertised not just as an opportunity to raise funds to fix broken musical instruments. It was promoted as a chance to bring "wounded" instruments back to life, to "heal" them for the school children of Philadelphia. The result is that the concert was fully subscribed and raised twice the amount hoped for, enabling the city not only to repair the instruments but to establish a fund to repair instruments in the future.

**Getting Personal** Although providing music instruments for school children is a powerful driver, I believe the organizers' decision to reshape the plea to "heal wounded instruments" could not have helped to put it over the top. The broken instruments and those who played them in concert and those who would play them in classrooms suddenly became very personal to the citizens of Philadelphia, perhaps not unlike the reaction of the "Good Samaritan" who saw a fellow human being in need and responded generously.

**Looking for the Wounded in Glen Allen** Friends, look around our neighborhood. We can view some of the men and women and boys and girls in Glen Allen as simply being "needy" or "disadvantaged," certainly deserving our concern... but what if we try to look with the eyes of God and understand that, at some level, they are also "wounded" and in need of healing... just as I am, and as you are. To my mind, looking at the needs from that perspective, we're no longer simply responding to a statistic but rather faithfully and personally reaching out to those loved by God, in the name of the God who, as we recently sang, "brings healing in his wings."

As the Spirit leads us into a new year, let us pray to God to help us become aware of the woundedness about us, that our hearts may be softened if not broken and we may recommit to seeing all as God's children, our brothers and sisters, and worthy of the best we can give.



Together with you in ministry, *Pastor Mark*



**LAUREL CHURCH CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**

(Church Office Closed in observance of holiday)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

7:30 am Men's Breakfast  
9:00 am De-Decorating Party

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

8:45 am Adult Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship – Communion  
11:10 am Session Ministry Team Meetings

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

10:00 am Elsie Bradshaw Circle

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

8:45 Adult Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Session Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

8:45 am Adult Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Lingering/Nurse Is In  
11:25 am New Beginnings / Sign Committee

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22**

10:00 am Walk-in Ministry

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

8:45 am Adult Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Annual Meeting of Congregation

**\*Choir meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm**

**\*LAMB's Basket 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**



The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of **January** is Howard Lawrence. He may be reached at 360-1088.



**JANUARY FLOWERS**

**January 7-** Howard Lawrence - To the Glory of God and in honor of our Health Care Professionals.

**January 14** - Jean Cole - To the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Don, on his birthday.

**January 21-**Claudia Hicks- To the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Merle, on his birthday.

**January 28** -Gladys and Marshall Chamberlayne - To the Glory of God and in memory of our son, Sidney, on his birthday.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST – JANUARY 6**

Join the men of the church at the International House of Pancakes on Broad, east of Gaskins at 7:30 am, Saturday, January 6 for a good time of fellowship and hearty food



Geoffrey Wariuki (2)  
 Rudy Van't Riet (4)  
 Shane Rose (6)  
 Stafford (Flash) Bowlin (10)  
 Duane Berger (23)  
 Brenda MacRae (24)

**DE-DECORATING PARTY! – JANUARY 6**

Join us as we de-decorate the church and store Christmas away for another year on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 am. What went up ever so slowly comes down really fast!



**YARD CLEAN UP – JANUARY 20**

Help us clean leaves from the yard of an ill neighbor. Bring a rake, etc. on Saturday, January 20 (weather permitting) at 9:00



am to 9911 Drexel, Richmond. This the new date of an event that was originally scheduled for December but needed to be canceled due to weather.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF CONGREGATION – JANUARY 28**



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Laurel Session has set the date for the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28, immediately following worship. The hour-long meeting will offer a

report on the past year's activities and a summary of the 2018 budget. In addition to descriptions of the work of the three Session ministry teams, we will also vote on members of a new Nominating Committee who this spring will discern individuals

to be presented for election to ruling elder and hold a brief *pro forma* meeting of the corporation as required state law. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of the Pastor or Session members and to share any concerns or ideas you may have.

**GIVING THANKS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT LAUREL**

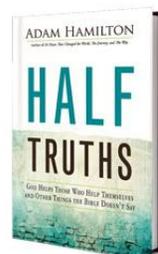
On Sunday, November 26, we gave thanks in worship to a number of individuals and families who have helped to make some significant upgrades that have enhanced our worship experience.



In a special presentation, Pastor Mark noted how several church memorial accounts to honor loves had been used, with the encouragement of the families, to upgrade our sanctuary computer and sound system and build a new a sound booth. These included accounts in memory of Roger Doering, Lucille Hayes, Dixie Mertens, William A. Morton and Mamie Stone. The family of Berk McDermott was also thanked for dedicating contributions in Berks memory to totally repaint the sanctuary which hadn't been painted in two decades.

Special thanks also went to individuals who had helped to build our new sound booth. The bulk of the actual work was done by Duane Berger, Reggie Fitch and Steve Searce (in photo). Because of their commitment which resulted in 16 workdays on the project, they were awarded the "Order of the Golden Hardhat," and are henceforth given permission to wear their hardhats in worship! Other helpers included Marshall Chamberlayne, Carl Carpenter, Flash Bowlin, Rob McBane and non-member Rev. Randy Creath who we hired to advise us on the sound system and who also set it up for us.

**NEW ADULT STUDY IN JANUARY**



*Everything happens for a reason... God won't give you more than you can handle...* We've all heard these and other expressions that are thought to encapsulate truths about our faith, but the fact is... they're only half true! Popular Christian

writer Adam Hamilton sets us straight in his book, *Half-Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*.

Beginning Sunday, January 7, the morning adult class will consider a number of such half-truths described in the book and discover the real biblical and helpful truth behind them. Each of the six-week sessions includes a video segment featuring Adam Hamilton. You may purchase a book for \$9.00, but it is not necessary to read the book to participate in the class. The class meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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**To the Church  
Triumphant...**

**Lorraine Hall Binford  
Phoebe Broaddus  
Toney**

**BINFORD, Lorraine Hall**, 90, went to be with her Lord on December 9, 2017. She was



predeceased by her husband, Charles W. Binford; parents, John Francis Hall and Ruth Lowry Hall; her two brothers, four sisters; and her former husbands, Everett Mallory Sr. and Louis Hensley Jr. She is survived by her two sons, Everett Mallory Jr. and Louis

Hensley III; her grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Lorraine was a longtime member of Laurel Presbyterian Church, where she served on many committees and spent time serving her brothers and sisters in Christ. She retired from Dominion Virginia Power after 25 years of service in addition to working at General Medical Corporation for many years. She was loved by many and will be missed by all. Services will be private.



**TONEY, Phoebe Broaddus**, 84, of Richmond, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on December 19, 2017.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Madison Toney Jr.; and parents, Temple Winston Broaddus and Anne Florence Broaddus. Survivors include her brother and sister-in-law, Scott and Marianna Broaddus; her three daughters, Anne Winston Toney, Catherine Toney Lacy, Juliet Toney Williams and her husband, Tabb; her five grandchildren, Matthew Lacy and his wife, Lacey Sullivan, Dylan Lacy and his wife, Brooke, Ryan Lacy, Katie Williams and her boyfriend, Joey Johnson, and Madison Williams and her boyfriend, Jimmy Parks; three great-grandchildren, Max, Ayden and Colt, who is due in February; and her three beloved dogs, Toby, Weezie and Dany. Phoebe was Grandma to many, not just her own grandchildren. She was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and attended Madison College. She was a member of Laurel Presbyterian Church. Phoebe devoted many hours of her life to philanthropy, including serving as past president of the Florence Nightingale Circle of Sheltering Arms and the Women's Auxiliary of The Salvation Army, as well as volunteering at the former McGuire Clinic. Some of her favorite pastimes included painting, drawing and eating ice cream. The family would like to thank Hospice of Virginia, especially LaShell Jefferson and Joyce Brookman for their compassion and care throughout her last days. A memorial service will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, December 23, at Affinity Funeral Service, 2720 Enterprise Pkwy., Richmond, Va. 23294. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The Salvation Army, Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad, or the charity of your choice.



**MEMBER CARE AND MISSIONS REPORT**

**JANUARY 9, 2017**

We met on December 3. Members present were Michelle, Barbara, Becky, Marcia and Margaret.

We decided to mail the Christmas cards on December 9 in hopes that everyone will receive the cards on the same day.

We will have a lingering on December 17 after the Cantata. We will ask other groups to help.

We are delivering the Christmas gifts to our families on the morning of December 23. We could use another volunteer.

Margaret Fitch



**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

**The Binford Family**

Flash Bowlin

The Chamberlayne Family

Vickie Chaplin

Jean Cole

Randy Duff – brother of Lorraine Duff

Susan Dyson

The Hayes Family

Jimmy Hicks

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

John Schutrumpf

Tripp Shepherd

Jackie and Jan Stevens

Dan and Andrea Stone

Billie Summers

**The Toney Family**

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*

## A FEW FUN FACTS ABOUT THE NEW SOUND BOOTH!

It took three men 16 days to fully construct and finish the booth.

The sound booth has two 4-inch tubes that run from the back wall, under the booth steps and floor. One carries the sound wiring and the other, the wiring to the overhead projector.

The booth was built with no cuts made to the existing walls, molding or door casement.

A removable panel provides access to the wiring at any time, making it easy to run new cables or replace old ones.

There are four microphones – one at each podium, one on standby when needed and the pastor's headset. All are wireless. There are four receivers built into the sound system to pick up these signals.

We're still using the old amplifier/mixer with the new system. It is wired to the monitor speaker hidden in the ceiling above the rectangular screen. It provides sound to the choir.

Along with microphones, the system can play sound for a mobile phone, an iPod or a CD/DVD player.

Our old mixer had only six channels. The new mixer has sixteen. At the moment, Laurel uses only seven of these, and the Faith Revival Church also uses seven.

The new mixer board has 238 knobs, 19 sliders, and a whole slew of buttons! Don't be intimidated, though. We only use a few at a time.

The booth has two of the most comfortable chairs in the church! Surely, this is an incentive to sign up for working the sound booth or projection system!



Shown in the sound booth are sound operator Steve Scarce and projectionist Karen Johnson.-Duane Berger



**2017 SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS**

We thank the following individuals and families for their gracious gift of poinsettias for our sanctuary at Christmas.

**Given in Honor of...**

My Three Children, Their Spouses, and My Four Grandchildren  
by LaVerne W. Miller

Shane Rose  
by Pete & Barbara Rose

Our Children  
by Larry & Michal Runyon

Our Grandchildren, Abby and Cameron Smith  
by Judy & Jim Smith

Our Children, Tim & Holly  
by Mark & Jan Sprowl

**Given in Loving Memory of...**

Our Daughter, Lauren Elaine Berger  
Duane & Janice Berger

Woodrow Bowlin and Lillian & Wallace Kelley  
Stafford & Mary Jane Bowlin

Loving Parents  
by Carl Carpenter & Karen Johnson

Our Son, Sid, and Grandson, Brad  
by Marshall & Gladys Chamberlayne

My Husband, Roger Doering  
and Our Parents & Grandparents  
by Ruth Doering

My Father, Ed Dorman  
by Cheryl Dorman

Linda V. Henderson  
by Michael L. Henderson

My Family Members Who Are Deceased  
by Eddie Ann Mathewson

Our Parents  
by David & Dayna Paxton

Dixie Mertens  
by Bonnie Poff

My Mother, Ameena Ramdas and My Sister, Shirley Swallow  
by Dennis Ramdas

Our Parents  
Larry & Michal Runyon

Our Parents, Ray & Cissie Sprowl  
Jim & Marian Humphreys  
by Mark & Jan Sprowl

Bart & Judy van't Riet  
by Rudy van't Riet

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**THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE!**

Thanks to all who contributed to both gifts and food items for our Christmas families this year. Through the generosity of Laurel members, three families were served with children receiving gifts like bicycles and a (used) electric guitar! You once again have helped to demonstrate the love of God in our community!



**CHOIR CANTATA RECALLS EVENTS "ON THIS SHINING NIGHT"**

God's light coming into the world in the birth of Jesus Christ was a central theme of this year's Christmas cantata performed on



Sunday, December 17. In melodies both new and familiar, the Laurel Choir, led by music director David Clatterbuck, retold the story of ancient prophecy fulfilled and the humble encountering the divine. Choir members Duane and Janice Berger and Cheryl Dorman sang solos (Shelby McBane, unfortunately was ill, and her solo was performed by guest singer Sherry Talbott.) Everyone enjoyed

a delicious “lingering” reception after the worship service.

Special thanks to David and the choir for this lovely occasion to reflect again on the Christmas miracle through music. Laurel Choir members include: (Sopranos) Janice Berger, Kathy Boyce, Cheryl Dorman, Glenda Miller, and guest Sherry Talbott; (Altos) Mary Jane Bowlin, Gladys Bowles, Ruth Doering, Shelby McBane and Carol Short; (Tenor) Duane Berger; and (Basses) Clint Miller and guest Rick Glass.

## LAUREL LADIES ENJOY THE SEASON

At their annual Holiday Luncheon and Study,

members of the Elsie Bradshaw Circle, heard the familiar but always touching *The Gift of the Magi* by O.

Henry, read by Pastor Mark. In addition, they focused on the theme of *Home for Christmas*, listening to Blake Shelton’s affecting version of his song *Home*, re-written for Christmas, recalling Jesus’ words from John, “If you make your home in me, I will make my home in you.”

After the study, they adjourned to Nick’s Greek Italian Restaurant for some good food and fellowship... and a visit from Santa!



**MONDAY JANUARY 15**

## “CONTEMPORARY” TELLING OF CHRISTMAS STORY



With Scripture and the carols of Christmas, Laurel staged a living Nativity on Sunday afternoon, December 10. Rather than donning traditional “Bible”

costumes, the participants wore their everyday clothes which proclaimed the message that the Good News of hope and love at Christmas is

indeed for every day of the year. The decorations may be put away but not the Spirit!

Special thanks to organizers Sue Bell, Jackie Cooper, Gladys Bowles, Gladys Chamberlayne and Mary Jane and to those who became our “living Nativity” for a few moments!



## COAL PIT DINNER BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER!

There had never been a time like it before... when the children and parents and staff of the Coal Pit Learning Center came together for a common meal. Organized by the New Beginnings Team and staffed by many helpers from the Laurel membership, Laurel offered a dinner with all the fixings for over seventy people on Monday night, December 11.

In addition to the food, we sang carols and prayed together and gave small gifts. Some members of families who attended commented that it was nice to be back at a church. One Laurel member commented with a big smile on her face, “This is Christmas for me!”

Some who couldn’t be on hand to help out supplied desserts. Like so many activities at Laurel, its success was a product of the commitment of many people, but special credit must be given to Ann Whitby who purchased the provisions and organized everything to proceed like clockwork. While the event maxed out our available space (e.g. two tables in the hallway), the New Beginnings Team looks to hold a “cook out” in the spring and invite the neighborhood. Stay tuned!



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: [pbmacrae@comcast.net](mailto:pbmacrae@comcast.net)

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