



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Laurel Gazette

June 2018



SAINT TO SAINT... DOES IT SEEM LIKE FIVE YEARS?

This month I will have been in continuous leadership at Laurel for five years, first as covenant pastor and now simply as “pastor.” And we have known one another for over ten years as I

began my stint as interim pastor way back in October, 2007.

Church strategists cite five years as a kind of benchmark in the pastor-congregation relationship with the idea, that if pastor and congregation are still together at that point both are well acquainted with each other’s flaws and foibles. Each party, at some level, has blown it and has rendered and received forgiveness. And that knowledge, plus an appreciation for what each now brings to the relationship, sort of settles the waters for a much longer relationship. At least, that’s the theory.

From my point of view, I’d characterize our relationship as comfortable and stable, loving and trusting. I continue to lift up this congregation as open and accepting, ready to try something new to see if it helps. I believe Laurel is a place of abiding faith which finds its roots in concern for family, friends, the congregation and community – not so much extending into the great issues of the world... like many smaller congregations.

When I accepted the call of the Session to return to Laurel after a time away, I had hopes that we could work together to turn around a long decline in membership, worship attendance and giving. Certainly, your willingness to enter fully into the New Beginnings process with its extensive analysis of church and community and small group meetings (still one of only three churches to do that in a Presbytery of 105 congregations, many of which are in decline) was an important step as we seek to move forward together into God’s future.

For me, the best part of that experience were the discussions, taking a hard look together at numbers and possibilities and together agreeing to seek to adjust our direction as a congregation

to become more focused on mission to the community than trying to get people to fill our pews... at least, initially. Since that time, we’ve done some impressive things: building a connection with Coal Pit Education Center, hosting Presbytery and community events at the church, organizing a Fall Festival two years in a row, making ourselves a venue for blood drives and police-community gatherings, helping neighbors in need to clean up yards and others. All this, in addition to sustaining our congregation and its ministry with quality, worship, education, fellowship and mission opportunities.

Still, the vision of New Beginnings hasn’t perhaps been realized as we’d hoped.

We still haven’t made much of an inroad into the community; most activities continue to be based on the church campus instead of beyond our doors. We certainly understand that, despite our best efforts and prayers, turning around a congregation in this day and culture is not easy.

Disappointingly, our numbers continue to decline. Fewer folks turn out for activities, and with an aging congregation, we realize it’s no longer easy for us to find the able bodies to clean kitchens or gutters. And yet... the genius of Laurel, to my eye, is that we continue to carry on – despite the figures - doing things well, being faithful to our call and caring for one another as the family of God.

I continue to be amazed at the gifts of time and talent, the selfless commitment and the good “heart” shown in all our activities. Not being pulled down by the notion of being “small,” as in small church, you, the congregation simply go about ministry with integrity and faith, and, I believe, we continue to make a difference in the Laurel community as we have done for over a hundred years.

It is a privilege to partner with you and the Holy Spirit in the Lord’s call to ministry. I close with a



verse from Philippians 1:6, ancient words of encouragement to a small church faithful to God's call: "I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus." Amen!

Beginning a sixth year together with you in ministry,

Pastor Mark

A TIME TO WORSHIP... BE RESPECTFUL PLEASE



We are all glad that in church on Sundays, we have a chance to catch up with our friends in Christ at Laurel. Over the years, many have

commented about the "family" atmosphere at the church, and one of the best ways to maintain that is to share what's been happening with one another.

There is a time, however, in the worship service, and even prior to the beginning of worship at the hour, when we need to begin to quiet our conversations. Some folks reserve the minutes before the service begins, often during David's playing of the organ prelude, as a time for personal and meditation and prayer. While conversation doesn't need to end at the beginning of the beginning of the prelude, we do ask that all of us respect the desires and space of those about us. Thank you!

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SATURDAY, JUNE 2 – 7:30 AM

All Laurel men are invited to join us for the monthly

breakfast at the IHOP on West Broad (near Gaskins) at 7:30 am on Saturday, June 2. Good food and fellowship!



SATURDAY, JUNE 2

7:30 am Men's Breakfast
12:00 pm Presbytery Event at Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

8:45 am Adult Class
10:00 am Worship – Communion
11:10 am Session Teams Meet

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

8:45 am Adult Class
10:00 am Worship – 2ND SUNDAY CONVERSATION
11:10 am Session Meets

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

9:15 am Presbytery of the James Meets (Westminster-Canterbury)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

11:00 am All-Church Picnic at the Rose's

SUNDAY, JUNE 17 – FATHER'S DAY

8:45 am Adult Class
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Lingering
11:25 am New Beginnings Team Meets

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

8:45 am Adult Class
10:00 am Worship

***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**



SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR JUNE

June 3- Carl Carpenter and Karen Johnson to the Glory of God and in celebration of our wedding anniversary.

June 10 - Michael Henderson - In honor of our Sunday School class.

June 17 -Peter and Linda Coulson -In celebration of their grand twins, Brooklyn & Parker Mann, on their June 18 birthday.

June 24 - Ginger Lanier - In memory of my Mother, Elizabeth Loving.



The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of June is **Mary Jane Bowlin**, 672-6009. If you know of someone who could use some TLC with a call, card or visit, please contact Mary Jane.



Pete MacRae (1)
Chris Berger (3)
Wayne Deisher (5)
Michael Henderson (7)
Nana Sarfo-Kantanka (10)
Ann McDermott (14)
Linda Coulson (17)
Ginger Lanier (20)
Pete Rose (23)



PROPOSED CHANGE IN ORDER OF WORSHIP

Laurel has always been a congregation committed to providing opportunities to nurture the faith of children and youth. Since the church's inception, our younger disciples have attended Christian education class and fellowship. Over the years, as the numbers of this age group dwindled, Laurel continued to offer Sunday School and youth fellowship.

When the numbers in this cohort virtually disappeared, we were still committed to provide for "Children's Church" and a "Time for Young Disciples" within the worship service.

Recently, the Worship & Education Team heard concerns from some members of the congregation who felt retaining the "Time for Young Disciples" which had morphed into "God's Good News for Disciples of All Ages" was unnecessary, since, on the great majority of Sundays, there are no children. Pastor Mark, who prepares that segment of worship, offered that he would accept the decision of the Session and congregation on the matter.

After discussion, the W&E Team recommended to the Session that the segment be discontinued on a trial basis to gauge the reaction of the congregation. There will be a time with children on Easter, Christmas Eve and at other worship occasions when it's thought more children might be present. Children's Church will continue to be offered.

If you feel strongly about the issue, please let a Session or W&E Team member know or send an email to the church office laurelpres@verizon.net.

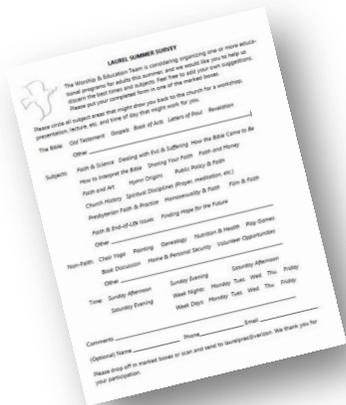


**SUMMER
ADULT
EDUCATION
PLANNED:
GIVE US
YOUR IDEAS!**

The Worship & Education Team is currently soliciting the thoughts of the congregation about what type

of summer education program might bring folks back to the church after Sunday morning. A survey included in the bulletin in May and June gives Laurel members and friends an opportunity to suggest topics and days and times of the week that are attractive.

Taking advantage of education opportunities is one of the most important ways we can grow in our faith, and we hope you'll help us out by sharing what would be of interest to you! Please deposit completed surveys in the marked boxes near the exit.



**HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY**



**VIDEOS TO SPUR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
FAITH BASICS**

From time to time, it's important to emphasize the basics of our faith: God, Jesus, Spirituality, Salvation and others. The Sunday morning Adult Class will be doing this with a brand new set of video discussion-starters led by contemporary Christian leaders such as Brian McLaren, Nadia Bolz-Weber and Lillian Daniel.



In changing times, we need to consider how the basic tenets of our faith may speak freshly to new generations and situations. Join the discussion on Sunday, June 17 at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall! NOTE: For the first two Sundays in June, we will continue our Bible study of Philipians: Chapter 3 on June 3 and Chapter 4 on June 10.



**CONGREGATION ELECTS NEW CLASS OF
ELDERS**

At its meeting following worship on Sunday, May 20, the congregation elected four ruling elders to serve as the Class of 2020 on the Session. They are Carl Carpenter, Gladys Chamberlayne, Billie Summers and Ann Whitby. There was slot in that class for which there was no nominee, and that vacancy was not filled in the election. There was an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

The congregation thanked the Congregational Nominating Committee headed up by Session member Becky Zolnai and including Bernie Cheatham, Margaret Fitch and Barbara Rose. All four elders-elect are ordained and have served on the Session before. They will serve a two-year term and be installed during worship on the second Sunday of July.

**LAUREL ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC AT THE
ROSE HOME!**



The Church Picnic will be held on June 16 from 11:00 until 3:00 at the home of Pete and Barbara Rose. Please check in the Narthex to sign up for this popular event. Directions to the Rose's house will also be available. Thanks to Pete and Barbara for hosting again this year! Such a great location for a picnic! MCM will be providing paper products, drinks, barbecue and hot dogs. Hope to see you there! Rain date is June 23.



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

Mary Jane Bowlin and family

Dan and Bonnie Clatterbuck

Jean Cole

Wayne Deisher

Randy Duff – brother of Lorraine Duff

Claudia Hicks

Sherrie Kolb

Howard Lawrence

Mary Lawrence

Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott

Shirley Milliken

Richard Rader, nephew of Bonnie Poff

Cathy Roeder

John Schutrumpf

Page Shepherd

Tripp Shepherd

Jackie and Jan Stevens

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 **Barbara Rose 749-3209.***

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY HOSPITALITY DAY WITH HCPD

Eighteen members of the Henrico Police Department joined Laurel members on the afternoon of May 8 as Laurel

hosted another opportunity for the Glen Allen community to meet the officers who serve it. The HCPD group was just coming on



duty and appreciated the opportunity to have a heavy snack at the church before getting to work.

As before, time was reserved for an open conversation about thoughts the officers wished to share with us and for Laurel members to ask questions about safety and other concerns. We thank the officers for giving us a portion of their day and Sue Bell and others who made arrangements and brought food. We plan to hold these get-togethers on a quarterly basis and will publicize the proposed September date when it's been set.



*Remember Flag Day
June 14th*

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"Special thanks to Dayna Paxton for volunteering to oversee our planters at the doors of the church!" Thanks.

MOWING MINISTRY

It's that time of year when the grass (and weeds) grow high! We need to keep the church campus looking sharp with weekly mows. Please sign up on the list in the hallway – many open weeks! And ladies, please feel free to lend a hand!



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

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