



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Laurel Gazette

May 2021



ANN'S PAGE....

WOUNDED HEALER: RISEN, WOUNDS AND ALL

Thomas needed to see to believe. To touch the wounds of Jesus to know that he had indeed survived the cross and risen. And we totally get that. This falls into that "too good to be true" category. We too probably can picture ourselves right there next to Thomas checking these wounds out for ourselves.

But what might be even more remarkable than Easter itself is that Jesus appeared risen with wounds and all. He appeared still carrying the marks of the cross, his body still showing forth where he had been nailed to the cross.

I really want us to pause and hover over this detail because in Jesus rising, wounds and all, we see that our wounds do not magically disappear when we are hurt, or betrayed, or "die to self," or when something goes horribly south. We see that we too rise up, wounds and all. That there is life post-cross, post-wounding. That even when something horrific happens to us, that we can still go on, somehow, some way, wounds, and all. That even in the face of unspeakable tragedy, we can still find life again, and hope, and meaning, and purpose. Because Jesus did. That somehow, some way, it is possible to coexist with our wounds and even know joy again.

Jesus is our template for making love known. And through his wounds, he is pointing us to a new way of living that includes our very pain in our very healing. That is the great paradox of kingdom living. Of God. Who always includes our greatest places of pain in our rising. Who always includes our wounds in our resurrection. Our dying in our living.

And that is exactly what Jesus meant when he told us that we needed "to die to ourselves" and pick up our cross and follow him. This is the universal pattern – on

repeat: dying to self, rising to Christ. This is what it means to rise with him. This is what it means to live from the image and likeness of God, our ultimate wounded healer.

Even though we might think we are beyond hope. Even though we might think we are the exception to kingdom healing. Even though we might think that our pain can never count for anything. Even though we might think we will never come back from "X" loss or wound, our wounded healer says, "This is not going to defeat you. You will rise, wounds and all." That is the miracle of miracles. We rise, wounds and all. This is the pattern that Jesus shows us by his risen wounds. That our deepest pain can somehow, some way, coexist with joy again. Hope and wonder, too.

Maybe the most extraordinary gift of this Easter afterglow is that our Risen One shows us how it is done, so that we might know to expect the same. There is life after wounding and suffering too deep for words, and Jesus shows us the way to claim it, wounds and all.





The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of **May** is **Mary Jane Bowlin**. Mary Jane may be reached at 672-6009 if you know of anyone that needs care and concern.



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

- Nancy Cross (3)
- John Horigan (9)
- Gladys Chamberlayne (9)
- Tod Balsbaugh (10)
- Emily Anderson (15)
- Tim Sprowl (16)
- Glenda Miller (18)
- Jim Smith (19)
- Shelby McBane (20)
- Sue Bell (22)
- Eileen Anderson (27)
- Barbara Rose (28)



MAY SANCTUARY FLOWERS

May 2 -Jim Clark - to the glory of God and in memory of his sister, Kay Kinsey.

May 9 -Clint & Glenda Miller and Howard Lawrence, Jr. - to the glory of God and in honor of Mary Lawrence on Mother's Day.

May 16 -To the glory of God

May 23 -To the glory of God

May 30 -Karen Johnson & Carl Carpenter - to the glory of God and in celebration of their anniversary.



Marshall and I would like to thank each one of you for the outpouring of love shown us during the passing of our beloved daughter, Susan. Each card, phone call, visit, food, meant so much to us and we will be forever grateful. Thanks so much for doing what you do best: taking care of friends.

Sincerely,
Gladys and Marshall



HUNGRY FOR SOME LAUREL LOVE? HERE ARE SOME UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Chats with Ann: Processing our Pandemic Life – Church parking lot, Wednesday, May 5, 2:30-4pm
We will begin to unpack pandemic living and all that this past year has cost us to keep one foot in front of the other. Come with your stories . . .

2. Women's Circle – Tuesday May 11 – Journey into Joy, 10 am Join Carol Short who will lead us through this remarkable book to examine our Christian practices.

3. Fireside Happy Hour (FHH) –Thursday, May 27, 5pm Bring your favorite libation and nibble as we gather in the church parking lot around our firepit to catch up and hear some wild stories.

LIVE FROM LAUREL PRES!

The worship service is being streamed live so you can go to our website, Laurelpres.com, and click on "services" and connect to join us to worship in real time. You can also go there at any time to worship. At the website you will also find our weekly bulletin which includes our service and an updated list of announcements about our beloved church community



Susan Ann Chamberlayne Dyson Service: A Service of Worship and Celebration will be held on May 8th at 2 pm to celebrate the

gift of Susan Ann Chamberlayne Dyson, daughter of Gladys and Marshall. The Chamberlayne's cordially invite you to attend this worship service in our sanctuary.



Women's Circle will continue to meet May through August at 10:00 am on the second Tuesday of each month. We will be looking at ways to draw closer to God by examining different spiritual practices intended to deepen our faith, show God's love to others, and live in joy.

Lessons will be taken from Journey into Joy. There is no book to buy. Study materials will be provided. Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil. We will meet outside, weather permitting.
Carol Short



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

***New additions will be in bold.**

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

Jake Anderson

Corinne Augustine – mother of Carol Short

Sue Bell

Marshall and Gladys Chamberlayne

Jean Cole

Jackie Cooper and Family

Wayne & Marcia Deisher

Ruth Doering

Reggie Fitch

Claudia Hicks

Sherrie Kolb

Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott

Andy, Evie, and Jamie Meyers

Phyllis Perross

Sharon Riley

Cathy Roeder

Pete and Barbara Rose

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

John Schutrumpf

Judy Smith

Ann Whitby and family

Prayers for the World

Prayers for Ruling Elders

Prayers for friends and families

Prayers for the homeless

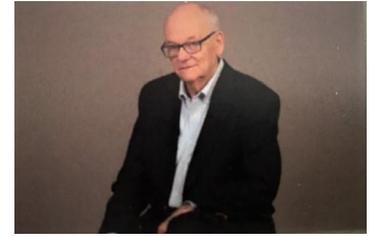
Prayers for Laurel's vision

If you know of someone in need of prayer or you need prayers,

please call Barbara Rose@ 270-6978.

MAY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JIM CLARK

1. What drew you to Laurel? I was considering a larger church where I could stay remote. I attended Laurel and loved the interaction of the others in the church. I wanted to worship with these people.



2. Favorite thing so far about Laurel?

The members work and worship together very well. For the most part problems are solved but normally they can continue a good relationship despite any differences.

3. Favorite food:

My favorite food is a tie between fried chicken and grilled steak.

4. Favorite book:

My favorite author is David Baldacci. When I moved here from Connecticut and discover he was from here, I was more certain I wanted to live here.

5. Favorite movie:

My favorite movie is Pulp Fiction followed by The French Connection. While they were too violent the interaction between the characters was great.

6. Favorite thing to do:

I love to read fiction.

7. What is on your bedside table?

I keep the telephone answering machine on my bedside table. I do not read or watch TV in bed.

8. What is your favorite TV show to binge?

My favorite TV show to binge is a British satire, Have I Got News for You. It is on the BBC and has run for many, many years. I watch it on You Tube.

9. One thing we might never guess about you?

I am an open book.

10. Motto you live by:

Stay out of it. Do not get involved. (That is difficult for me)

11. Favorite way of making love known:

Actions speak louder than words. A period of time is necessary since many people do not brag about their good deeds.

12. Favorite Bible passage:

Matthew 20:13, 14 & 15.

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?¹³ 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I

not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"^[b]



OUR VISION TEAM: A WORK IN PROGRESS

Although our Vision Team has been delayed in starting, its work will go on. If you have not had a chance to say YES to this opportunity to “see” our church as God does, please let Reverend Ann know. Meetings will start up this summer.



LAUREL LOVE SHOUT OUTS



A big shout out to David Clatterbuck and the choir for the cantata pieces that we heard interspersed through Lent 5, Psalm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.

High-five's also to David Clatterbuck and the Laurel Choir for the extra service during Holy Week. We appreciated your gift of Maundy Thursday to help us enter this deeply moving spiritual place with our Suffering Servant.

A shout out to Janice Berger for preparing our communion bread for both the Maundy Thursday and Easter 2 services.

Thank you to Janice Berger Thank you to Rob and Michelle McBane, Carolyn Stinger and Michael Henderson for preparing our space for worship each Sunday.

A big thank you to our Member Care and Mission Team for making Laurel Love known to all of us. To Mary Jane Bowlin, Nana Sarfo-Kantanka, Gladys Chamberlayne, Linda Coulson, Carolyn Stringer, Barbara Rose, Marcie Deisher and Diane Jackson.

A hearty thanks you to Mary Jane Bowlin and Nana Sarfo-Kantanka for being on call while Reverend Ann was in quarantine.

Thank you to Michael Henderson who has served in as our liturgist since December and to Pete MacRae

for serving on April 11th. So appreciate your dedication and willing heart and heartfelt prayers.

Lots of gratitude to Duane Berger, Steve Scarce, Rudy van't Riet and Ann Whitby, our fearless Worship Production Team.

To Brenda and Pete MacRae for their love month in and out. You made the magic happen again this month!

Thank you to Carolyn Stinger and LaVerne Miller for running our bulletins each week. We appreciate you all!

A big shout out to Rob McBane for picking up the mail in Carl's absence. Teamwork makes the dreamwork.

A hearty thanks you to Wayne Deisher who continues to prepare our monthly financial reports even when under the weather. That is dedication!!

Thank you to Marshall Chamberlayne, Ann Whitby and Michael Henderson for checking on our church property at a drop of a hat's notice.

A big shout out to Brenda MacRae and Mary Jane Bowlin for bringing Laurel Love to the Meyers family.

A hearty shout out to Sue Bell for stepping in with caring for Ruth Doering and her family while Reverend. Ann is in quarantine.

A big shout out to Mary Jane Bowlin who is our Shepherd on Call for the month of May. Mary Jane Bowlin and so many of you, is one of our “communicators in chief” reaching out to check on how we are doing. Gratitude to you all.

A big thank you to Michael Henderson for the awesome Easter Egg Hunt!!

Thank you to Karen Johnson for organizing the May flowers.





O'LEARY, Shannon Lynne, 43, of Henrico, passed away on April 10, 2021. She was preceded in death by her father, James "Jim" O'Leary Sr.; and her mother, Barbara Simkins. Shannon is survived by her husband, Andrew "Andy" Meyers; daughter, Eva "Evie" Meyers; son, Robert James "Jamie," and brother, James O'Leary Jr. Family and friends will be received on Tuesday, April 20 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Biley's Staples Mill, 8510 Staples Mill Rd. Funeral services will be planned for August 14, 2021 at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Feed More of Central Virginia or your local food bank.

As many of you are aware, Andy Meyers' wife, Shannon O'Leary was killed on the evening of April 10 while out walking their dog in their Henrico neighborhood. Andy Meyers served at Laurel 10-12 years ago as our pastor. Shannon was also a pastor. They have 2 children, Evie (14) and Jamie (10). Many of our members helped look after Evie and Jamie when they were young when Andy and Shannon needed an extra hand.

According to Andy's social media he says one way you could honor Shannon is to give to your local food bank. Shannon spent each Tuesday volunteering with the food pantry at Three Chopt Presbyterian. If you can donate, do so. If you can volunteer, do that too. In doing so you honor her, bring care and comfort to those who need it, and help her family to know that her witness

continues.

Mary Jane Bowlin and Brenda MacRae took gift cards from area food establishments to Andy and the children last week on behalf of Member care and Laurel members. Andy was very appreciative.



Our Beautiful Flowering Cross on Easter Sunday
(Photo by Duane Berger)



2021 EASTER HYDRANGEAS

We thank the following individuals and families for their gracious gift of hydrangeas for our sanctuary.

Phyllis Perross in memory of her sister, Patricia Morris

James Clark in memory of Wilbur & Grace Clark

Karen Johnson & Carl Carpenter
in memory of Loving Parents

Mary Jane Bowlin in memory of "Flash" Bowlin

Michael C. Henderson in memory of Linda V. Henderson

Vickie E. Chaplin in memory of Regina Moore, Freda & Arnold Chaplin, Lynn & Karen

Denis Ramdas in memory of his mother Ameena Ramdas

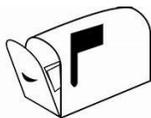
Denis Ramdas in honor of Malcolm and Joan McArthur

Barbara & Pete Rose to the glory of God and in honor of their family.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP HANOVER IS OPEN



Go to www.camphanover.org to sign up for summer camp.



**NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE**

New email address for Becky Zolnai:
rebecca.zolnai906@gmail.com

New home address for Ruth Doering:

Ruth Doering
2029 Pruett Ct.
Glen Allen VA 23029

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

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Glen Allen, VA 23060

