



LAUREL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Laurel Gazette



MONUMENT OR MOVEMENT? HOW TO TELL

In the last few weeks, we have spent time looking in scripture at how we are to tend Jesus's sheep. How we are to know his voice and feed his sheep. How we are to care for the lost, the

forgotten, the oppressed. How we are to embody this good news of love in our lives, and in the life of this church. We have talked about monuments as fixed things, things that get in the way of doing just that, of being a Jesus movement.

A monument are those things that might block us from hearing the Good Shepherd's voice, or following him, or tending to his sheep. Things that might tamp down our creativity energy or vigor to hear and see what God has put before us, to hear and see what God is doing in our lives. Monuments obstruct our vision.

Yet, at the same time, it is important to say, that "just because we have always done it that way" doesn't mean it is a monument. That just because it is our practice at Laurel or our history at Laurel or our way at Laurel doesn't mean it is a monument. Rather, a monument, is something we bow before, serve and honor as if it were God. It is something that lacks energy and light, which is fixed and unmoving, yet something that we worship – almost without blinking. Think about the golden calf that Aaron offered the people while Moses was bringing the commandments. That is what a monument looks like.

In using monument language, the hope was to take a fresh look at ourselves to begin to see the possibilities that God has before us. To see pass how we have been the church so, we might begin to see how we could be the church. To see how we might embody this mandate from Jesus to tend to the sheep, and feed his people, in Glen Allen, Virginia.

The question is always, is this practice serving God?
Is this ministry feeding the sheep?
Does it bring us joy?
Is there energy in this?
Are we nurturing our life together?

Are we nurturing the belovedness of others in our larger community?

Are we following God or the golden calf?

One of the things I said to Session at our May meeting was that I wanted us to focus intentionally upon providing more opportunities to nurture our people, to nurture our own sense of belovedness. Like with the new woman's group, called "uncorked," or with the new men's group, "tattoos on the heart" or with a grief group, or the memory support group. To be a vibrant people of Jesus Christ we need to be nurtured and fed, so, we can nurture and feed. Being well fed will help us discern whether we are reflexively bowing at a monument or whether we are part of a movement.

To distill whether something is a monument, or a movement, requires discernment. Requires openness. Requires hard conversations and lots of study and reflection and lots of prayer. And it starts with trust and curiosity. Trust that our Good Shepherd is leading us through this pasture and will show us what and how to be his church. Trust that we have not been left behind in our quest to be faithful. And curiosity to discover how. How and what might God be asking us to be and do? Who might God be asking us to tend to? Who God be asking us to remind them of their belovedness as we remind each other?

One of the things that brings us immense joy is our outreach to the Henrico County Police Department. Is that a monument just because we did it before? No. Same is true about how we gather to worship. Or, how we love to gather outside of worship. And our Lingerings and a host of other things, like our Lamb's basket, or our Good Samaritan Offering, or our Circle, or our Choir.

But knowing whether something is a monument or movement is always a challenge. Are we being asked to tend the lost and forgotten in long term care settings? Are we being asked to tend to our aging population? To remind people that they are beloved ones, too? Beloved ones who still can have dreams, and hopes, and purpose, and fun? Who can still live a life chock full of meaning? Can still grow and deepen as we age? Are we being asked to tend to those with memory loss? And their loyal care takers? Are we being asked to be a senior hub or a non-profit hub? Only time will tell. What we do know is that God is

alive, well, and active here. We can feel God's presence. We know that God has encamped among us. And we know we are growing as a vibrant people to live out his good news for all people. Our task is to remain open to hear God's call about how to make love known to the world, as God is making it known to us. And knowing whether something is a monument, or a movement, will help us know where God is leading us. Let us pray and be in conversation about our next steps with hope and wonder. We are privileged to be God's Easter people.

Ann Cherry

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**BARBEE-WATKINS
CALLED AS LEAD
PRESBYTER**

Presbytery of the James voted May 17 to extend a call to the

Reverend Dr. Floretta "Flo" Barbee-Watkins effective June 27. She will serve as lead presbyter for vision and collaboration, a new position created in 2021 through the presbytery's strategic plan. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Barbee-Watkins received a Master of Divinity with an emphasis in homiletics and Christian education from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. Throughout her ministry, Barbee-Watkins has served the Church with heart and soul in a variety of ways.



For 18 years she was the pastor of Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church, now known as "the Avenue," in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a 20-year veteran of the US Air National Guard, retiring in 2017 as deputy-wing chaplain. Most recently, she was the transitional general presbyter for Presbytery of Detroit.

Her resume also includes the following highlights:

- The first African American clergywoman moderator of Presbytery of Charlotte, elected in 2013.
- Co-moderator of PC(USA)'s Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns.
- Member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

Barbee-Watkins is married to Montressa Barbee-Watkins and they have one adult daughter. Flo's hobbies include cooking, grilling and smoking meats,

golfing, travel, and camping in her RV. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

**HANNAH MILLER, SEMINARY
SUMMER INTERN AT LAUREL**



Hannah Miller is coming to Laurel this summer as our seminary intern. She will be with us from June 12 through August 14. You will see her in the pulpit, making pastoral calls, and getting to know us as she learns the ropes and the practice of speaking love through this church. Our team to support

Hannah is Duane Berger, Mary Jane Bowlin, Diane Jackson, Brenda MacRae, and Judy Smith. Reverend Ann asked her to share her story and to answer some rapid-fire questions.

Here is Hannah in her own words:

I grew up in Chesterfield, and my family attended Bon Air Presbyterian Church. Both my parents have worked in theatre my whole life, and it was where I spent most of my time outside of school. Planning to pursue theatre management, I majored in Theatre at William & Mary. I worked for two summers at Barrington Stage Company in the Berkshires before returning home to join the staff at Virginia Repertory Theatre, where I worked in fund development and later ran our Community Health + Wellness program. In preparation for that role, I earned my Master of Education in Human Development and Psychology at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. I loved every minute of that year! Learning about the many aspects of human development including language, culture, imagination... were not only more fascinating than I expected, but also enriched my understanding of my spiritual life. Midway through the pandemic, I felt the need to open myself to redirection. My church, First Presbyterian, asked me to serve as Interim Youth Minister. During that time, the pastors at FPC helped me discern my call to ministry. I began the Master of Divinity program at Union Presbyterian Seminary in fall 2021, and I continue to work in youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church, leading Youth Group and assisting with confirmation. It has been a great joy to get to work with such a kind and inspiring group of middle and high schoolers.

I am very excited to get to know the congregation of Laurel. One of the things I love most about church is the diversity of backgrounds, interests, and gifts that come together as a community of faith. I am really looking forward to learning alongside this community this summer!

Your favorite class in Seminary: Hebrew

Your favorite food: Mac & Cheese

Your favorite book: A Prayer for Owen Meany

Your favorite music: Musical theatre (especially Stephen Sondheim) and Joni Mitchell (when I'm on a road trip)

Your favorite movie: Broadcast News

What is your favorite TV show to binge? Gilmore Girls

A favorite way of making love known: Writing random "thank you for being my friend" notes to my friends

One thing we might never guess about you I was the tetherball champion at Camp Hanover in the 7th grade.

Bonnie Poff (13)
Steve Searce (22)
Marcia Deisher (25)
Trish Stratton (25)
Jake Anderson (29)
Carl Carpenter (31)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Peter Coulson (1)
Kathy Horigan (4)
Ann Cherry (5)
Laurel Roeder (9)
Matt Cross (11)
Emily Berger (15)
Mary Jane Bowlin (16)
Lorraine Duff (25)
Melanie Searce (27)
Meghan McBane (28)
Maureen Anderson (30)

Our Summer Shepherds on Call:

June-Mary Jane Bowlin 804-672-6009
July-Barbara Rose 804 270- 6978
August-Carolyn Stinger 804 755-7150



Please contact the appropriate Shepherd if you know of someone who could use some extra Laurel love with a phone call or visit.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY THIS COMING YEAR!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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)

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Riley (2)
Phyllis Perross (3)
Mary Searce (6)
Sara Bailey MacRae (9)
Katherine Cooper (12)
Reggie Fitch (13)

ONLINE GIVING COMING SOON!

The Session has approved the establishment of a relationship with the Presbyterian Foundation to provide online giving options for making donations. Members and visitors who choose to do so will be able to make their donations via debit or credit cards using the internet on a PC, tablet, or cellphone, or on a mobile app downloaded to a cellphone. It will take a bit of time to get things underway, so keep an eye out for more information about how you can participate if you think one of these options would be more convenient for you.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY EXPANDING

Look at these small group offerings and join a group! You will see that some groups require a fee as Chris Rhoden is a non-profit business, and many do not, but all groups have the option to have the payment covered. See that information below under Community Groups at Laurel.

Community Groups at Laurel: Chris Rhoden is forming several groups that will begin this summer. You are welcome to participate as you feel led. You can sign-up on the bulletin board, or text Chris at (804) 220-1583. If you would like to participate but cost is a factor, there are options: (1) pay what you can (2) pay it forward with community service (3) reach out to Reverend Ann for financial assistance.

1. "Use Your Inside Voice – Writing for Creativity and Exploration" will meet weekly starting June 23 at 3:00pm in our Parlor. The cost for this group is \$75 for four meetings.
2. "Wednesdays at Laurel" launches on Wednesday and is designed to meet the needs of those with memory struggles and their caregivers. One group will meet with

Chris and the other with Rev Ann. **It will start on June 1 at 1:00pm.** The first meeting will include lunch and conversation. The cost is \$30 a meeting.

3. **"Tattoos On Your Heart: A book group for men."** We will read "Tattoos On your Heart" written by Father Greg Boyle. Chris facilitates this group. **Sign-up sheet on bulletin board** or you can text Chris at number above. Group time to be determined after we know who is participating.
4. **"Co-Habiting with Grief."** A six-week group to explore how we live on and live through the loss of loved one. This group will be facilitated by Chris and Ann. **Sign up on the bulletin board** or text Chris or Ann. Group time to be determined after we know who is participating. Cost is \$30 a session.

COVID UPDATE:

Masks continue to be optional in worship and at all church gatherings, however, please be mindful that the numbers are rising in the county. Currently Henrico County is in the medium risk category, and our mask policy is appropriate. The Task Force will continue to monitor the numbers and provide updates as needed. Also, if you are interested in getting FREE COVID testing kits, the government has authorized that each household may order 8 additional tests. Just go to www.covid.gov. and go to "Testing" and follow the instructions. If you need assistance, you may call Brenda @ 804-672-3707. Brenda M, Mary S, and Ann W.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

The June 14 Women's Circle meeting will focus on Mary- Lessons 7 & 8. Our last meeting will be on July 12 when we will finish our study with Lesson 9. We meet at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and join us! Carol Short



Thank you to our mowing team who work diligently weekly to make our lawn look beautiful. Pete MacRae, Clint Miller, and Glenda Miller.



JUNE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

JUNE 5-Duane Berger to the glory of God and in honor of Janice on the occasion of our anniversary.

JUNE 12-To the glory of God.

JUNE 19-Barbara Rose to the glory of God and in honor of Pete on the occasion of his birthday.

JUNE 26-To the glory of God.

JULY SANCTURY FLOWERS

JULY 3-To the glory of God.

JULY 10-To the glory of God.

JULY 17-To the glory of God.

JULY 24-Mary and Steve Scarce-to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Jane C. Gilley.

JULY 31-Michelle and Rob McBane-to the glory of God and in memory of her sister, Carol Dunbar Miller.

AUGUST SANCTUARY FLOWERS

AUGUST 7-Clint and Glenda Miller-to the glory of God and in honor of their daughter, Laurel Miller Roeder, on her birthday.

AUGUST 14-Phyllis Perross-to the glory of God and in memory of her father, J. Ewell Perross.

AUGUST 21-Jim and Judy Smith-to the glory of God and in honor of the Laurel Choir which brings joy to the Worship Service.

AUGUST 28-Rick and Carol Short-to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Corinne Augustine.

SCAM ALERT: Please always remember neither your clergy nor your church will contact you through email or text to ask for your assistance to purchase gift cards for the staff. If you get one of these, it is a scam! It is confusing because we do ask for gift cards for special events or to show love to a member or non-profit. Know that the text or the email would come from our regular email address or church phone number and not from "Rev. Ann" and a different number or email address than usual. So sorry we were caught but it just speaks to our warm and generous hearts.





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

Tod Balsbaugh and Family

The Burton Family

Marshall and Gladys Chamberlayne

Reverend Ann Cherry and family

Vin Cibbarelli, father of Pastor Ann

Bonnie Clatterbuck-mother of David

Mildred Clayton, mother of Steve Scearce

Jean Cole

Wayne & Marcia Deisher

Donna Edwards

Emily, Matt, and Vivian Godon

The Henderson Family

Claudia Hicks

The Keller family

Sherrie Kolb

Howard Lawrence

Mary Lawrence

Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott

Clint Miller

LaVerne Miller

Muriel-neighbor of Michael Henderson

Eugene Peterson

Phyllis Perross

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

Carol Short

Rick Short

Dot and Page Shepherd

Autumn Waddell

Becky Zolnai

Prayers for the World

Prayers for the people of Afghanistan

Prayers for Ukraine

Prayers for Ruling Elders

Prayers for friends and families

Prayers for the hungry and homeless

Prayers for Laurel's vision team

Prayers for the incarcerated

Prayers for the COVID isolated and infected

If you know of someone in need of prayer or need prayers, please call Barbara Rose@ 270- 6978.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

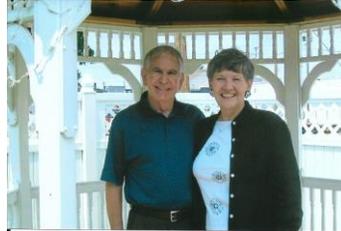
We are gathering at 9 am in the parking lot on nice days and in the fellowship hall on rainy or hot days. All are welcome. We are doing a series of "one-off" education programs so that we can dip in and out of class without worry. Check your weekly bulletin for upcoming lessons this summer.

CHOIR REHEARSAL AND SUMMER SCHEDULE

Please let David Clatterbuck, Director of Music, know if you are interested in joining us. We practice on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. That said, our summer schedule begins soon. The choir will still be singing through July and will take a sabbath for the month of August. Thursday June 16 will be the last practice until fall.



MEMBER FOCUS...Jim and Judy Smith



What drew you to Laurel:

Laurel:

Jim and Judy: Location

What keeps you at Laurel:

Laurel:

Jim and Judy: The

different opportunities to Serve. The warmth and friendliness of the Congregation.

What is your favorite thing about Laurel:

Jim and Judy: We love the music and think the Choir is amazing. The music gives us a joyful way to Worship.

Favorite Food:

Jim: Minute Steak

Judy: Crab and Salmon

Favorite Book:

Jim: Brothers Rivals Victors

Judy: Historical Novels and anything Current.

Favorite Movie:

Jim: Shawshank Redemption

Judy: Sound of Music

Favorite thing to do:

Jim: Gardening

Judy: Baking

Favorite thing to do as a Couple:

Travel with family and friends

What is on your Bedside Table:

Jim: Lamp, phone/answering machine, and a stack of books.

Judy: tissues, hand cream, a basket of stuff, a stack of books.

What is your favorite TV Show to binge:

Jim: James Bond Movies on TV

Judy: Any kind of Sports.

One thing you would never guess about me:

Jim: I was an avid runner who ran many 10K races, the Marine Marathon and I ran in many countries while I was on Military Duty.

Judy: I was an Educator for 29 years in five separate locations: -Huntington WV, Long Branch NJ.

Ft. Bragg NC, Kadena Air Base Okinawa. My last 20

years was at St. Aidan's Episcopal Day School in Alexandria, Va. Two years a kindergarten teacher. two years a first-grade teacher and 20 years as Director of the School.

The Motto we live by:

Jim: Love thy neighbor

Judy: Treat everyone with kindness.

Favorite Bible Passage:

Jim: Psalm 23

Judy: Philippians 4

Favorite Hymn:

Jim: Amazing Grace

Judy: Lord of the Dance

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MEMBER MOMENTS...

Ann Leveridge was recently appointed to serve on the food advisory committee at Spring Arbor. Well done, Ann!



Shelby McBane graduated on May 7 from East Tennessee State University with her Master's degree in English. She is currently still living in Tennessee and actively searching for a job. Excellent job Shelby!!



Congratulations to Jacob Searce who graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology! Way to Go Jacob!



Best wishes to Michael Whitby as he graduates from Glen Allen HS on Tuesday June 14. Michael will begin Virginia Tech in the fall. Hang in there, Mama Ann!!!



LAUREL SUMMER GATHERINGS

We know we love to gather as a beloved community. Here are some opportunities. We will keep this information current in our weekly bulletins which you can find at our website each week or emailed out on Saturdays.

LUNCH BUNCH: we will meet the 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, All Are Welcome

Tuesday June 21 at 11:30, Franco's Italian Restaurant

Tuesday July 19 at 11:30, Potro's Mexican Restaurant

Tuesday August 16 at 11:30, Little Szechuan Chinese Restaurant

BRUSTER'S LOVE: we will meet the first Wednesdays of the Month at 7:00pm

Wednesday June 8

Wednesday July 7

Wednesday August 3

MINI-CONFERENCE HOSTED BY LAUREL IN SEPTEMBER

We are hosting a mini conference on September 21 for clergy and church staff to explore how we might minister to our aging population in the Richmond Metro area. We are curious to see how we might combine our knowledge and resources to explore ideas for this ministry. We will need greeters and hospitality assistance to serve as the host venue.

WOULD YOU LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT

Text, email or call Ann Cherry. Hannah Miller our seminary intern will also be providing pastoral care this summer along with Chris Rhoden, our counselor in residence. You can contact Ann at laurelpres.cherry@gmail.com or at 804-508-3850. This number can receive texts also.

MID-WEEK VESPERS

We are in the exploratory phase of thinking about offering a mid-week vespers service for contemplative prayer and meditation. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity in our bulletins.

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

At our meeting on May 1 the Worship and Education Team reviewed the events from Palm Sunday through Holy Week. Appreciation ranged from the choir and music to renewing acquaintances with members past and present. Thanks go out to Member Care for using the phone chain to announce the events, to Michael Whitby and Diane Jackson for their narration during the Cantata.

We have defined the various volunteer positions to make worship run smoothly and are planning to restart the tasks and responsibilities list that was stopped during the pandemic.

As of May 15, Michael Henderson will begin the adult Sunday School class which will take place outside at 9:00am, weather permitting.

We approved the purchase of assisted listening devices to help those who have hearing issues to better hear the worship service.

Pentecost is June 5, and we look forward to celebrating the birth of the Church! Come join us and wear red! Duane Berger

MEMBER CARE AND MISSION

Our successful provision of lunch to the South Henrico Police Station will be followed by providing the same for the Central Henrico Police Station in June or July. Sue Bell will again be leading this outreach event, so stay tuned for further details in our weekly bulletin and/or a Minute for Mission announcement which will provide additional information.

We are happy to report we will have our first Lingering in over 2 years! Our first event will be held following our June 12 service, helping to celebrate our new intern Hannah Miller and her first Sunday preaching. As we plan to hold this activity outside, please check the bulletin for updates in case the weather necessitates this to be rescheduled.

We will again reach out to our congregation to request the collection of school supplies to support Virginia Randolph School for the fall. This school includes K-12, so all supplies are helpful! Please begin bringing items in during the month of August. A collection box will be provided next to the coat rack. Donations can be received throughout the month of August through Sunday September 18, 2022.

We are planning to bring back name tags for members to wear at our worship services and meetings. Denis Ramdas has designed the new name tag and Colleen Lannetti will be putting the final changes on them.

During the summer, Member Care & Mission will continue to support our members as needed. Please

contact our Team to identify any needs among the congregation that we should respond to with our support!!! Linda Coulson



A group of Laurel members traveled to the Henrico Police South Station with two SUVs full of lunch food for all the officers and command staff. We were warmly welcomed; they were so appreciative and ate very well. The fact that we came so far from Laurel Church to say thank you for your service was incredibly special to this group. We had enough food for morning, evening, and midnight shifts.
Sue Bell



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Dear Member Care friends,

Thank you for the delicious care package treats, especially cheese puffs and fruit Mentos! It's been a fast

four years and I am ready to get out on my own. Thank you for all your support! Jacob Scarce

Dear Laurel,
We appreciate your efforts in coordinating a baby supply collection for the OB clinic patients at the CrossOver Healthcare Ministry in Richmond. Laurel Presbyterian Church members were very kind to donate so many baby supplies for CrossOver patients. Over 50 expectant mothers came to the distribution day on Saturday May 7th and received diapers, wipes, and other baby supplies. Thank you for participating in this outreach drive and for your generous donations. Kind Regards, Rachel Yowell Jessica Valencia and volunteer Mary Lynn Lunn-First Presbyterian Church



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

