

LAUREL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Laurel Gazette

October 2022



### **Against All Odds, God Calls us to Engage as the Church**

Against all odds, God is reminding us that God is still active and in love with the world. Still at work connecting us with meaning, purpose, and kingdom living.

The prophet Jeremiah was told by God “to buy land” in Judah of all places. The land where the people of God were exiled. To buy land as an investment in their future, and as a sign of hope, that God had not forgotten or forsaken the people as they insinuated. This was an ask that went against conventional wisdom.

And God is asking us to do the same thing. To buy “in” against the odds in a future that God has laid out for us to occupy. To trust God more than we trust our security. To trust God more than we trust being the church as we have known it. To move out of our own way of how we have been the church to reach the people who feel disenfranchised from Love. To remind God’s people concretely that God is for them, not against them. To invest in a future that is God-created and God-filled.

Around our church, there is a lot of energy for engagement. For transformation. For living the good and Godly life. Marshall Chamberlayne taught us to jump and spread our wings. Our Small Group ministry is changing how we live out our mandate to be present in this world. Our programs are gaining traction. But there is still so much more that God is asking us to boldly see and tackle.

How might God be calling us to serve beyond what we have known? The Vision Task Force has been hard at work this past year listening and discerning the future that God has laid out for Laurel. Under the leadership of Ann Whitby, we are trying to actualize God’s vision for us. So that we might know who we really are, understand what we can do better, and how we might live out Love in this community.

For example: could we too, like in Zimbabwe, form a “Grandmother Bench” ministry where we go out to long-term care facilities and listen? Where do we bring the church out to the world? Where do we “see” God’s image and likeness in those who feel cut off from the church, from each other, from God, from Love? And where else might God lead us?

Could we too develop a clothing boutique ministry? Could we too help reduce hunger with an outdoor stocked refrigerator on our property?

Could we build a pavilion and invite our neighbors to enjoy it? Create a walking path? A soccer field? A place to gather for BBQ and worship outside?

Please be in prayer about our next steps. It might sound against the odds but just maybe God is asking us to invest in a ministry that can speak Love that reaches the unchurched, the lonely, the forgotten, the lost, the hungry, and the homeless.

Pray about it and let us discover this together.

Members of the Vision Task Force are Gladys Bowles, Bernie Cheatham, Diane Jackson, Michael Henderson, Denis Ramdas and Ann Whitby. If you would like to join the Vision Task Force, please reach out to Ann Whitby. We would love to have you.

Jeremiah 32: 8-12, *The Message* And sure enough, just as GOD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me while I was in jail and said, 'Buy my field in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin, for you have the legal right to keep it in the family. Buy it. Take it over.'

"That did it. I knew it was GOD's Message.

9-12 "So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel".

Pastor Ann Cherry



The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of **October** is **Carol Short**. Carol can be reached at 804-922-6227. Please let her know if you know of anyone who needs a phone call, visit or extra Laurel Love.



**LAUREL ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC!**

On Saturday October 22 we will be having our church picnic from 11:00 am-2:00pm. Denis Ramdas has graciously offered to host the event again this year at his lovely home. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway the first weekend in October. Duane Berger will be our master chef preparing pork BBQ in his smoker for everyone! MC&M will supply drinks, paper products/utensils, and buns. Members are asked to bring a side dish or brownies...and your appetites! Brownies with ice cream/toppings will be enjoyed for dessert Let's enjoy a lovely fall day. All are welcome!

**DENIS'S ADDRESS:**

11133 Mill Place Court Glen Allen, Va.23060

**DIRECTIONS:** From the church parking lot

Right onto Staples Mill Road

Right onto Mountain Road (Light at new Mormon Temple)

Turn left onto Mill Road (station 15 firehouse will be on your left)

Turn left into Mill Park West subdivision

Right onto Mill Place Court house is straight ahead.

Red roof

See you there! Linda Coulson



**OCTOBER SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

**October 2** Given by Janice & Duane Berger in honor of their granddaughter Vivienne Godon's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**October 9** To the Glory of God!

**October 16** Given by Rick Short in honor of Carol's birthday.

**October 23** Given by Phillis Perross in memory of her sister Patricia Morris.

**October 30** Given in memory and honor of Saints past and present at Laurel Presbyterian Church.



**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY THIS COMING YEAR!**

Eddie Ann Mathewson (1)  
Carolyn Stinger (4)  
Jill Day (6)  
Beverley Shepherd (6)  
Laura Jo Pike (11)  
Carol Short (17)  
Amber Horigan (24)  
Pauline Njorge (29)

Dear Laurel Friends,



Thank you for 16 wonderful years together. I have loved being the Director of Music at Laurel. I will miss you all and hope you will continue to be the friendly and caring church you are. Thank you so much for your support and for

the fantastic party! I will miss you all!!!

Love,  
David Clatterbuck

We would like to thank our church family for the cards, prayers and support following Steve's mother's passing.

Steve and Mary Searce



**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

**Gladys Bowles**

**Chanda-Diane and Gene Jackson's daughter**

Reverend Ann Cherry and family  
Vin Cibbarelli, father of Pastor Ann

**Jim Clark and family**

Bonnie Clatterback-mother of David  
Jean Cole

Wayne & Marcia Deisher  
Carrie Dickerson

**Alice Dunbar-Michelle McBane's mother**

Donna Edwards  
Emily, Matt, and Vivian Godon

**Claudia Hicks**

Sherrie Kolb  
Howard Lawrence

Mary Lawrence  
Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Ann McDermott  
LaVerne Miller

Muriel-neighbor of Michael Henderson

Eugene Peterson  
Phyllis Perross

Ann Roeder  
Barbara Rose

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

**The Scearce Family**

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 Gladys Chamberlayne at 755-6172**

**6172**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

The Laurel Women's Circle- will meet in the parlor on Oct. 11 at 10:00am.

Carol Short

## NEW LAUREL DIRECTORY COMING...

The directory will be updated in October. If you have any changes to your information or would like to be added to our directory, please send your information to [marcia.deisher@comcast.net](mailto:marcia.deisher@comcast.net) or give me the information on Sunday as soon as possible. Regular visitors are welcome to be included, they will be listed as friends of the church. The directory includes name, address, email address and phone number (cell and home). It is up to each individual if they wish to have all of these or some of these items included. This information is for church contact purposes only and is not distributed to anyone outside the church.

Thanks!  
Marcy Deisher



Sunday October 2 is World Communion Sunday. A time where we, along with Christians from across the globe, celebrate at the table.

This act of solidarity is a sign and symbol of God's Love for all people and a sign and symbol of our future fellowship that we will share together as kingdom citizens. It is also a placeholder for those who do not yet know they are loved. Join us this Sunday as we break bread together. We will also be collecting the *Peace and Global Witness* offering that day. Please consider giving generously.



**MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2022**

## OCTOBER LOVE...

**"Finding God in the Cracks of Loss"** – Monday Nights, 6:00 pm, in Parlor. Come and join us for an 8-week journey to find God in the cracks of our losses. This small group will dive into what makes us human and vulnerable, and yet surprisingly, also opens us up to the fresh movement of the Spirit.

**"Beloved" – Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm**

We are working our way through "Falling Upward," a Richard Rohr book that invites us to look at our lives, as God does. All are welcome.

**"Wednesdays at Laurel: A Service Initiative"** -

Every other Wednesday at 2:30 pm, Parlor. October 12, and October 26. Come and join us to speak Love

to our community. We have made cards and flower arrangements and bread. All that is needed is your participation.

**“Circle”** – The Second Tuesday of the Month, 10:00 am, in Parlor. Please join us as we dig into understanding what God intended with the “Sabbath.” We will be meeting this month in the Parlor.

**“Untapped”** – The Second Tuesday of the Month, 4:30 pm, JJ’s Grille. Please join your fellow men for a deeper look at cultural issues from a faith lens.

**“Uncorked”** – The Last Tuesday of the Month, 5:30 pm, in Parlor. All women of the church are welcome to join the conversation about the issues that concern you from a faith perspective.

**“The Lunch Bunch”** – The Last Thursday of the Month, 11:45 pm. Jake’s Place. Come out and enjoy a delicious meal with good people. We are meeting this month at Jake’s Place in Ashland on October 27. Jake’s Place is located at 511 Thompson Street, Ashland, VA.



Please remember our Laurel college students, Meghan, who is in her third year of nursing at Milligan University and Michael, who is in his first year at Virginia Tech, with a card or care package this fall. A little TLC from home is always welcome.

Meghan McBane  
710 Rambling Rd  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Michael's address:  
West Ambler Johnson, Room 7545  
720 Washington St  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9522



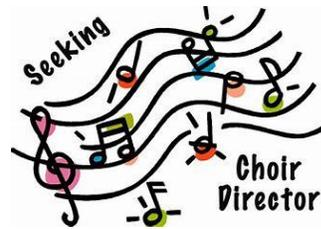
## FAITH & BLUE

Faith and Blue is a national initiative to bring faith communities together with law enforcement. Their mission statement: "The mission of Faith and Blue weekend is to facilitate safer and stronger communications by engaging law enforcement officers and local residents through the connections with faith-based organizations". We will be planning an event

here at the church in October for our own HPD community officers in conjunction with this initiative. Watch for more information to come.

Sue Bell

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**THE LAMB’S BASKET:** The Women’s Circle continues to collect food for our local food pantry. They are collecting any canned food items and, paper bags with handles. The donation box is in the Narthex.



**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SEARCH TEAM:** The Session has appointed Glenda Miller, chair, and Gladys Bowles, Vickie Chapman, and Denis Ramdas to serve as our Director of Music search committee. The job description is posted. We will keep you updated as information is available. Please keep the Search Team in your prayers

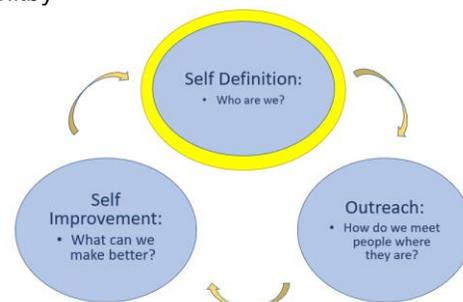
### VISION TEAM

What’s in a tagline? It is something short and sweet that tells a person what your “brand” is. What is important to you. Here are some examples:



What is Laurel’s brand? We are welcoming, hospitable, friendly, big hearts. We like to come together and celebrate. The Vision Team is looking for a tagline that tells people who we are. So put your thinking caps on! You can submit any ideas to Ann Whitby or anyone on the Vision Team. We look forward to seeing your ideas!

Ann Whitby



## MEMBER CARE AND MISSION

September 4, 2022

Member Care and Missions continues to provide support for those with illness/surgeries and many prayer concerns.

Planning for the upcoming church picnic on October 22. The picnic will be at Denis Ramdas's home. We will put a sign-up sheet in Narthex for members so we can get a count of how many will attend and what side dishes will be brought. Duane Berger has graciously offered to provide BBQ. MCM will provide buns, drinks, and paper products. And ice cream for sundaes for dessert!

Peace and Global Witness offering to be collected on October 2 during World Communion Sunday.

Many thanks to all of those who donated school supplies and to Margie Fitch for taking all of them to Virginia Randolph. The staff were very appreciative.

Gladys Chamberlayne to head up the prayer chain. Many thanks to Barbara Rose for her years of service.

The Car Care kits mission went well. We will do another mission with this in January/February.

Pete MacRae, bookkeeper, provided us with information on budgeted donations and special offerings.

New members provided with a gift from MCM.

Brenda MacRae

## WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

September 18, 2022

Discussed the fifth Sunday in October, Halloween Eve. Several events proposed: Lighting candles for those who have passed, including those from Trinity and Lakeside. History of Halloween. And a church memory plaque litany.

Veteran's Day service- Will be held on Sunday November 13 as Veteran's Day is on Friday November 11.

Homecoming Stay tuned about more about this special service in October/November.

Christmas and New Year's-both will be on Sundays this year. Service will be at noon on those days. Christmas Eve service will also be at noon, to give families time to be together.

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR FALL EVENTS AT CAMP HANOVER!



**Fall Mini Camp October 7-9** This new event for campers in grades 5-12 bridges the gap between summer camp and winter camp. Campers enjoy fun activities like archery, hiking, and gaga ball and will explore their faith with devotions and Bible study. Like at our other youth programs, campers are grouped into units of 10 to 12 similarly aged kids, with each group supervised by our amazing staff.

**Women's Retreat October 21-22** Plan on a night away at Camp Hanover with an excellent group of ladies. Our women's retreat gives you the opportunity to slow down and enjoy time in this place apart. Through keynote addresses and group discussions, you will have a chance to grow in your faith.

**Hollowed Harvest Select Nights, September 23 – October 30** Take an evening stroll through Camp Hanover's woods decorated with more than 7,000 incredible carved pumpkins. Enjoy harvest-themed refreshments as you and your family view this dazzling display of lights.



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](mailto:pamacrae@comcast.net)

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9675 Staples Mill Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

