



Laurel Gazette

January 2023



THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Reverend Ann

We wait for it, and wait for it, and wait for it, and then in a blink of an eye Christmas comes and goes. In a nanosecond, we have turned away from the stable and we are off and running to receive the revelation of Epiphany and the wisdom of Lent. In a flash, we have turned away from the birth and are off and running back into our ordinary lives as if nothing extraordinary just took place.

This year, I would like us to linger a bit longer at the stable. To linger and savor the joy that meets us there. To linger and savor the gift of all gifts in the birth that changed all – including our own. During Advent season, we listened to John the Baptizer who called us to “change our hearts” to prepare to receive this gift. To change our hearts so we might see the love that is there for us – the love that is poured out for us, the love that is broken for us, the love that is given to us – to each one every day.

Something extraordinary happened some 2,000 years ago and it begs our attention. It begs us to linger a little bit longer to identify the larger Gift and the personal Gift to us. To identify what God is giving us this year, in this particular stage of our lives, in our own unique circumstances. To linger long enough to allow our hearts to melt, if John the Baptizer has not already helped us along, so we might soak up the goodness revealed inside of all of us, and all around us, by that One in the manger. To linger long enough to see the bigger gift and our own gift – and to receive it.

And before we leave, to look into the skies, still hearing the heavenly hosts singing out and ponder...what is our gift to God this year...and wait for it to come...just as we waited breathlessly for Christmas to come. This is just too extraordinary to rush back into our ordinary lives as if nothing magical happened that changed everything.

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
and Prince of Peace.”

Upcoming Events:

Sunday January 1-New Year's Day

12:00 Noon-Worship Service/Communion/Good Samaritan Offering

Wednesday January 4

1:00pm "Use your Inside Voice-Writing for Creativity and Exploration"

Thursday January 5

5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday January 8

10:00am Worship Service

11:00am Committee meetings

Tuesday January 10

10:00am Women's Circle Meets in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday January 11

1:00pm "Use your Voice-Writing for Creativity and Exploration"

2:30pm Wednesdays at Laurel meets

Thursday January 12

5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday January 14

9:00am Church De-decorating

Sunday January 15

10:00am Worship Service

11:00am Lingering in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday January 16

1:00pm "Use your Inside Voice" meets

Thursday January 19

5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday January 22

10:00am Worship Service

Wednesday January 25

1:00pm "Use your Inside Voice" meets

2:30pm Wednesdays at Laurel meets

Thursday January 26

5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday January 29

10:00am Worship Service/ Five cents a Meal Offering

Tuesday January 31

5:30pm "Uncorked" meets in Parlor



The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of **January is Bonnie Poff**. Bonnie can be reached at 804-672-0911. Please contact her if you know of anyone who needs some extra Laurel love or support.



JANUARY SANCTUARY FLOWERS

January 1 – Given to the Glory of God.

January 8 – Given by Mary Jane Bowlin to the glory of God and in memory of Stafford "FLASH" Bowlin.

January 15 – Given to the Glory of God.

January 22 – Given by Janice Berger to the Glory of God and in honor of Duane Berger's birthday week.

January 29 – Given to the Glory of God.



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS! MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY THIS YEAR!

Van't Riet, Rudy (4)
Rose, Shane (6)
Carrie Dickerson (9)
Wayne Alvis (18)
Berger, Duane (23)
MacRae, Brenda (24)

LEGACY MEMBER AT LAUREL GLADYS WATSON

CROSS BOWLES 1927-2022

Gladys Watson Cross Bowles, 95, of Richmond, VA, went to be with the Lord on December 24, 2022. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Herbert Seth Bowles. She is survived by her children, Richard Matt Cross (Nancy) and Ann Catherine Cross Roeder (Leroy); grandchildren, Flynn, Autumn (Stephen), Blake; great-



grandchildren, Davis, Bennett, Ellie, and Laynie; sister, Pauline Lantz. Born in 1927 in Richmond, she graduated from Glen Allen High School. She attended Richmond Professional Institute, where she was a player on the basketball and field hockey teams. She went on to a career working for the Henrico County Police Dept. as the records and information manager, as well as sitting on the board of Henrico County Federal Credit Union. She was a devoted member of Laurel Presbyterian Church, where her passion for music led her to a lifetime of service as music director and organist. Gladys' musicianship and loyalty served the Order of the Eastern Star as well for 64 years, where she was Grand Organist. She brought comfort to fellow seniors singing with the 'Cheers' entertaining group for 28 years. She acted as president of garden clubs and was a VFGC Board Member. Gladys above all adored her children and grandchildren, all of whom will miss her dearly. The family will celebrate her life at a later date. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, please donate in her memory to Laurel Presbyterian Church.

CAROL CUMMENS



My family moved to the Lakeside community when I was 5 years old. We attended Lakeside Presbyterian Church. I was married in that church and raised Michael and Melissa there. I was divorced and remarried to Briant Cummens, and we have been married 40 years. He has three boys, and they live with their families in Utah. We have

fourteen grandchildren who live all over the US. In my early years, I taught children's Sunday school. I was an Elder, active in Circle and worked with Distress Aide for clients in the community who fell through the cracks for help.

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WELCOME TO THREE OF OUR NEWEST LAUREL MEMBERS:

LINDA AND ELWOOD PATTERSON



We are both from Staunton Virginia. We met, dated, and married shortly after graduation from Woodrow High School. Woody got a job with the Quaker Oats Company as a Sales Representative, and we moved to Richmond in 1960 where our two sons were born. We moved to Roanoke Virginia in 1966. Two years Later we

accepted a sales job with Johnson and Johnson in Annandale, Virginia after two years we were transferred to Virginia Beach where our third son was born. We moved back to Staunton for a brief time then back to Richmond in 1970 where we have remained. Linda went to work at Henrico County Food service as Cafeteria Manager for 25 years before retiring. Woody went into the car business as a sales manager and General Manager of several Dealerships before retiring. Woody traveled and played softball for 64 Years. We have three sons with us in Henrico, two are married. We have three grandchildren and twin great grandsons. We are so proud of them and their accomplishments. Linda has lots of activities and enjoys playing cards, games with friends, and doing puzzles and sudoku. We attended Lakeside Presbyterian Church for 25 years before it closed.

We are very happy to have joined Laurel. Everyone has made us feel welcome and at home.

DE-DECORATING PARTY SATURDAY JANUARY 14



Join us as we de-decorate the church and store Christmas away for another year on Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 am.



HEART ORNAMENTS: You can still pick up your heart ornament from the communion table throughout the month of January. Record God's gift to you and your gift to God and hang it where you can see it every day.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT LAUREL...

"Use Your Inside Voice – Writing for Creativity and Exploration" Join us on Wednesdays in January at 1:00 pm for spirituality from the inside out. Just bring a notebook and a pen. In February we will begin a new book, *Hope: A User's Manual*, written by Presbyterian minister, MaryAnn McKibben Dana.

"Uncorked" Join us on Tuesday January 31, the last Tuesday of the month, at 5:30 pm to mull over contemporary issues with a faith lens. Snacks will be provided. This is a small group for women meeting the last Tuesday of the month in the Parlor.

"Wednesdays at Laurel" starts up on January 11 and will meet every other week. This is a community service group.

Find your Team: Laurel offers four teams for you to make your voice known – Member Care and Missions, Stewardship and Property, Vision Task Force and

Worship and Education. This new year is a great time to connect and join. In January, we are meeting on January 8 right after worship. There is a seat reserved for you at the table. We are stronger together.



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

The Bowles Family

Reverend Ann Cherry and family
Vin Cibbarelli, father of Pastor Ann
Gladys Chamberlayne
Helen Clark
Jean Cole

Matt and Nancy Cross and family

Wayne & Marcia Deisher

Carrie Dickerson

Alice Dunbar-Michelle McBane's mother

Donna Edwards

Emily, Matt, and Vivian Godon

Claudia Hicks

Sherrie Kolb

Beth and Mark Wood and Family (Ginger Lanier's family)

Howard Lawrence

Mary Lawrence

Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Joan McArthur

Ann McDermott

LaVerne Miller

Muriel-neighbor of Michael Henderson

Eugene Peterson

Phyllis Perross

Chris Rhoden and family

Ann Roeder and family

Barbara Rose

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

Steve Searce and Family

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 nominating committee

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

Your Voice Needed in Worship: If you have a passion for serving in worship, please reach out to Reverend Ann. She is putting together the Spring Liturgist schedule from February through May.

“Beholding with Spirit”: We are looking for “Beholders” – those interested in learning how to actively “see and behold” Christ in the other. The goal is to equip “beholders” with “seeing” and “listening” skills in order to walk alongside others in our church. We are trying to move from a pastor centered church to the Body of Christ – where we can care for one another in the name of the Church. If this interests you, please reach out to Reverend Ann or to Chris Rhoden. More information forthcoming in February.

CHOIR BACK IN REHEARSALS



fun begin!

Have a passion to sing? Have you been keeping your shower singing to yourself? Consider joining the choir on Thursday nights at 5:30 pm for rehearsal. Howard Lawrence is our guest choir director, and our choir has come back to life! Let the



COAL PIT CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Christmas gifts were brought to fourteen children at the Coal Pit Learning Center on Wednesday December 14 by Margaret Fitch, Linda Coulson, Mary Jane Bowlin, and Brenda MacRae. The children greeted us with lots of hugs and smiles. They were very excited and grateful to receive the gifts as was Maria Washington the Director.

Margaret Fitch pictured here with gifts under the tree at Laurel. Thank you to our Laurel family for your generosity of heart.



Poinsettia Love

Wayne Alvis

In memory of John Alvis
and in memory of Sue Alvis Miltz

Janice and Duane Berger

In honor of our daughter Emily Godon
and our son Chris Berger

Vickie and Graham Chaplin

In memory of Regina and John Moore
and in memory of Freda Arnold Lynn and Karen Chaplin

Reverend Ann

In honor of Glenda Miller for her weekly music/bulletin
love and the Director of Music search love.
In honor of Clint and Glenda Miller for their lawn love.
In honor of Pete and Brenda MacRae for their newsletter
love.
In honor of Rob McBane for his Treasurer love.
In honor of Pete MacRae for his bookkeeping and lawn
love.
In honor of Gladys Bowles for all of her Laurel love.
In honor of Carolyn Stinger and LaVerne
Miller for their bulletin love.
In honor of our Elders for all of your love, care and
service.
In honor of Howard Lawrence Jr. for his music directing
love.
In honor of Duane Berger and Michael Henderson for
their Clerk and Documentarian love and loyal service.
In honor of our liturgists for their weekly love.

Jill and Megan Day

In memory of Richard Day

Michael Henderson

In memory of Linda V. Henderson

Eugene and Diane Jackson

In memory of Lillian E. Green (mother)
and Harold Jackson (brother)

Denis Ramdas

In memory of William and Ameena Ramdas
and in memory of Malcolm McArthur
and in honor of Joan Mc Arthur

Pete and Barbara Rose

In honor of Brenda MacRae
and in honor of our children and grandchildren

Steve, Mary Scearce, and family

In memory of Steve's mom, Mildred Clayton

Roy Shore

In memory of Constance Shore

Scott Stoops

In honor of the United States Armed Forces

Rudy van't Riet

In memory of Bart and Judy van't Riet

Ann Whitby

In memory of Julia Ann Greenwood



Thank you to all
who contributed
to our annual
Christmas Joy

offering. We collected \$530! This Offering addresses the
support needed by some of our leaders, including
supporting leadership development for communities of
color, and providing support for Presbyterian church
workers in their time of need.

To My Laurel Church
Family,

Thank you so much
for the lovely basket
of flowers. They
lasted long so I was
able to enjoy them for
days. Your
thoughtfulness meant so much to me. Hope to see you
soon.

With love,
Gladys Chamberlayne



VIRGINIA RANDOLPH CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Thank you all for your very
generous donations of food,
money, and gift cards to our
Virginia Randolph family.
Diane Jackson, Margaret
Fitch, and Brenda and Pete
MacRae took a trunk full of
groceries, \$100 worth of gift
cards, gifts, a turkey, and a
ham to the family on
Tuesday December 20. The
family was very appreciative
and thankful for our support.
Laurel members came
through again with their love and unending generosity.



MEMBER CARE AND MISSION REPORT Sunday December 11, 2022

MC& M looks forward to 2023 with plans for increased activities for the congregation and ongoing care and support for our members in need. As a church, we are excited to return to regular lingerings following worship on the third Sunday of each month. Session Teams will be responsible for lingerings on an alternating basis. We also plan to resume holding some church dinners following worship on Sundays. Our first lingering hosted by our Stewardship & Property Team is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, following worship. Our initial dinner event will be a Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 19, following worship. We challenge any cook with a great chili recipe to prepare a pot of chili to share and participate in our competition!! A sign-up sheet will be posted for our chili participants, as well as for others to bring side dishes such as cornbread, salad, and desserts. Bring your appetites!!

Linda Coulson



SESSION REPORT December 18, 2022

Friends, the Session met on Sunday, December 18 and here's what we discussed—

We acknowledged and celebrated those who recently became members at Laurel: Susan Dameron who joined Laurel by reaffirmation of faith on December 18. Linda and Woody Patterson, Bill and Beverly Shepherd and Carol Cummins, all from Lakeside, who joined on December 11.

Upcoming Presbytery meetings are 2/18/23, 6/20/23, and 10/21/23. If you are an Elder at Laurel, please consider attending! Ask me how.

Worship & Education shared that there will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake meal and an Ash Wednesday service with a soup supper – times to be announced soon. They also received Session approval to create a designated fund for the projector/computer.

Member Care & Mission reported that their Coal Pit School visit was a welcome experience and LPC will focus to enhance their reading program. Food/gifts went out to Virginia Randolph Christmas family this week. And the team announced that lingerings are back! Look for the third Sunday events to start up in January!

Stewardship & Property said they are putting together an internment policy for people wishing to have their loved one's remains spread or buried at Laurel. And they

finalized a plan for informing church members of snow cancellations. Once the decision is made to close for a weather threat, the phone chain will be activated along with a church-wide email to let people know.

Michael Henderson reported that several people have agreed to come on the next Session. The Nominating Committee continues their search for more, so when contacted by them, please give it prayerful consideration.

The Music Director Search goes on with Glenda Miller heading the search.

Time was spent coming up with ideas for managing the office at Laurel. There are multiple tasks that need attention on a weekly basis. We have considered hiring a part-time office manager, but in the interest of being kinder to our budget, we are hoping for volunteer help to come forward. We need people who will organize the Sunday bulletin, track and order supplies, someone to take on the website and use it as a tool to attract people who are curious about who we are, and someone, or a couple of friends working together, to spend a few hours a week organizing the church calendar, keeping track of visitors, sending out email reminders –general office activities. If any of these needs touch your heart, please let me know. Many hands make light work and together we can start the new year with an organized office. Please give it prayerful thought. We need you.

Wishing you a healthy and spirit-filled New Year!

Duane Berger, Clerk of the Session



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"It was a lot more fun takin' them
OUT of their box 'stead of
putting them back IN."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

January Newsletter