



# Northside NEWS

Northside Presbyterian Church

September 2017

Blacksburg, Virginia

*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

Dear Friends,



Recent events in the news, and disturbingly close to home have impressed on us the need for Christians to witness to the love and mercy of Jesus

Christ and to resist whatever stands in the way of peace and reconciliation. Our denomination has an awareness policy called "We Choose Welcome," intended to help congregations chart a course through these difficult times. The website reminds us:

"To welcome others is a central value of the Christian faith, shared by most of the world's religions. The call to welcome the stranger is so common in the Bible that one must wonder if it is so oft repeated because of its importance, or because we are so quick to disregard it. In this time of great global and domestic conflict, perhaps both are true.

- In the midst of fear of terrorism and radicalism, we choose to welcome those who flee from terror and tyranny.
- In the midst of hate speeches and hate crimes, we choose to welcome those who are rejected because of their skin color or their foreign dress.
- In the midst of anxiety about our own economic prosperity, we choose to welcome those who come from distant lands to labor in our fields and our warehouses.
- In the midst of political debates which seek to divide us between those who are born here and those who are not, we choose welcome, a welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household."

Our session has chosen to spend the next year focusing on welcome. This is nothing new—Welcome is part of our mission statement. We will be considering ways to make it known to our community that all are welcome here, and to extend the invitation to join us. My prayer is that each of us will stand for welcome and hospitality for all God's beloved children.

Peace,

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. – Morning Worship  
11:00 A.M. – Sunday School

### USHERS

Sept. 3: Ron Pearson & Marshall Chaney  
Sept. 10: Sue & Ernie Bentley  
Sept. 17: Jilk-Stowe Family  
Sept. 24:

### FLOWERS

Sept. 3: Communion  
Sept. 10: Sandy & Clark Gaylord  
Sept. 17: Lisa Garcia  
Sept. 24: Sandi & Jack Webster

### Officers On Call

Aug. 27-Sept. 2: Clark Gaylord,  
540-641-1439  
Sept. 3-9: Mary Lough,  
540-250-5810  
Sept. 10-16: Heidi Harper,  
540-392-0057  
Sept. 17-23: Bruce Harper,  
540-540-231-4360  
Sept. 24-30: Sue Bentley,  
540-651-3170

*\*Suspicion is like a pair of colored glasses - it makes all the world look dark.*

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Sept. 3:** Ex. 3: 1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Rom. 12:9-21  
Matt. 16:21-28

**Sept. 17:** Ex. 14:19-31  
Psalm 114 or Ex. 15:1b-11  
Rom. 14:1-12  
Matt. 18:21-35

**Sept, 10:** Ex. 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Rom. 13:8-14  
Matt. 18:15-20

**Sept. 24:** Ex. 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Phil. 1:21-30  
Matt. 20:1-16,3

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**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS !**

- 3 Carter Gaylord
- 4 Bill McGrory
- 8 Kay Hunnings
- 14 Rachel Frimpong
- 15 Sylvia Conner
- 18 Eric Heinze
- 20 Millie Anderson



*If your birthday is not listed here, you probably have not given it to us. We want to have everyone's birthday on file. Please give us a call at the church office and tell us the date of your birthday. We promise not to ask the year!*

***HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

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***FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!***

**Interfaith Food Pantry needs help in stocking their pantry. Let's remember to bring food to the church to fill our barrel and help those less fortunate**

**MISSION NEWS: UKIRK MINISTRY AT VIRGINIA TECH  
FEED THE FLOCK  
Fall 2017**

Northside’s Schedule for Feeding The Flock this Fall:  
September 5, 2017  
October 10, 2017  
November 7, 2017

Meals begin at 6:00 pm and if you can help provide a meal or part of a meal either of these dates, please see Mary Lough, Chair of our Mission Committee. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

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**A sincere thank you** to the Northside congregation for donating 211 jars of peanut butter for Micah’s Back Pack project which assists over 3,000 hungry children in Montgomery County.

Another thank you is in order for those who have recently contributed to our Presbytery of the Peaks mission in Guatemala. Our gifts will be delivered to the CEDEPCA mission by Cathy Carpenter as she escorts a group of 20 to visit and assist in churches.

Stay aware of other Northside mission projects and news by watching our updated bulletin board to bring Presbyterians up to date. This time we are featuring Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands. PCHH has kicked off their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 3 year Celebration with a Garden of Hope. Here three vertical columns will be engraved with PEACE, LOVE & JOY awaiting donations of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 respectively. Your donation will: **GIVE CHILDREN HOPE AND PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE**, the motto for our Presbyterian Children’s home in Wytheville.

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**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

The women of Northside will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month for Bible Study. We will be studying the book, **“Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews”** by Melissa Bane Sevier. Rev. Linda will be leading this study which begins at 1:30 pm in the old kitchen at the church. Refreshments are served and all women are invited!!!

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**Update from Congregatioanl Transformation Team:**

The CT team continues to meet on a monthly basis as has been recommended by our retreat leader, R. Wayne Calhoun. R. Wayne has provided the plan of action we are following for Northside.

Our July meeting leader was Clark Gaylord. Following our guidelines, we studied 3 specific scriptures: Romans 12:9-16; Romans 12:17-21 and we got started on Acts 1 before time ran out. Each scripture was followed by discussion and prayer.

Marshall Chaney will be the August meeting leader and we ask the Northside membership to keep your Congregational Transformation Team in your prayers.

Submitted by Bev Lineweaver

**Session Notes:**

The Session met on August 20, 2017 for the first time since early June. We are now preparing for our Fall activities. The Fall picnic will be on September 10 after worship. Sunday School will begin on September 17. Rev. Linda will be away on September 24.

Rev. Carl Utley, Transitional General Presbyter, will be with us on November 12. He will be meeting with the Session after worship.

Due to a decrease in the number of people asking for homebound communion, we made a slight adjustment in the protocol for serving.

We reviewed the Financial report for the first half of the year. We are slightly above budget in income and slightly below in expenses.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon and will be asking many of us to serve as officers in the coming year. Please be open to that opportunity to serve our church and community.

As has been noted in the “e-update” our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in two years. We will be forming a committee soon to lead us in our celebration of that occasion.

The largest portion of the meeting was spent discussing how we as a church community would respond to the recent events in Charlottesville. The Session voted to endorse “**We Choose Welcome**” as our theme and call to action for your congregation. This means we will actively welcome all who come to us and will reach out to invite others. Those who come may not always be the people we are used to seeing at Northside and we will welcome everyone. Heidi Harper has accepted the challenge of giving us some concrete ways to express our welcome to all. There will be more to come on this issue.

Sue Bentley, Clerk of Session

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**Proverbs 18:20 “WORDS satisfy the soul...”** Do you remember the little stars that Reverend Linda Offered to everyone last January? Each of those stars had a WORD written on it – a word for us to ponder all during 2017. Do you still have yours? (Marya Katz, our choir director, has hers hanging from the sun visor in her car –so that she will see it every time she drives!) The Worship Committee would now like for members of the congregation to share your special WORD during worship services in 2018. We are looking for volunteers to speak for about a minute in offering your reflection on that word; this could be your understanding of how it was manifested during the year, or reading a poem that the word is featured in, or telling how the word impacted your interactions in daily living, or reading passages from the Bible which clarify the word through scripture, or even simply giving the definition – whatever you feel is appropriate in describing how you were affected by the WORD itself. If you feel uncomfortable in sharing “up front” you may even ask someone else to read your thoughts; however, we are hoping that there will be sufficient volunteers to share their thoughts that we can hear one “WORD of the Week” every week in 2018. We will begin with these short presentations of the WORD in January, so you have plenty of time to consider. Please let Reverend Linda, Marya Katz, or Paul Ruzler (co-chairs of the Worship Committee) know if you would be willing to do this, and then choose a date to speak that is convenient for you. Oh, and if you have lost your star...Reverend Linda will be happy to provide you with another word – just ask!

**ATTENTION Northside YOUTH (middle & high schoolers) & Parents:**

Mark your Calendars for Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-7:30 PM

We are trying to get a group of youth together to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Trent Youth Rally – *Belonging To Each Other* on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 5-7:30 PM at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke (dinner is included). Rachel Sutphin has attended the rally each year and highly recommends it and describes it as a “week”-long church camp experience rolled into 2 ½ hrs”! She is willing to go again this year with our NP youth.

We will need a count by the Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> registration deadline. So let us now if you want more information or would like to sign-up, please contact either Rachel Sutphin at [rachel97@vt.edu](mailto:rachel97@vt.edu); or CE committee member, Liz Allen ([lizallen@vta.edu](mailto:lizallen@vta.edu)).

Additional information from the event’s website (<http://www.spres.org>): The leader at this year’s rally will be THE REV. HOWARD DUDLEY, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dunn, NC. The music leader will STEVEN HALL, a professional musician living in Durham, NC and the son of a Presbyterian organist. This program is open to youth, grades 6-12, from across the Roanoke Valley and beyond.

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**September 17, 2:00 – 4:00 pm –David Gray, son of Gail and Caryl,** will be giving the National Constitution Day Lecture based on his recently published book, ***The Fourth Amendment in an Age of Surveillance***. This free lecture is sponsored by the P.E.O. Chapter AU, an international philanthropic organization dedication to education, and will be held at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. David is a professor of law at the University of Maryland Cary School of Law.

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***You can make more friends in a month by being interested in them than in ten years by trying to get them interested in you.***

-Charles L. Allen, *Roads to Radiant Living*

**DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER:**

**September 1: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for the Care of Creation**

**3: COMMUNION  
Choir Resumes**

**4: LABOR DAY (Church Office Closed)**

**6: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**

**10: 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering  
Committees to meet after church  
CHURCH PICNIC**

**13: Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.**

**14: Women's Bible Study, 1:30 pm at the church  
(*Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews*)  
by Melissa Bane Sevier**

**17: Sunday School Begins  
Session Meeting following worship**

**18-25: Rev. Linda out of town**

**20: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**

**24: Guest Minister**

**27: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**

**Check Us Out...**

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1017 Progress Street, N.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: 540-552-4327

Email Address: [secretary.northside@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.northside@gmail.com)

Minister's Email: [dickerson.northside@gmail.com](mailto:dickerson.northside@gmail.com)

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