

Welcome Home! Come Walk With Us!



Northside

NEWS

Northside Presbyterian Church

May 2018

Blacksburg, Virginia

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that May is here already. It is the time for graduations, weddings, Spring arriving (finally!), the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacations.

It is also the time when I reflect on the previous months at our church. There is much to think about this year. Our Transformation Team has been at work, reading about possibilities for church renewal, praying together, listening for God's guidance about what Northside's mission should be. We have embarked on some new endeavors: Breakfast Church, quarterly Sunday evening concerts, One Night Bible Study (we are up to the prophets now), and a plan for summer hot dog suppers on the lawn.

The other thing I think about is all those whose dedicated service makes our ministry happen. I hesitate to name names, because I would be sure to leave out someone important. But, of course, there are our officers: session members who make decisions about the present and future of our church; deacons who offer compassionate care for all the members of our church, but especially those who are sick or bereaved; choir members who offer beautiful music each Sunday; liturgists who bring God's word to us and pray with us each worship time; Sunday School teachers who help us learn. There are so many more: child care givers, bulletin board makers, doughnut fixers, table setter-uppers, ushers, communion preparers and servers, building repairers, check writers, flower providers, and I could go on and on. And I couldn't begin to tell you all the ways our members serve all over the New River Valley.

This May, take some time to explore with someone else at church how they serve God within this church, and out in our community. And consider your own service, and how we praise God through our worship AND our work.

Peace,

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. – Morning Worship

11:00 A.M. – Sunday School

USHERS

May 6: Joe & Kay Hunnings

May 13: Steve Cole & Namhoon Kim

May 20: Sue & Ernie Bentley;

May 27: Sandi Webster &

Lucian Robinson

FLOWERS

May 6: COMMUNION

May 13: Sue & Joe Herbein

May 20: Rosemary & Steve Cole

May 27: Libby & Dave Miencke

Officers On Call

April 29-May 5: Paul Ruszler,
540-951-0123

May 6-12: Steve Cole,
540-953-0434

May 13-19: Sue Bentley,
540-651-3170

May 20-26: Bruce Harper,
540-231-4360

May 27-June 2: Paul Ruszler,
540-951-1234

****When at night you cannot
Sleep, talk to the Shepherd
and stop counting sheep.***

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

May 6: Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 20: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 13: Acts 1:15-17
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 27: Isa. 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Rom. 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Church's 75th Anniversary

In anticipation of the celebrations that will take place in 2019 for the 75th Anniversary, we are currently gathering photos of events at Northside from past years. Are you someone who might have at your home any interesting photos or videos taken of church events? If so, please contact any member of the anniversary committee. We are especially interested in those taken since 2000. Thank you! Liz Allen, Frieda Bostian, Tina McMahan, and Sandi Webster.

BREAKFAST CHURCH, MAY 6, 2018

The early Christians gathered for worship around a meal. They prayed, sang, taught from the scriptures, and told stories of Jesus' life. They shared the Lord's Supper together. Through these worship-meals they were knit into a beloved community of God's people. Everyone was welcomed. Breakfast church today is a way of reclaiming this style of worship, based on the Moravian agape meals.

We will gather for a special breakfast church May 6 at our regular worship time. As we share a meal, open our lives to one another, and offer our praise and thanksgiving to God, something incredible can happen. This act will remind us that God is deeply involved in all of our shared meals and every moment of community. It will give us an opportunity to welcome our neighbors and friends to break bread with us.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: May 10, 2018

The women of Northside will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month for Bible Study. We are 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!!!

Psalm 23 is a cherished scripture because it expresses a lot about life in the real world. It does not paint a picture of a perfect life in which days are always sunny and simple, when our relationships with others are friendly and uncomplicated. This psalm understands a life with shadows and valleys, especially in the face of death. It gives us permission to acknowledge our enemies, neither denying their existence nor being consumed by their threats. Whether those enemies are human beings or other imposing forces, the psalmist knows we face them.

And that's why it is odd that its opening words seem so unfamiliar to us: “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” The psalmist may not have wants, but we sure feel like we do. In fact, we allow our wants to drive us. We tend to assess our lives not based on what we have but on what we haven't yet acquired. We compare our lives with those around us and listen to the messages of material desire from our culture. We want to be more admired, more respected, and more appreciated. We want to have the best house and the best car. We want to wear clothes that won't embarrass us and sport bodies that others envy. We want to have the brightest children, the most accomplished career, and the most adorned trophy case.

But this psalm offers a contrary message: God has already given us everything we need. And the future tense of the verb suggests that we “shall not want,” no matter what happens next.

So while this psalm brings comfort, it challenges us in a significant way: to find contentment in the present day, to locate God's blessings in our lives, and to give thanks for them.

*God, thank you for supplying all my needs.
May I be grateful for your sustenance daily.
Amen.*

-Magrey R. Devega, Senior pastor, Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida
-copied from *Disciplines* (A Book of Daily Devotions)

MAY BIRTHDAYS !

- 2 Greg Adel
- 3 Jack Webster
- 4 Joe McGrory
- 6 Nedra Underwood
- 8 Kathy Carpenter
- 12 Emily Bender
Martha McMahan
- 14 Yena Kim
- 22 Hunter Hancock
Matthew Harper
- 23 Michael Ayares
Namhoon Kim
- 24 John Ogburn
- 27 John Heinze
- 30 Sue Bentley
Don Bloss
Linda Dickerson



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

From the Mission Committee -

"I want to tell you a secret." I said "I might not be able to keep the secret". He said "That is why I am telling you." The 'not so secret' secret is "Northside contributes more per capita to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry than any other church. During 2017, of the approximately \$14,750 donated through the church, the Mission Committee gave \$4000. The rest came through individual contributions and your use of the Kroger Community Rewards Program. In 2017 we paid for all the eggs (\$4,127) and milk (\$6,881) given to the patrons of the food pantry. We also paid for all the eggs and milk in 2016. Because of the shrinking budget at Northside the Mission Committee will not be able to donate as much for milk this year. If you can help provide extra funds for eggs or milk, mark your contribution (check to Northside) appropriately for its use.

Thank you for your wonderful support of the food pantry and the families/individuals it serves. Also, Thank You to our 10+ volunteers who help the food pantry patrons 2 days each month.

****Arguments provide plenty of heat but little light.***

Prayer Request Station

The Worship Committee recognizes the need for many to want prayers offered in a more private and confidential manner than simply calling them out or having them announced during the worship service. Therefore, a station has been placed in the *sanctuary*, with cards to be filled out at any time during each week for specific requests. On Sundays after worship, members of the Session and the Deacons (who are tasked with confidentiality) will take the cards and offer those requested prayers during the following week. For further information or if there are any questions, please contact Linda.

Join Us to Celebrate Lynn Long's 90th Birthday!

Saturday, May 19, 2018

2 to 4 pm

Northside Presbyterian Church

1017 Progress Street, NW

Blacksburg, Virginia

NO GIFTS PLEASE / CARDS WELCOME

RSVP to Robin Speer at 217-577-5428

By Friday, May 4th

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (Synod of the Mid-Atlantic)

30th Anniversary

Summer Gathering, June 8 – 10, 2018

God's Promise

I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

-Genesis 28:15

Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

(A fun time of learning, worship, eating, singing etc.)

Come & Invite a Friend

(See the bulletin board for more information and registration slip.

Registration must be in by May 8, 2018)

***“For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen.
What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever.***

-2 Corinthians 4:18

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of this earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.**

**Northside Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights April 15, 2018**

When the Session met on April 15 the following items were discussed.

We received an update from the 75th Anniversary Committee who is planning a celebration for next year. More information will come as the plans become more definite.

Treasurer Clark Gaylord informed us that both income and expenses for the church were down for the year. Everyone is asked to make sure all pledges are up to date.

The Fellowship Committee’s name was changed to Fellowship and Community Outreach at the request of the Committee.

Fellowship and Community Outreach Committee, along with Christian Education and the Transition Team, is planning a summer series of light suppers starting in June. More details will follow from the committees.

Our Worship and Study centered around a Gallop Poll survey on “Why People Go to Church”. We discussed different types of sermons and what people learned from sermons.

Thanks, for Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing!

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of the people who made donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing this year. A total of **\$2,152.86** was received as of April 15th for this special offering at Northside Presbyterian Church. Your donations will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People Programs both here in the USA and internationally.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS!

Please remember that when you have meetings and schedule events for the church or for other groups – **PLEASE** let the church office know so it can be put on the calendar immediately to avoid conflicts!!!

Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated!!!

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING (Children at Risk * Youth * Young Adults)

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Please give generously!

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

We will be receiving this offering on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

REUSE - REPURPOSE Cart -

A Reuse -Repurpose cart has been placed in the Chapel beside the library shelves. On the top and middle shelves you may put things from around the church that need to be reused somewhere else in the church or at your home. Items on these shelves will stay a complete month and no more than 2.

If you have a religious book/item at home that someone else in the church might want you may bring it and add to the cart. No other items from home accepted. Anyone in the church may take what they can use. If it will be used at church, please put it away appropriately. At the end of each month items that have been there more than a month will be taken to Second Time Around. The bottom shelf has a crate in which to put items for the New River Creative Reuse Center. This is an effort to help our church, you, and our teachers. If you have questions contact Mary Lough.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Interfaith Food Pantry needs help in stocking their pantry. Please remember to bring food for the barrel in our hallway. Your help is greatly appreciated always, but especially at this time of year. Thank You!

Just Wages: Honoring the Worker- April 29

Faith leaders from local Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Unitarian Universalist communities will be exploring what each faith tradition says about wage justice. Come join us at 3:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1301 Gladewood Dr., Blacksburg. Childcare will be provided. Sponsored by the NRV Chapter of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

April 24, 2018 – Transformation Team Update

One of the recurring themes that the Transformation team has been reading about over the past year has been the concept of church vibrancy anchored to three major relationships:

- 1) An individual relationship with God which is generally built through a routine of personal spiritual discipline coupled with regular Worship service attendance.
- 2) A relationship with fellow members of the Congregation to allow for spiritual maturity and growth through small group faith sharing.
- 3) A Congregational relationship with the local community to invite those outside of the church to learn more about what it means to be a Christian and encourage them to begin a life of faith possibly through a church family.

The most recent book we read, “Simple Church” speaks of these relationships as building blocks in a process of faith development starting with the individual relationship and working to greater faith maturity through relationships with others.

This three step process must be one that is individualized to a Congregation – there is no one size fits all path to church vitality. The Transformation team has started our discernment process through a series of experiments as to what works specifically for Northside. We experimented with small groups during Lent and got an extremely positive response in that all three groups were interested in continuing this practice.

The Session has recently approved our next experiment which would focus upon building our relationship with the local community. This summer – in lieu of vacation Bible school – we plan to hold a simple weekly community dinner. We have tentatively planned to start this activity in June and run it each week until the end of July. This concept would make Northside more visible to the local community and encourage newcomers who attend to continue their relationship with Northside in the fall.

This cannot be a stand-alone committee function. We will need the assistance of all the committees and Northside members and friends to work together to make this a success! Summer is historically a tough time to try new endeavors as many folks are gone for extended periods to enjoy school breaks and the beautiful weather. A cross committee team is being formed to work through the details of the dinners. If you are interested in being on this team, please reach out to either Sandy Webster, Heidi Harper or myself. More information will be available as the plan is developed.

Yours in Christ,

Jane Jones

DATES TO REMEMBER IN May:

- May**
- 2: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 3: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**
**Presbytery Meeting, Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church,
Lynchburg, VA**
 - 4: May Fellowship Day, Church Women United**
 - 6: Breakfast Church/Communion**
 - 7: Drum Circle, 7:30 - 8:30 pm**
 - 9: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 10: ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
Women's Bible Study, 1:30 pm
 - 13: MOTHER'S DAY; 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering
Committees to Meet**
 - 16: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 19: Lynn Long's 90th Birthday Party at the Church**
 - 20: DAY OF PENTECOST; Session Meeting**
 - 23: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm**
 - 27: TRINITY SUNDAY**
 - 28: MEMORIAL DAY**
 - 29: Deadline for items for the June Newsletter!**

Check Us Out...

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Email Address: secretary.northside@gmail.com

Minister's Email: dickerson.northside@gmail.com

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