

# The Arbor's Brush

*to inform, to inspire, to celebrate*

## Vision Statement

*REACH, GROW, SEND*

"We worship by reaching for God and to others, by growing and nurturing others in Christ, and by sending disciples to meet human needs."

## Got News?

If you have news you would like included in our monthly newsletter, please email [office@ramahpcusa.org](mailto:office@ramahpcusa.org). The deadline for March's *Arbor's Brush* is February 22.

## Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Brian Copeland  
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### Music Director

Tim Ward  
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### Administrative Assistant

Julie Sczerbinski  
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### Preschool Director

Alice Howerton  
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## A Message from the Pastor

As we have been considering spirituality, I found this article and this month, would like to share it with you.

Peace,

Pastor Brian

### Reconnecting the body with the mind

By Cláudio Carvalhaes | Presbyterians Today

*This article is reprinted from the February/March 2018 issue of Presbyterians Today, <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0218-wpb/>*

Why do we so often misunderstand our spirituality? As Presbyterians, we tend to live in our heads as if our bodies were disconnected from our intellectual faith. Our worship is mostly related to what we think and less on



## Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for our first responders, military and those on our prayer list:

- Perry & Jewell McConnell (friends of the Browns)
- George Mayes
- Natalie (Coach Zeller's granddaughter)
- Mary Nash (Kim Bradford's friend)
- John McCarthy
- Barbara Wise (Karen Helms' mother)
- Freida Buckner (friend of the Wilsons)
- Walter Craven
- Jeanette Shoemaker
- Martha Ann Readling
- Sarah Craven Washam
- Dave McCord
- John Black

how we move. For example, if we see someone dancing in our worship service, we tend to see it as an improper way of worshiping God. I am not advocating for irrationality but rather, to have us think as well as feel, dance, smell, taste and touch, as ways of developing our spirituality.

Perhaps our spirituality is too often constrained by what we understand the sacred is all about. If we understand the sacred as that which is quiet, calm, decent and ordered, and if our spirituality is marked mostly by organ music rather than drums, then we have already limited expression of the holy. Some churches have added to their worship services drums, guitars and dance, offering other ways of expressing the movement of the Holy Spirit that are louder and more festive.

Still, in many U.S. Presbyterian churches, why is it that our bodies don't matter much? Why do we expect worship to be mostly a rational enterprise? Some say this comes from our heritage, which is marked by European culture. Historians, though, remind us that our Presbyterian forebears were much more likely to dance, cry or clap in their worship services. The truth is, contemporary Presbyterian worship is much less lively than in previous times. But Presbyterians who worship in other parts of the world are more inclined to feelings and movements of the body.

Presbyterians believe that the work of the Holy Spirit is fundamental. Our lives are possible only by the movement of the Spirit in us, and we can worship only because we respond to God through the work of the Spirit in us. During the preaching of the Word, we can understand the preached Word only because of the testimony of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. At sacrament, it is the Holy Spirit who confirms the real presence of Jesus Christ for us. We walk by faith, and faith is a gift of the Spirit. Our sanctification is a work of the Spirit. We are empowered to live the full mission of God in the world

with the graces, gifts and charisma of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:6–8; 1 Cor. 12:8–10; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11). We are to develop the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).

What we often forget, though, is that all of that happens in and through the movement of our bodies and not just intellectual discussion. Our challenge, then, is to reclaim our body in our spirituality. At the heart of our faith is the daring truth of incarnation: God made flesh. Jesus

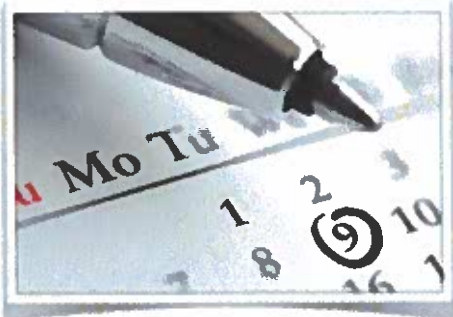
was a full and healthy human being. In him, sacredness became festive. His crying was a sign of his profound, compassionate spirituality. Eating with his disciples was both a spiritual and material activity. At his baptism, in his daily round, at the cross and at his resurrection, heaven and earth became one; immanence and transcendence found a common place in him.

If we live the fullness of Jesus Christ in our bodies, we can challenge not only our tradition and our worship, but also the whole world. In this incarnated spirituality, our care for the soul, the mind, the heart and the body is the care of ourselves and every human being. Thus, to care about or for the bodies of the immigrant and the refugee is to be profoundly spiritual. In this incarnated spirituality, our bodies are fully connected with all creation, so to deeply care for the earth is to deeply care for our eco-spirituality. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit — fully connected, fully human and fully spiritual.

*The Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes is the associate professor of worship at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is the author of Eucharist and Globalization: Redrawing the Borders of Eucharistic Hospitality. His newest book, Preaching and Liberation Theology: Metaphors for Our Time, is scheduled for publication in 2018.*

## Happy Birthday!

- 1 - Dave McCord
- 5 - Lisa Gray, Larry Kepley
- 8 - Thomas Ward
- 13- Neal Ashburn
- 18 - David Houk
- 19 - Mary Louise Atwell
- 22 - Jennifer Westmoreland,  
Cathy Wilson
- 27 - Bessie Paxton
- 28 - Alan Mann



## Mark Your Calendar

*Wednesdays in Feb @ Noon*

**Midweek Prayer Service and Lunch Bunch**

*Thursday, 2/7 @ 8am*

**Men's Breakfast @ Panera**

*Sunday, 2/17*

**Congregational Meeting  
Immediately following  
worship**

*Wednesday, 2/27 @ 7-7:45pm*

**Burning of the Palms**

*Wednesday, 3/6 @ 7pm*

**Ash Wednesday Service**

*Thursday, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28,  
4/4, 4/11 @ 7pm*

**Lenten Vespers Service**

*Thursday, 4/18 @ 7pm*

**Maundy Thursday Service**

*Saturday, 4/20 @ 9am-3pm*

**Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil**

*Sunday, 4/21*

**Easter Sunrise Service and  
11:00am Worship Service**

## Preschool News

January preschool has been busy. We have geared up and started registration for the 2019-2020. We will be taking registration forms until Feb. 7 and a placement draw will be held on Feb. 8. Please send anyone our way if they are looking for a great preschool. We are giving plenty of tours to new and prospective families.

Our rain and cold weather has kept us inside for recess a lot this month. We are making the best of it by playing games and attempting to build an igloo from empty milk jugs.

Our staff has started Hot Lunches on Thursdays. This is a small fundraiser that is taking off very well. We have a menu posted and for a small fee students get a fun lunch prepared at school and parents get a break from packing that day.

Now we are getting ready to show our love for February.

## Administrative Commission Report

### AC Calls Congregational Meeting

**A meeting of the congregation of Ramah Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 17 immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders to serve in the Class of 2019, 2020, and 2021.**

### Update on Other Matters:

The Administrative Commission continues to meet regularly. Upon the recommendation of the pastor and secretary, we approved the purchase of a new computer for the church office and approved the lease of a copier. We enthusiastically approved an Eagle Scout project that will rebuild the sidewalk between the main patio and the parking lot and, at the request of the

Mission Committee, a scholarship for Jessica Correa Luz who is attending CPCC. We continue to monitor the finances of the church and will provide a year-end report soon. We are working closely with Brian as he prepares for Officer Training. We are excited that the Nominating Committee has completed their work and once elected, look forward to working with your new Session.

## Scout News

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On Sunday, February 3, the scouts will hold their annual Scout Sunday service.

We will pick up Scouting for Food donations on Saturday, February 2.

The troop will attend Klondike for their February campout. Klondike is when different troops in the area get together and compete in different scouting related events throughout the day.

Troop 200 will be selling pine needles in February with all proceeds going toward the Hut. Please contact any scout or scoutmaster if you wish to purchase pine needles. Our delivery date will be March 2nd – we are hoping to deliver all of the bales in one day.

Again many thanks to Ramah for supporting Pack and Troop 200.

We meet every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the fellowship hall and at the Hut.

Boy Scouts: <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop200Huntersville>

Cub Scouts: <http://bsapack200.myscoutlink.com/>



# February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Pastor Brian Cell # 704-727-2813					1	2
3 10am Sunday School  11am Worship Scout Sunday	4 9am Preschool	5 9am Preschool  6:30pm Scouts	6 9am Preschool  Noon Midweek Prayer Service Lunch Bunch	7 9am Preschool  8am Men's Breakfast @ Panera	8	9  10am Worship Committee Meeting @ Dawns
10 10am Sunday School  11am Worship	11 9am Preschool	12 9am Preschool  6:30pm Scouts	13 9am Preschool  Noon Midweek Prayer Service Lunch Bunch	14 9am Preschool	15	16  9am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
17 10am Sunday School  11am Worship & Congregation Meeting	18 No Preschool	19 9am Preschool  6:30pm Scouts	20 9am Preschool  Noon Midweek Prayer Service Lunch Bunch	21 9am Preschool	22	23
24 10am Sunday School  11am Worship	25 9am Preschool	26 9am Preschool  6:30pm Scouts	27 9am Preschool  Noon Midweek Prayer Service Lunch Bunch  7pm Burning of the Palms	28 9am Preschool		