

Shenandoah Press

Volume 4, Issue 2

March 2019

Special points of interest:

- Re:RE
- Trip to Columbia
- Dog Church
- Presbytery-wide Book Read
- Much more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

At the Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) meeting in January a suggestion was heard from the Committee on Representation that as a Presbytery it is time for us to begin anti-racism training. A discussion happened that ended with CPC deciding that engaging in the work of anti-racism would be an over-arching theme for our life together this year.

At last Saturday's presbytery meeting our worship included acknowledgement of sins committed against people of color and an asking of the Spirit to open our eyes, hearts and minds to how we can change not only ourselves but the world in which we live so there is equality for all. Being white, in this country, we do not understand what it means to live life as a minority; therefore we need to educate ourselves to how we have participated in the demeaning of others even when we don't know it.

To that end, we are asking the whole presbytery to read the book "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. Please read Nancy's article in this newsletter to learn more about it. The Committee on Educational Resources is also looking at other educational and training possibilities for the presbytery to engage in this year, so we ask that you keep your eyes and ears open for the notifications that will come.

As people living in the Virginias there is much race relation history that we need to become better acquainted with. We should learn our place and part in that continuing history and work to make our history one that everyone can be proud of moving forward. The conversation will be painful in places and redemptive in others as we grapple with God's call on our hearts to "Love our Neighbors as Ourselves". Our former General Assembly Moderator and fellow Virginian, Heath Rada recently wrote a column for Presbyterian Outlook that shares his point of view of these issues. <https://pres-outlook.org/2019/02/on-being-a-virginian/>. I commend it to you for reading and reflection. I hope that you will join us in this study as we work towards being the whole people of God.

Blessings, Bronwen



We still have Presbyterian Planning Calendars at the presbytery office. The cost is \$9.00 each. Contact us at 540-433-2556 or bookkeeper@shenpres.org.

2018-2019 Presbyterian Planning Calendar



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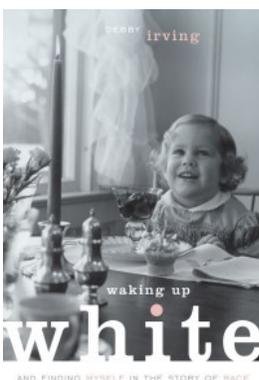
The problem of racism and our part in it

It has famously been said that Sunday morning worship hour is the most segregated time of the week. The PC(USA) is 98% white. Very few of our congregations are multiethnic or racially diverse, even when the communities in which we serve are becoming ever more diverse. How do we faithfully serve a God who created in wonderful diversity, when all we see and hear are only people who look and sound like us? How do we express the abundant love of God in our lives, worship and life together, unless we confess and confront our internal bias and white privilege? Shenandoah Presbytery is engaging in this hard work of looking at ourselves. We begin, this year, by reading, and then discussing, together, “Waking Up White” by Debby Irving. Debby Irving would describe herself as “a do-gooder white liberal” but was forced to confront her own internal biases regarding race and color.



We urge your congregations, Sessions, and Sunday School classes to read and discuss this work of non-fiction. We will come together again at the May Presbytery meeting and have small discussion groups about the book and our experiences. To guide your reading, there are discussion questions available at

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/waking_up_white_study_english.pdf

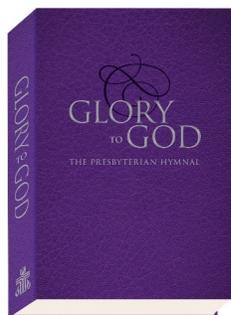


The PCUSA is doing ongoing work on dismantling racism, and calls us to join in living into The Beloved Community God calls us to be:

“The PC(USA) affirms that racism violates God’s purpose for humanity and is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the PC(USA) recognizes that racism is a sin. The PC(USA) is committed to spiritually confronting the idolatry and ideology of White supremacy and White privilege. The PC(USA) confesses its complicity in the creation and maintenance of racist structures and systems in all parts of our nation’s life, including the church itself. The PC(USA) rejoices in its witness of resistance to racism provided by past and current PC(USA) leaders and individuals and echoed by congregations and governing bodies. The PC(USA) recognizes that it has not spoken boldly enough, nor acted courageously or creatively enough in response to racism.” (PCUSA: Facing Racism: A Vision of the Beloved Community, 1999)

Dear Shenandoah Presbytery Church & Administrative Commission,



We are so grateful for the generous gift of the Glory to God hymnals! Music is a huge part of the life of Romney Presbyterian Church and we are so excited for the many ways these new hymnals will enhance our praise and worship through music. Our Session recently officially approved receiving the hymnals and we cannot wait to begin using them in worship on Transfiguration Sunday, March 3rd, 2019. We know that music was also a huge part of the life of Shenandoah Presbytery Church and we are honored for that legacy to be able to live on through us as we continue to sing songs and make music that will bring glory to God. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the greater Church!

Sincerely,

Romney Presbyterian Church

181st Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery February 23, 2019 at Bethel Presbyterian Church



2018 Moderator, Rev. Bill Klein
2019 Moderator, Rev. Rachel Crumley



Martha Reisner,
Board of Pensions



Olanda Carr,
Presbyterian Foundation



Susanne Taylor, Moderator
Mid-Atlantic Synod



Mark Johnson, CRE,
Commissioned to
Buckton Church



CRE Linda Reece,
Re-commissioned to
Springfield & Burlington
Churches

First Call, First Steps (Seminary students and candidates)

March 7, 2019*

Union Presbyterian Seminary
Richmond, VA

April 1, 2019

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh, PA

March 13, 2019

Austin Theological Seminary
Austin, TX

April 23, 2019

Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, CA



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

*Registration information for Richmond is below. For other locations, please contact Devin Johns, program administrator, at 215-587-7459, or email education@pensions.org with **FCFS** in the subject line.

Growing into Tomorrow...Today (pre-retirement seminar)

June 3-4, 2019

St. Francis Retreat Center
DeWitt, MI

Registration open week of March 18–May 20, 2019

August 22-23, 2019

Montreat Conference Center
Montreat, NC

Registration open week of May 20–August 2, 2019

For more information on any seminar and/or to register please visit our website at pensions.org.

*First Call, First Steps

A Terms of Call Seminar for Presbyterian Students
Sponsored by Board University

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Holderness Dining Room, Richmond Hall

Led by Martha Reisner, Church Consultant

Theological perspectives

on benefits, compensation, and call

Financial realities of pastors, including

- Financial health
- Fair cash compensation
- Effective Salary
- Housing allowance
- Healthcare

Considerations for structuring terms of call

- Terms of call as covenant
- Components of terms of call
- Navigating the conversation

Please **RSVP** by February 28, 2019, to smvpo@upsem.edu, or call 804-278-4237. A complimentary meal will be provided.

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT)

The Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT) recently worked on a comprehensive listing of resources, our committee's "tool box," reflecting the diversity of ways in which to enrich and enhance ministry and promote transformation. This includes recent conversation about non-traditional worship and visioning/discernment/planning. When this resource list is finalized, we will post it on the presbytery website and make it available at presbytery meetings and through visits to congregations. We know that one size does not fit all and that the CAT is like a "divining rod" that leads to a starting point where a congregation then needs to do a deeper dive with harder digging.

We would like to include in our toolbox a listing of churches who have regularly scheduled, non-traditional worship services (e.g. "contemporary", Taize, healing & wholeness). Please contact Chair David Witt if you would like your church to be listed with the time of service and a description. Please email David at pastor@opequonchurch.org.

Presbytery Elder Heads to Colombia with Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Beginning on March 1, 2019, I will spend one month with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia under the auspices of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. My partner and I will serve as "acompañantes" or companions to the Presbytery of Urabá in Apartadó, one of the historical centers of internal violence in Colombia. We will participate in this "ministry of presence," which has been in place since 2005.

The Diaconate of the Presbytery of Urabá focuses its outreach on "accompanying displaced families who have little hope of restitution of their lands" for fear of violent backlash, a result of over half a century of multi-sided internal conflict. In fact, Colombia has one of the largest (7 million) populations of internally displaced people in the world. Rightist paramilitary groups, leftist guerrillas, the military and competing criminal bands have fought each other for decades, resulting in death and displacement of unarmed civilians. The ongoing drug trade continues to compound and complicate both the violence and efforts to bring peace to the region.

Despite recent efforts to curb the conflict with peace accords, recent outbreaks of extreme violence in January of this year reminds us that the work in Colombia of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the broader church is far from over. I urge you to support this ongoing effort of the PC(USA) and count on your prayers and blessings as I embark on this call to support our Presbyterian family in Colombia.

Gratefully and in peace,

Jeff Hornbeck
Elder and Member of Session
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church



Dog Church

When Elder Jerry Fry approached me with his idea for a new church service, I wasn't quite sure what to make of it.

"Dog Church," he said.

"So, like a service for blessing of the animals?" I responded.

"No, not all animals. Just dogs. And I want it to be a whole service that meets monthly in the Fellowship Hall." And then he said the magic words that almost always will get me on board. "Don't worry," he said, "You just show up. I'll do almost all the work."

And with that, Dog Church began. We had planned our first service to be specifically a blessing of the dogs. Wanting that service to be a big success, we picked a day in the middle of September when the weather would normally be warm, but fair, and overall just pleasant: September 16th at 4 p.m. Instead the weather was unseasonably cold and tremendously wet, as it rained all weekend. We moved the service inside.

On that first day, we had no idea who would show up, if anyone. If no one but our own members came, we had decided that this would be a one-time service, and we might try again in the spring. But instead we had 8 furry guests show up that day, along with their doggie parents. We had a short message, in which we heard about God's love for us, as God often uses our canine family memberships to be a living demonstration of that love. There was a blessing of the animals after this, and then a time of fellowship.



From that first service we learned a few things, and with subsequent meetings incorporated those things. There are challenges to Dog Church. For one, we didn't know how animals would react to music, but we've begun to add in some a Capella singing, and that has worked well. We wish we could have food to go with our fellowship time, but for now at least, we've decided that adding food to this time might present a few too many challenges, given how some dogs can become territorial about food. So instead we focus on the simple things: an opening and closing song, some prayers, and a simple message about how God often teaches us about himself through whatever means available, including our beloved animals.

Each month we have had different people come for the first time; some who are members of other churches and some who haven't been to any church for a long time. Either way, all are welcome. We are being very deliberate not to be denominational about this service, and while we would love it if everyone who comes would also join us for a regular Sunday worship service, that's actually not the point of Dog Church. The point is to provide a service to our community that we did not see anyone else providing. And if God uses this service to move in someone's heart, to help them to realize how much God loves them, then that's all the better.



As a postscript, Pastor Evan Smith says, "This last Sunday (Feb. 24) was the best yet, with 10 dogs and about 30 people in attendance!"





OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Ruling elders are elected by congregations as “persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit” (G-2.0301). This series will include devotional pieces, descriptions of spiritual practices, and other

resources for growing as spiritual leaders and seeks to nurture the spiritual life of those serving in this role. Read more about this series [here](#).

The Office of the General Assembly puts out a monthly series for Ruling Elders. You may sign up for by clicking on the left or at:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/>

Now Available at the Resource Center

Pastors and Ministry – SO2 (Gray; Preaching Aids)

Title: **Connections, Year C, Volume 2**

Editors: Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby

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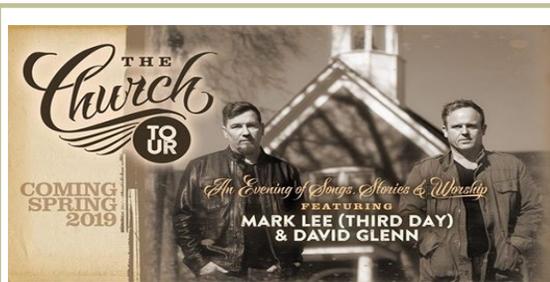
Thanks to Darnell Fenderson

06-25-2012



Strong Ministers Program Grants Spring 2019 Applications

Applications for the April distribution of the Strong Minister's Program Grants will be accepted March 1-March 31. The guidelines and applications are on the Shenandoah Presbytery webpage, www.shenpres.org/strong-ministers/. The Strong Ministers Program information is under forms and policies. **Please send applications to Kevin Hand at hand.kevin3@gmail.com.**



2019 Church Tour
with Mark Lee from Third Day and David Glenn
March 22 at 7:00 pm
Westminster Presbyterian in Waynesboro

Free Concert; must register online.

More information and Registration link;
<https://www.wp-church.com/2019/02/church-tour-2019-mark-lee-third-day-david-glenn/>



Attention Small Church Pastors, Leaders, Treasurers and Clerks of Sessions:

Shenandoah Presbytery is pleased to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation to offer unique 90 minute workshops geared toward helping small churches in ministry.

Congregations will be provided with financial-diagnostics, planning and property-related resources and we will share wisdom gained from experience and from each other.

We will hear from Foundation staff, learn from each other, and identify and model best practices for the unique dynamics of small churches. We will meet approximately 4 times over the course of a year. There is no cost, and we will provide a light lunch.

Our first session is:

Wednesday, April 10, noon- 2 pm, Buckton Presbyterian Church (2315 Strasburg Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630)

OR:

Thursday, April 11, noon- 2 pm, Hermitage Presbyterian Church, (46 Hildebrand Church Rd, Waynesboro, VA 22980)

To RSVP, please contact the Presbytery office at:

shenpres@shenpres.org, or call 540-433-2556

MEN'S CONFERENCE
MASSANETTA SPRINGS
CONFERENCE CENTER
HARRISONBURG, VA
July 19-21, 2019

"Here am I Lord, Send Me"
Isaiah 6:8

Speaker, Dr. Richard Boyce,
Dean, Union Presbyterian
Seminary, Charlotte, NC

Speaker, Rev. Cam Lazier,
Min. to Students 1st Baptist
Church, Lees Summit, MO

Speaker, Dr. James Tanetti,
Professor, Union
Presbyterian Seminary.

Speaker, Dr. Rodney Sadler
Prof. Union Presbyterian
Seminary, Charlotte, NC

Music Leader
Ms. Katie Grant, Former Dir.
Music, Bayside PC, Virginia

Silent Communion Leader,
Rev. Joe Condro, Pastor,
Pines Chapel PC, VA

Worship Service Leader,
Dr. Jim Atwood, Pastor
Emeritus Trinity PC,

Conference Leader
Mr. Gary Blackmon
704-493-7251
gsblackmon58@gmail.com

Register On-Line: www.midatlanticmen.org / PayPal Available

Find us on

convergence

A High School Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science

JUNE 22 - JUNE 30, 2019

convergence.rmc.edu

Have you ever been told that you can't be a scientist and a Christian?
Come spend time with others who want to deeply explore questions
of faith and science.

This 9-day on-campus experience is for inquisitive high school
students of any Christian denomination interested in reading
challenging texts, hearing presentations from college & seminary
faculty, and enjoying hands-on experiences in the place where faith
and science come together.

Students receive a **\$1,000** scholarship to
Randolph-Macon for each year of Convergence.

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SEMINARY

Duncan Memorial
United Methodist Church

PAT WATKINS
General Board of
Global Ministries Missionary

SHALOM
FARMS

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment.

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

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ShenPres.org



Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

March 2019

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 - CMO 9:30 am | 21 - CER 10 am |
| 4 - CCVT 1:30 pm | 21 - CPA 1:00 pm |
| 5 - CPT 10:00 am | 23 - Sessional Minutes Reading 10 am - 12:00 pm
at Opequon Church |
| 6 - ASH WEDNESDAY | 25 - Boundary Training 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
at Trinity Church |
| 12 - CNCD 5:15 pm | 26 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am |
| 12 - CRM 9:30 am | 30 - Sessional Minutes Reading 10 am - 12:00 pm
at Massanutten Church |
| 16 - Sessional Minutes Reading 10 am - 12:00 pm
at Staunton Third Church | |
| 18 - CRE Oversight 4:15 pm | |
| 20 - CPM 9:30 am | |
| 20 - Nominations 2:00 pm | |
| 20 - ShenPress Deadline | |

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.