

Special points of interest:

- Cindy Corell Visits
- Save the Dates!
- Disaster Kits Collection
- New Pastors
- Events and Happenings around the presbytery

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Message from Our General Presbyter and State Clerk

“Get to know your community!” We have heard that from a variety of experts in the field of evangelism. Some have had a difficult time in trying to figure out how to do that other than just reading statistics. So here is an idea and a challenge.

Go see a musical! A musical at the local High School or Middle School, even if you don't know any of the young people performing in it! It is that season when schools put on musicals and plays and concerts. You want young people to know that you care for them? Then go where they are and support them. And after the performance, write a note to the director or principal to share with the cast. Take a group from your church, make it a field trip.

All four of our children participated in school musicals and concerts and I can tell you that I was even more grateful than they were when I saw other adults come and support them! Yes, parents notice when you show up.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be known as an encouraging church? You never know what the ripple effect might be from something as easy as seeing a show (or a sporting event).

Have a meaningful Lent and wonderful spring getting to know your community!

*Blessings,
Bronwen*



Presbytery Staff is here for you

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In a very funny way, change is a constant. That is, things are always, to a lesser or greater degree, changing. And we know the world outside our church doors has changed, and is changing.

The church doesn't handle change well. By and large, we like things to stay the way they are. We like to sing hymns we already know. We like to sit in the same pew every week. We like to say the prayers we learned as children, and see the same friend and neighbors.

But the church has always been about change, because we worship a God who is about change.

Think about it—the earliest churches, in Jerusalem, and the ones that Paul was writing to in his letters—have changed. If they exist at all, two thousand years later, they are far different than they were when they first started. The same is true for us in Shenandoah Presbytery. Most of our churches were started in the 18th and 19th centuries. A LOT has changed since then. I imagine none of us go to church in a buggy or a wagon anymore, nor do we heat with a wood stove in the middle of the sanctuary. We do not use lamps that burn coal oil for illumination, and we do not listen to sermons that are over an hour long! (If you do, contact me—I will talk with your pastor!)

Change is difficult. It is much easier to keep doing what we already know.

But we worship a God who is all about change. Genesis tells us that in the beginning, darkness covered the face of the earth...and God said "Light!". And there was light. The very first action of God was change. (Genesis 1:1, 3)

The prophet Isaiah, speaking for God, says "I am about to do a new thing. Do you not see it?" (Isaiah 43:19) We say that in Christ, we are transformed. Paul writes to the churches in Corinth: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is gone, behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 2: 5:17) And in Revelation, the one who is seated on the throne says "Behold! I am making all things new." (Revelation 21: 5)

If we worship a God who is SO about change, then we can take courage, and comfort, and strength, as we face changes. And we can be confident that as we change the ways we are being church, in a changing world and context, that the Triune God is with us.

Blessings-
Nancy



On St Patrick's Day, we often hear, naturally, about St Patrick. But did you know about St Bridget?

The story of St. Bridget says that she was the daughter of a Christian mother and a pagan father, born in 451 CE, in the mid-east region of Ireland. Bridget was taking care of her father, who lay ill, and she began speaking to him of her faith. While doing so, she picked up rushes from the floor, and made a cross out of them. Her father converted to Christianity, after her witness to Christ at his bedside.

Now, Presbyterians don't think of saints in the way some other traditions do. But we can certainly follow Bridget's example to share our faith wherever we are. Here is an example of a St Bridget's Cross.

Stated Meeting of Presbytery—February 22 at Waynesboro First Church



2019 Moderator, Rachel Crumley welcomes
2020 Moderator Rick Comstock



Nancy Meehan Yao and Bronwen Boswell lead the Educational
Hour of a Matthew 25 Bible Study

New Pastors in Shenandoah Presbytery



Rob Vaughan new Pastor
of Romney Church



Betsy Stow, Chaplain at
Westminster Canterbury



Susanne Taylor,
Commissioned
Ruling Elder at
Burnt Church

Presbytery Youth Retreat

Overview

February 8-9, 2020

20 Youth & Adults from 3 churches

Housing- Massanetta Springs

Theme- Change

Fun Event - Massanutten Winter Sports

Summary of Retreat

On Saturday, February 8, twenty teens and adults from three different churches gathered at 2:00 p.m. at Massanetta Springs Conference Center for a Youth Presbytery Retreat. Adults met with Rev. Nancy to receive training on the Presbytery's child & youth protection policy while Rev. Sarah and Rev. April led youth in name games and icebreakers centered around the retreat theme, change. We left at 3:30 p.m. for Massanutten Resort for tubing, skiing and snowboarding. Rev. Kate was our fearless leader in the tubing lanes. After enjoying the winter sports outdoors, we went indoors to the resort's lodge for dinner and a round of UNO.



We arrived back at Massanetta around 9:30 p.m. Vespers began with prayer and scripture. Rev. Wray reflected on characters such as Moses and the Rich Young Ruler who found it difficult to change when asked by God and Jesus. Then we explored how easy or difficult it was for us to change using the summary video from the book Who Moved My Cheese by Spencer Johnson. After the video, youth reflected on which character they were most like in the story; (1) Sniff the mouse, who sniffed out and anticipated change quickly, (2) Scurry the mouse who scurried into action quickly when change occurred, (3) Hem the little person who was reluctant to change and stayed in his comfort zone out of fear and doubt (4) Haw the little person who at first "hemed and hawed," but was soon able to laugh at his fear, and changed!. Three small groups were formed and led by older teens using the story on change to reflect on the following faith questions; (1) Are we ever complacent in our faith? (2) Are we willing to leave our comfort zones or routines in search of spiritual food that would nourish our faith? (3) Do we find ways to improve our spiritual lives or do we stick to old routines and wait for miracles to happen? (4) What would you do if you weren't afraid?

On Sunday morning, February 9, the youth with sleepy appearances enjoyed breakfast in the dining room. After packing up the vehicles and turning in room keys, reflections on the change in SPYCE and evaluation of the retreat were discussed. The youth gathered for an intimate and interactive worship with scripture, prayer and meditation that included change scenarios. Each youth reflected on two scenarios that involved change and discussed how change could be difficult, how change could be seen as good, and how faith could be used to help with change. The retreat ended with a walk to the spring and games in the front yard.



Many thanks to the presbytery, adults, and youth who changed up their weekend to share time with God and the greater church at Massanetta Springs.



Cindy Corell, Mission Co-Worker, Visiting

Cindy Corell, Mission Co-Worker, has been in the US for a few months. She is hoping to return to Haiti early in March. Cindy works as a companionship facilitator with Fondama, the Joining Hands program, helping farmers grow food. Cindy senses God's call to empower the Haitian people. "Being a farmer's daughter, I know the joy a farmer knows when his or her work results in foods to be enjoyed by many," Cindy says. "If I can play a role in making more Haitian families find that joy, I will share in it."



To contact Cindy, and learn more about her work, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/cindy-corell/>.

Cindy is a daughter of this Presbytery, a member at Tinkling Spring, and is partially supported by congregations in this Presbytery and through our Committee on Mission and Outreach.



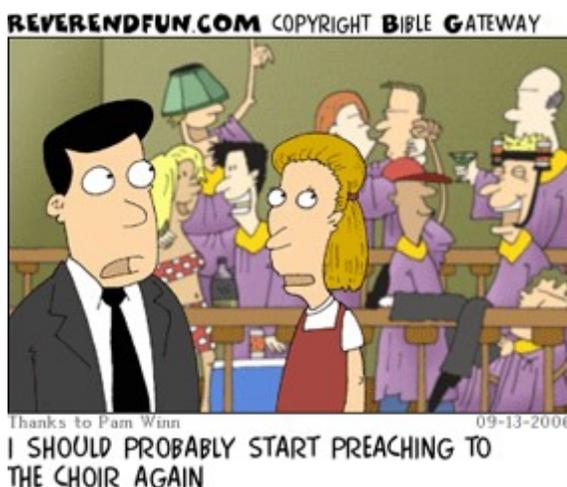
Collection of Disaster Response Kits in 2020

To continue to meet the needs of an increasing level of natural disasters across the country the Disaster Preparedness & Response Team will again collect completed disaster kits at the May and November meetings of Presbytery in 2020. Besides collecting kits at these two Presbytery meetings, you can always bring completed kits any time during the year to the Presbytery Center in Harrisonburg. Also, monetary donations for building kits are always welcome.

Instructions for completing each type of kit can be found in the Mission/DPRT section of our Presbytery's website <http://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness-response-team/>. The DPRT will provide more details before each meeting.

Last year we assembled and delivered over 98 flood buckets, 340 school kits, and 283 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service. Our kits were transported by the Disaster Preparedness & Response Team (DPRT) to the Church World Service warehouse in New Windsor, MD where they were distributed to those in need across the country and the world.

Thank you for being part of this vital ministry to help those in need near and far. Stay tuned for more announcements as we approach future Presbytery meetings in May and November.



Buena Vista Church Celebrates 130 Years of Ministry

On Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, 1890, two years before the City of Buena Vista was established, the Lexington Presbytery chartered Buena Vista Presbyterian Church dedicated its original church building. On Saturday, March 7 and the Second Sunday, March 8, 2020, we will celebrate 130 years of ministry and mission.

On Saturday, March 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., we will have a covered dish dinner. After dinner, we will create a fourteen foot timeline of Buena Vista Presbyterian Church and add our names to the line, marking when we became part of this special congregation.

Then, on the Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2020, we will welcome the Reverend Bronwen Woodson Boswell is the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Shenandoah to our pulpit. In worship, we will celebrate our history as a congregation. Following worship, we will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall. There will be displays of memorabilia of the church and an opportunity to share our memories.

For more details about the 130th Anniversary, please contact the church office by email at bvpres@gmail.com or by phone at (540)-261-6210.



Netta Day Camp is a summer program for children ages 6-12 offering week-long themed camps in a safe, caring, Christian environment. The program takes place at Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center, offering convenient drop-off and pick-up windows. Each week of camp includes classic camp activities such as canoeing, archery, swimming, and daily Bible studies, as well as daily snacks and lunch, and a Netta t-shirt.

Visit www.massanettasprings.org/nettadaycamp or email daycamp@massanettasprings.org for more information"

Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery

Presents

The Annual Spring Gathering

Saturday April 4, 2020



"Go Out With Joy and Be Led Forth With Peace"

Isaiah 55:12: "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA

More information and registration available later.

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Thanks to Pam Winn

09-13-2006

I SHOULD PROBABLY START PREACHING TO
THE CHOIR AGAIN



You want ME to preach???"

Perhaps you have gotten that phone call...the pastor is sick/can't make it to worship that morning... and YOU are being asked to preach. All Ruling Elders are called to be able to preach- our own Book of Order says so! Ruling Elders "should cultivate an ability to teach the Word when called upon to do so." (W-2.0303)

While public speaking is the #1 fear most Americans have, we can help you learn how to preach.

SAVETHE DATE- "You Want ME to Preach"?

- ◇ ◇ Workshop Saturday, April 25, 2020 9-noon, at the Presbytery office
- ◇ ◇ Practicum (a time to practice preaching before friends) Saturday May 30, 2020 9- noon, Presbytery office

Both sessions led by Rev Dr Howard Boswell

To rsvp, email assocgp@shenpres.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Doug Ottati, Craig Family Distinguished Professor of Reformed Theology and Justice at Davidson College will be visiting Lexington Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 18th and Sunday April 19th. More details in the April Newsletter

Save the Date!

Communications Workshop
September 16 (Wednesday) and
September 17 (Thursday)- locations TBA.

The Communications Workshop will cover:
Strategic Communications Planning
Media Relations
Social Media
Church Websites

This workshop is open to anyone- pastors, church staff, elders, communication committees, etc.

Mark your calendars now!



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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 2018

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| 3 - CPT 10:00 am | 17 - CRE Oversight Committee 4:00 pm |
| 7 - CMO 9:30 am (tentative) | 18 - Nominations 2:00 pm |
| 9 - CCVT 1:00 pm | 19 - CPA 1:00 pm |
| 10 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am | 23 - ShenPress Deadline 4:00 pm |
| 10 - CER 1:00 pm | 24 - CPC 10:00 am (tentative) |
| 10 - CNCD 3:30 pm | 31 - CPC 10:00 am (tentative) |
| 11 - CPM 10:00 am | Other Dates |
| 12 - CRM 9:30 am | Clerk Minutes Reading Sessions 10 am—12 pm |
| 14 - Ordination of Rob Vaughan
at Romney Church - Time TBD | 14 - at Massanutten Church |
| | 21 - at Opequon Church |
| | 28 - at Staunton Third Church |

