

APC Connections

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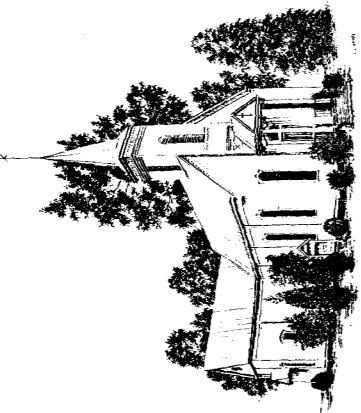
June/July 2019

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Pastor's Page

*Words have power. Language carries meaning.
 Stories bear truth. And the Spirit causes understanding.*

Friends,

The two traditional readings for Pentecost are Genesis 11: 1-9 (The Tower of Babel), and Acts 2:1-13 (The Coming of the Holy Spirit). Both of these stories are mythic in proportion. The stories are bigger than just accounts of what happened. They are designed to reveal something deeper about the nature of human communication. Words have power. Language carries meaning. Stories bear truth. And the Spirit causes understanding.

What we say matters – whether it's in our closest relationships or more broadly within our groups or nationalities. Pride may unite people temporarily, but understanding allows us to see God's hand at work in our world.

As we celebrate and reflect on the value of human communication as it comes as a gift of the Spirit, I am reminded of a prayer of confession I return to again and again that has been published by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand. I share it with you to reflect on in your own practice of allowing the Spirit to flow through what you say (as well as what you do).

Many blessings for a summer of connection and understanding!
 Pastor Kerra

Upcoming Events

- June 9—Pentecost Sunday and Offering
- June 16—Session, 12:15 PM
- June 26 & 27—CARITAS
- June 24-28—Office closed
- June 30—4th Sunday Fellowship
- July 7—Communion Sunday
- July 14—Chrismon Party & lunch; NO Session meeting



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Prayer of Confession:

There are times when I talk too much. There are times when I repeat things which I have no right to repeat. I pass on a story which may not be entirely true or add my own embroidered flourish to a tale in the telling. O God who always listens, for-

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give me.

Help me remember to keep a deliberate and constant check on my tongue. Keep safe within me the hurts and secrets that others have shared, for they trusted me, and I was glad of that trust. Keep safe within me the confidences of children, lest they be hurt by my crass joking over their tender moments. Keep safe within me those safe disclosures of weakness and fear shared in a moment of intimate vulnerability by my spouse as a further expression of love for me. Keep safe within me all those communications which were entrusted to me for safekeeping.

Help me to listen, as you do Lord. Help me to use my ears more than my mouth. With your help, Lord, may I never again hear myself betraying a confidence or breaching a trust. Instead, transform me, Lord, into a listening, trustworthy friend.



With Grateful Hearts!

From September 2018 through the end of May 2019, our congregation has been blessed by the talents of a number of Randolph-Macon students. We give thanks to our organist Austin Wachsmuth, a rising senior at R-MC who is President of the Zeta-Epsilon Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, and a member of Phi Kappa Sigma as well as being a member of the Concert Choir, accompanist for the student-run music group InTONEnation, and member of the American Guild of Organists for bringing these talented students to enrich our morning worship. In October, we welcomed flautist Caroline Dwyer and InTONEnation. InTONEnation is sponsored by the Zeta-Epsilon Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, a music honors fraternity. They rehearse weekly and perform at various events on campus throughout the school year. On May 19, "May We Gain a Heart of Wisdom" composed by Aidan Allen, a Junior Music Major at R-MC was debuted as the organ postlude. Aidan studies guitar and piano, and sings in the Concert Choir and InTONEnation. He is also a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, and Phi Kappa Sigma. Aidan resides in Stafford, Virginia with his father, who serves in the United States Marine Corp. Upon his graduation, he plans to enlist in the Marine Corp.

We have also been blessed by the students (most affectionately known as Barclay's crew!), their friends and family who bring us joy simply by their presence during worship. On May 24, we welcomed one of these students, Noah Morgan, to our pulpit. Noah, 2019 recipient of the Chuck and Helen Nunn Ministerial Scholarship, is an A.

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Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
6/02/19	J. Raymond	S. & M. Carneal	M. Summer-son	K. Basilio		
6/09/19	P. Ritchie	T. Blair, J. Tate				
6/16/19	C. Schutte	C. Schutte, M. Summerson	REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.			
6/23/19	K. Cole	K. Cole, R. English, G. Young				
6/30/19	D. Dunn	D. & P. Dunn				
7/07/19	L. Hasbrouck	K. & L. Hasbrouck	R. Cole	K. Pugh		Cole
7/14/19	R. DuPriest	R. DuPriest, S. Vitale				
7/21/19	T. Alexander	K. Basilio, S. Henderson				
7/28/19	V. Neeley	R. English, V. Neeley, C. Phillips, G. Young				
8/04/19	G. Young	L. Allison, C. Schutte	G. Young	S. Henderson		

June

- 1 Rebecca Raymond
- 22 Ryleigh English
- 25 Jacob Phillips
- 29 Charlie Blair
Karla Bloom

Happy Birthday



July

- 7 Sherri Carneal
- 20 Peter Ritchie
- 22 Nita Bryan
- 25 Emily Pepper



Crismons in July

Sunday, July 14 at 12:15 p.m.

It's hot but that makes it the perfect time for a glittery crismons making session with lunch and ice cream. No experience necessary, just a willingness to have fun!!

Session Sound Bites

The following is an overview of our May 19 Session meeting;

- ◆ Ashland Presbyterian currently has 76 active members on our church roll.
- ◆ An audit committee has been formed comprised of Beverly Shea, Jane Glazebrook, Susan Vitale, Drew Moncol and Michael Raymond. The committee will provide results of the financial and accounting audit to Session by July 31.
- ◆ Session had discussions regarding possible changes to our website in the areas of Welcome, Mission Statement and Worship. More to come.
- ◆ Our year-to-date financial deficit through April stands at \$3,013 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$6,860.
- ◆ Session continues to work on efforts to better account for and record memorial gifts.
- ◆ Session is investigating ways in which we as a church can better focus on environmental sustainability.
- ◆ Finance and Stewardship Committee will pursue determination of where to place funds as our certificate of deposit expires.
- ◆ Kerra will attend the PCUSA Big Tent event in Baltimore, Maryland on August 1-3.
- ◆ APC will co-host the October 19 Presbytery meeting at New Hanover Presbyterian Church.

Feel free to contact any Session member for clarification on any of the above items.
—Roger Cole, Clerk of Session

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Purnell Bailey Scholar at Randolph-Macon College pursuing a Religious Studies major and an Ethics minor. Noah's father is a Presbyterian minister and his mother a middle school teacher. He has one sibling, Adam. Noah recently began singing in the APC Choir and enjoys the community at APC.

We are so proud of our Macon students who are now enjoying their summer break. We pray for the well-being of all, and for those that will not be with us over the summer, we look forward to the fall when they re-join our fellowship for worship!



Mark Your Calendars



Pentecost Sunday

June 9, 2019

We will receive the Pentecost Offering during morning worship. The Presbyterian Church USA Special Offerings social media page (on Facebook) recognized our generous giving to the Pentecost Offering with a post encouraging other congregations to "be like us" this year! Planning ahead, we will again be donating the local portion (40%) of the offering that benefits children and youth at risk to "camperships" at the Patrick Henry YMCA. This partnership has been so appreciated by the YMCA and now also acknowledged by our denomination. Let's make giving to this offering a priority again this year.

Remember to wear red!

Christian Ed: Adult and Youth Sunday School



The Adult class is studying *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Kerra has some books and more can be purchased as needed. Electronic copies are available for those who want to read on an iPad or Kindle. The schedule is as follows:

- ◆ June 2 - Chapters 6-7
 - Chapter 6: The Practice of Encountering Others - Community
 - Chapter 7: The Practice of Living with Purpose - Vocation
- ◆ June 9 - Chapters 8-10
 - Chapter 8: The Practice of Saying No - Sabbath
 - Chapter 9: The Practice of Carrying Water - Physical Labor
 - Chapter 10: The Practice of Feeling Pain - Breakthrough
- ◆ June 16 - Chapters 11-12
 - Chapter 11: The Practice of Being Present to God - Prayer
 - Chapter 12: The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings - Benediction

The Youth Class **will meet** Sunday, **June 2** and **June 9** before breaking for the summer.

 **2019 Wednesday, June 26 & Thursday, June 27**

We need people to help with making chili and cookies and serving dinner as well as helping with breakfast and putting together lunches. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex!