



The Messenger

November 1, 2017

"Reflections in the Mirror"

As I grow older, I try not to look at myself in the mirror for too long. It's a sobering and humbling experience to notice the advancing wrinkles, age spots, and gray strands of hair. I know what some of you are thinking: "You ain't seen nothing yet, Michael!"

In the past twenty years or so, I've pastored churches that are "established" or "aging." And in every instance, these churches are trying to navigate in a world where the old ways are no longer working. Sometimes, it's hard for churches to take a good hard look at themselves in order to understand their current reality. They think that if they could just work harder, then they will be able to recapture the success of the past. As a pastor, I confess that I too have been caught in that mindset. I'm tempted to "work harder," to strive for "success," and to prove my worth.

A helpful antidote to these temptations has been William Martin's *The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections*. In his meditation on "The Church," he offers a vision of a church that is able to see itself accurately, and how its pastor functions.

A church wisely centered in the Word
produces great contentment for the people.
The activities of the church keep them
just busy enough to gain satisfaction,
but do not detract from their loved ones.
They enjoy their pastor
because they do not expect him to be
other than what he is.
Their spirits are nurtured gently
by quiet and solitude and room to be.
They care for one another
without needing certain responses in return.
They share food and song,
sorrow and joy,
and become more and more free from fear.
And when they die they think,
"It was good, is good and will be good."

Personally, I find this vision attractive. Perhaps you may find some resonance in it also.

I plan on working with church leaders to facilitate congregational conversations in the coming months. During this transition time, may we as a congregation take a look in the mirror to see ourselves accurately, so that we can prepare for the future God has for us.

Michael

Pastor Search Committee Update

To date, twenty ordained ministers have communicated their interest in becoming Peakland's next Pastor. The Pastor Search Committee is engaged in an ongoing process of reviewing applicant resumes and other performance history information. Committee members are meeting weekly, and are currently preparing to make initial contact with a focus group of our top applicants. As a reminder, our Pastor Search Committee consists of Fran Christie and Tom Willman (co-chairs), Jeff Curcio, Amy Ray, Nancy Sale, Parks Snead and Linda Williams. Feel free to contact any committee member to share your ideas as we seek out Peakland's next Pastor.



Women on a Mission

Dinner/Meeting
Thursday, November 2nd
King's Island - 6:00 p.m.

2017 Advent Booklet - It's That Time Again!

We need your participation for the
2017 Advent Booklet.

This year's theme is
Love, Our Greatest Gift
Due Date: Friday, November 10th

Suggestions to guide you:

1. Scripture that speaks of the typical life of service with Christ as its center.
2. A person you know or have known who has lived or is living a spiritually motivated existence.
3. A poem, hymn, or quote that states your opinion of what you think *Love, Our Greatest Gift* means.

Jericho Outreach Ministries Annual Toy Drive



Please consider buying a toy
for the Toy Drive!
Let's make some Christmas joy!
Deadline is December 10th!!!!

Jewish Food Fair

Wednesday, November 8th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Agudath Sholom Synagogue, 2055 Langhorne Road

Men's Breakfast!
Saturday, November 18th
8:00 a.m.



Acorn Hill Bistro
2134 Old Forest Road
Come join us!

CALENDAR



PENCIL IN THE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

| | | |
|----------------|------------|---|
| Thurs, 2nd | 6:00 p.m. | Women on a Mission Dinner/Meeting at King's Island |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, 5th | 10:00 a.m. | Christian Education Classes |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship Service Donna H. Britt, Pulpit Guest |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Stewardship Meeting - Parlor |
| Monday, 6th | 7:00 a.m. | McNeely Book Discussion Group |
| Wed, 8th | 11:00 a.m. | Jewish Food Fair |
| Thurs, 9th | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, 10th | | Advent Booklet Deadline Toy Drive Deadline |
| Sunday, 12th | 10:00 a.m. | Christian Education Classes |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| | 12:05 p.m. | Church Get-Together, Host: Laura Read |
| | 12:15 p.m. | Congregational Council Meeting |
| Monday, 13th | 7:00 a.m. | McNeely Book Discussion Group |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Circle 1-Fellowship Hall |
| Thurs, 16th | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Saturday, 18th | 8:00 a.m. | Men's Breakfast, Acorn Hill Bistro |
| Sunday, 19th | 10:00 a.m. | Christian Education Classes |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Monday, 20th | 7:00 a.m. | McNeely Book Discussion Group |
| Thurs, 23rd | 9:30 a.m. | Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service at First Christian Church |
| | | Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed Holiday! Office Closed |
| Friday, 24th | | |
| Sunday, 26th | 10:00 a.m. | Christian Education Classes |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Monday, 27th | 7:00 a.m. | McNeely Book Discussion Group |
| Wed, 29th | 10:30 a.m. | Advent Study Session w/ Dwight Mays |
| Thurs, 30th | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |



Come Grow With Us



SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.
Soul Survivor by Phil Yancey (9:45 a.m.)

RENOVATORS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.
This class will be scheduled at a later date.

THE FORUM

Religion and current events are discussed in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs (10:00 a.m.)

ADULT STUDY

The Formations - Meets in the Parlor
The Herodian Dynasty (10:00 a.m.)

With Special Thanks

Peakland has so many people working behind the scenes each week, volunteering their time and talents. We want you to know how much we appreciate each and every one of you.



Susan Epling is one of these people.

She works so hard in the kitchen to make our dinners run smoothly, and she also puts together receptions needed at the church. Traveling from Smith Mountain Lake each week is not always an easy task, but her dedication to this church and our choir shows her love for Peakland. We appreciate you, Susan!

**The church office will be closed
Thursday, November 23rd,
Thanksgiving Day
and
Friday, November 24th.**



IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Contact the Church Office (434) 384-2031
Email: peaklandbaptistchurch@verizon.net
or Michael Cheuk, Interim Pastor
(434) 878-2225

Email: michael@michaelcheuk.com

Georgia Willis Fauber, Diaconate Leader
(434) 386-9672
Email: willisgeorgia@yahoo.com

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH.**

**FALL BACK ONE HOUR ON
SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4TH!**



Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service

**Thursday, November 23rd
9:30 a.m.**

**First Christian Church
Mark your calendar!**



Church Meetings in November

**Sunday, November 5th
Stewardship Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - Parlor**

**Sunday, November 12th
Congregational Council Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Circle 1



**Our next meeting will be
Monday, November 13th.
Guest Speaker: Mayor Joan Foster
Lunch will be provided!**

*Circle 1 would like to thank everyone who brought
stuffed animals for Gleaning for the World.
We filled the barrel!!!*



November, 2017



*and *Anniversaries*



- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 01 | Hannah Snead | 15 | Diane Russell |
| 02 | Lindsay Snidow | 15 | Leslie Willman |
| 04 | The Hon. Norman Moon | 17 | Vicki Mays |
| 04 | Parks Snead, III | 18 | Carol McNeely |
| 05 | *Norman and Tracy Moon | 18 | *Sam and Sharon Whitesell |
| 05 | Adrian Willman | 19 | Lucy Cook |
| 06 | Norm Snidow, Jr. | 20 | Bill Carroll |
| 09 | Tom Willman | 20 | Susan C. Luce |
| 10 | Virginia Haga | 23 | Thelma Naff |
| 10 | Mary Ann Vinson | 23 | Laura Read |
| 11 | Harrison Cook | 24 | *John and Marge Sellick |
| 12 | *Bill and Priss Riley | 28 | *Tom and Gail Aud |
| 12 | Elizabeth Taylor | 28 | Keith Cheek |
| 13 | Gwynn Ramsey | 29 | *Nathan and Brenda Brooks |
| 14 | Judy Adams | | |
| 14 | *Bob and Laura Bailey | | |
| 14 | Thomas Cook | | |

CHURCH STAFF:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk | Interim Pastor |
| The Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III | Pastor Emeritus |
| Ms. Debbie Burton | Music Director |
| Mr. Allan Heer | Organist |
| Mrs. Donna Johnson | Administrative Assistant |
| Mrs. Judi Handel | Financial Assistant |

VISION STATEMENT

We are faithful and loving servants of God who believe that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord. We are a spiritual, ecumenical congregation, called by God, bound by faith, united in fellowship, dedicated to freedom, and engaged in God's work of mission and outreach.