

“Temptation”

We are upon the season of Lent. As it has often been said, the forty days of Lent parallel the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness before launching his earthly ministry. As the synoptic Gospels show, Jesus spent forty days fasting, and during that time, he was tempted by Satan.

What does it mean to be tempted? We often have this image of temptation as something **bad** that seduces and captures us in its power. And there’s truth to that. But perhaps more profoundly, temptation is the seduction of something **good** that prevents us from attaining the **best**. Think about the temptations that Jesus faced. He was asked to turn stones into bread. Providing basic food for himself, but more importantly, for all the hungry people in Judea is a good thing. And think of how Jesus would be loved among the oppressed masses! Next, Jesus was given the opportunity to gain power and authority over all the nations. Think of all the good that Jesus could have done if all the kingdoms of the world just did what he commanded! Finally, Jesus was asked to make a spectacle of himself by jumping off of the highest point of the temple and allowing angels to land him safely on the ground. Think of how popular Jesus could have gotten! Through this one act, Jesus could have recruited thousands of disciples and started a megachurch!

But Jesus did not succumb to those temptations, as good as they may be. For what was at stake during Jesus’ time in the wilderness was the determination of the kind of Messiah he was going to be. As a pastor, I’ve often struggled with the question: “What kind of pastor am I going to be?” Am I going to be a pastor who tries to seek relevance, power and the approval of others, or am I going to be a pastor who seeks first the Kingdom of God? Through my own wilderness experiences, I have been tempted in the same ways Jesus was. I am learning the utter importance of being true and authentic to my God-given calling, even if that means disappointing others. And I am grateful to churches that have allowed me to be authentic in my ministry.

In our individual lives and as a church, we know all too well the temptations to be relevant (turning stones into bread), to be powerful (ruling over others), and to be popular (being a spectacle). They are good, but they may divert us from the best: worshipping God and serving God only (Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8).

During Lent, I invite you to ask yourself: what kind of a parent, a spouse, a child, a business person is God calling me to be? During Lent, let us ask ourselves as a church: what kind of church is God calling us to be?

Those are hard questions, but they help us clarify God’s call and mission for us. May God give us the vision and courage to seek first God’s Kingdom and righteousness during this season of Lent.

Yours in Christ, *Michael*

SEARCHERS CLASS TO STUDY BORG

Beginning on Sunday, February 4, 2018, the Searchers Class will begin a study of Marcus Borg’s last book, “Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most.” The book is a reflection on Borg’s life and how he developed his most bedrock convictions—and why they matter. Borg’s reflections provide a path of hope for those seeking to be faithful Christians in the twenty-first century. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., downstairs in the Brooks building. A paperback copy of the book can be ordered online.

Narthex Display Case

If you would like to prepare a display for the display case in the Narthex, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for our Sunday morning services, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office!

Thanks!

BROOK HILL FARM

The 24 girls at Brook Hill Farm certainly had a lot of fun at their Christmas Party on Monday and Tuesday evenings at The Barn. AND, each took home a special Christmas gift bag contributed by some really nice Santa from Peakland Baptist Church: Cheryle Angell, Susan Epling, Georgia Fauber, Karen Painter, Bundy Potter, and Bill Thomasson. The special bag had a candy cane on the front. The inside had an ink pen, a bookmark, a hair accessory, a 2019 calendar with the face of a horse on the front, lipgloss, roasted pistachios, a Twix bar, and a rice krispies bar. Wow.

Not only were the 24 girls fulfilled, so were the givers. As Walt Whitman told us: "The gift is to the giver - it comes back most to him - it cannot fail."

Thank you!

Men's Breakfast!
Saturday, February 17th
8:00 a.m.



Acorn Hill Bistro
2134 Old Forest Road
Come join us!

CALENDAR



PENCIL IN THE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Thurs, 1st	6:00 p.m.	WOM, Meeting/Dinner, Dahlia
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 4th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Communion)
	12:10 p.m.	Chili/Potato Bar Lunch
Monday, 5th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Thurs, 8th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 11th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday, 12th		No Circle 1 today!
	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Thurs, 15th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat, 17th	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast - Acorn Hill Bistro
Sunday, 18th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday, 19th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Thurs, 22nd	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 25th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday, 26th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
	5:30 p.m.	WOM - Meal - Kid's Haven, St. John's



Our Search Team

Continue to pray for our Search Team!

*Fran Christie, Chair
Tom Willman, Vice Chair
Parks Snead, Secretary
Jeff Curcio
Amy Ray
Nancy Sale
Linda Williams*

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.

*Jeff Curcio
is one of these people!*

Do you ever wonder how all that information gets on the church website? Well, thank you Jeff for all your hard work and talent. Speaking of talent, Jeff has done many beautiful display cases in the narthex throughout the year. Jeff is also an important member of our facilities team and is always willing to help in any way. He also keeps our sign at the road up-to-date. Another talent Jeff shares is his love of singing, and is a very dedicated choir member.

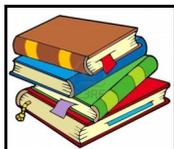
Thanks for all you do. You are appreciated!



Book Exchange ~ Church Breezeway

Come by the church and pick up a good book to read during the winter months and bring some books, CD's, and DVD's to share with others.

The exchange will be going until mid-February.



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

Volunteers Needed for The Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry

Peakland Baptist Church has committed to packing bags of food for one week every ten weeks (two volunteers needed each day) and for completing "starter" bags once every ten months. (Eight to nine volunteers needed) If you are willing to help Peakland fulfill its commitment, please call Leslie Willman, Susan Epling, or Sharon Whitesell for more information. Thank you!



Your cards, messages, food, and hugs were all so kind and comforting to me after the death of my dear brother, Bill Sweeney.

He thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship he found here at Peakland in our Wednesday Bible Study classes. Billy looked forward to them and appreciated your friendship. I am very grateful to you. Pat Shahrokhi

A Special Thank You!

Thanks to the following people who came to help clean up our worship room after Christmas!

*Martha Jane Arrington
Eleanor Ashwell
Donna Johnson
Bundy Potter
Bill Riley
Susan Spencer*

*Peter Arrington
Jeff Curcio
Frank Legon
Clif Potter
Farshid Shahrokhi*



Circle 1

Our ladies will not meet in February.

They will gather again on Monday, March 12th.





February, 2018



*and *Anniversaries*



01 *Ed and Pat Lovern
 01 Sam Redd
 02 Parks Snead, IV
 02 *Sam and Liz Redd
 03 Ashley Dietz
 03 Kendall Woody
 06 Sandy Garrard
 09 Ellaree Rice
 10 Hattie Bradshaw
 12 Will Lewis
 13 Harry Hammitt

13 Lee Kirstein
 16 Monica Bowhay
 20 Victoria Grabeel
 25 Pat Lovern
 26 Carlease Burnette
 27 Dennis Taylor

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.