



The Messenger

May 1, 2018

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Hello!

So many of you have gone out of your way to welcome Monty and me to Lynchburg. We are so happy to be here with you! We have found the parsonage lovely and filled with light; we have found the mountains to be glorious; and we have found you to be kind, friendly, fun, and loving! We are deeply grateful for the chance to make our home here with you.

Your Pastor Search committee did a wonderful job of making sure I knew the truth of the church at Peakland, and I have felt well-prepared for the realities here. Here is what I know about you already:

You are a loving community, which has a strong core of care for each other and commitment to this church.

You approach everything with integrity—you are willing to speak about hard truths, you think through how things are done, and you care about the details of how your theology is expressed in words and lived in the world.

You have some grief work to do, which we will talk about. Specifically, we will talk about ways we can honor the life and work of Steve McNeely here.

Some of your systems have stopped working for you. We should not be afraid of this—it is good news for us that the only work we have to do is to acknowledge which systems have ceased to work, and to begin the work of deciding what might actually be the right systems.

We have good work to do. Exciting work to do. And just to be clear, I want to make sure you know what my priorities will be:

The people who are actually here already, over potential people who might be here;

Good theology, and finding our sense of identity inside of our agreed upon theology;

A workable and realistic plan of action, including a generous timeline for our goals;

The occasional opportunities to include chocolate in whatever we are doing.

I am deeply honored to be your pastor, and proud to be part of the church at Peakland. I have been very grateful to Donna Johnson, who has connected me to so many things here at the church, and to Debbie Burton and Allen Heer for their shared leadership in worship. I am sorry to miss working with Judi Handel, but appreciate her help in helping us train Kimberly Morales, and look forward to working with Kimberly. And I am enormously indebted to the people on the search committee and to the rest of you who made our coming here possible. I will be so proud to have “Peakland Baptist Church” on my nametag as I represent you at the Alliance of Baptist’s gathering this week in Ohio. Several of you have described Peakland as a “hidden gem” to me. Part of my job, as I see it, is to remove the “hidden” part of that, and to help people to know what an amazing church you are! God be with you this week as you continue clean-ups! Keep in touch if we can do anything for you around here!

Martha
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Prepare for Some Proposals!

In the next few weeks, I will be working on some proposals for the church to consider, dealing with the following areas:

- 1) Leadership and Leadership Structures
- 2) Mission/Service Work and Giving
- 3) Use of Our Space

Nothing I give to you is written in stone; even the proposals themselves will be open for discussion. By our quarterly meeting in June, I hope you will have had plenty of time to read the proposals, to talk about them with each other and with me, and will be ready to vote on whether to accept them or not. I would like to invite you to INVITE ME to your small group to talk about any proposal or all of them. What are your priorities? What do you think are the top three items on which we should focus our work and our effort in the coming months? You see my list above—if your list is different, I would like to hear!

It is my understanding that the procedure here at Peakland is that these proposals will go to the Congregational Council, which will then decide what to send to the church to vote on in the June quarterly business meeting. We will need each of you to take seriously the responsibility to help us decide where to focus our attention over the next few months. The more input we have, the clearer picture we will have of where the church wants to go, and how we will get there. I have told you my priorities—I would like to hear yours! Martha

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!

A Note of Thanks from Pastor Cheuk!

Dear Peakland Baptist Church, Beth and I want to express our thanks for the lovely fellowship time you organized for us on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your heart-felt words of encouragement, your smiles, your hugs, and your good wishes for my next endeavor.

We want to thank Ed Burnette for his words of appreciation at the end of the worship service, and for the generous gift certificate. Beth and I thoroughly enjoyed our meal at Zocolo, and we were even greeted by Katie Sale during dinner!

God's blessing and grace as you witness the love of Christ in Lynchburg and beyond!

*Love,
Michael and Beth*

SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.
An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor (9:45 a.m.)

The Searchers Class has begun a study of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. Taylor, an Episcopal priest, author, and teacher, shares how she learned to encounter God beyond the walls of the church. She offers concrete ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see and goes from small practices to deep meditations. Won't you join us?

RENOVATORS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs.
This class is not currently meeting.

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
Paul and the Spirit (10:00 a.m.)

CALENDAR



PENCIL IN THE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY

Thurs, 3rd	6:00 p.m.	WOM -Meeting/Dinner - Isabella's
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 6th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Communion)
	5:00 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting - Parlor
Monday, 7th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Tuesday, 8th	2:45 p.m.	Peakland Staff Meeting (Parlor)
Thurs, 10th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 13th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Mother's Day)
Monday, 14th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Thurs, 17th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 19th	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast, Acorn Hill Bistro
Sunday, 20th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Pentecost)
Monday, 21st	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
Thurs, 24th	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 27th	9:45&10a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday, 28th	7:00 a.m.	McNeely Book Discussion Group
		Memorial Day - office closed - holiday
Thurs, 31st	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal



Many thanks to all who contributed gift cards to aid our neighbors in Elon. Your generosity provided 35 gift cards.

The cards were delivered to the Amherst Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 25th.

*A big thank you from
Women on a Mission*

Men's Breakfast!
Saturday, May 19th
8:00 a.m.



Acorn Hill Bistro
2134 Old Forest Road
Come join us!

Peakland's church office
will be closed on
Monday, May 28th,
for the Memorial Day Holiday!



Paintings by Sarah Raessler

*Upfront Gallery
Academy Center of the Arts*

*May 4 - 26, 2018
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays: by appointment*

*Opening Reception
Friday, May 4th
5:00-8:00 p.m.*

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 6TH, 5:00 P.M., CHURCH PARLOR**



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.

*Nancy Sale
is one of these people!*

Nancy is one of our dedicated members at Peakland. She always steps up to the plate to be the Worship Leader whenever asked. She loves Women on a Mission and keeps all the ladies informed and moving forward to new community projects. Nancy also helps with food for church dinners. She is a dedicated member of the Searchers Sunday School Class. Thanks for all you do. You are appreciated!

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Contact the Church Office (434) 384-2031
Email: peaklandbaptistchurch@verizon.net
The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse
Email: mdkearse@outlook.com

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

Women on a Mission

WOM will meet on
Thursday, May 3rd, 6:00 p.m.
at Isabella's for dinner and meeting





May, 2018



*and *Anniversaries*



01	*Jeff and Cheryl Curcio	19	Debbie Riley
01	Betty Jean Reid	20	Dwight Mays
04	Hunter Russell	21	Mary Cook
05	*Jim and Pat Blackburn	21	Richard Bowhay
05	*Gerald and Dona DuVal	24	Martha Hickson
05	Gerald DuVal	25	*Dwight and Vicki Mays
06	Gary Christie	26	Agnes Kirstein
07	Margaret Daniel	27	Liz Redd
08	Ryan Cox	27	David Riley
08	*Ebo and Georgia Fauber	28	Sharon Whitesell
08	Spence White	29	Buddy Daniel
11	Caroline Russell	30	Liz Jennings
12	*John and Elizabeth Cook	30	Tyler Cox
16	Emma Kate Russell	31	Brian Riley
18	Elsie Chambers	31	Jan Daniels
18	Ashley Cook Feuerstein		

CHURCH STAFF:

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse	Pastor
The Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III	Pastor Emeritus
Ms. Debbie Burton	Music Director
Mr. Allan Heer	Organist
Mrs. Donna Johnson	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Kim Morales	Bookkeeper

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.