



The Messenger

December 1, 2018

Emmanuel

We have heard this word all of our lives, especially those of us who have grown up in church. *Emmanuel*. Many of us know its meaning: it is a Hebrew word (, עִמָּנוּאֵל) which means “God is with us” or “God with us.” The Hebrew word, *el* or , אֱלֹהִים can mean might, strength, good, power, heroes, mighty things in nature, or god, or God, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongs=H410&t=KJV>. So the word, although used exclusively for Jesus, could also mean “strength with us,” “power with us,” “good with us.” Like the passage in Romans 8 read in worship on November 25 (Romans 8:31-39), this word would indicate that as we go about our daily lives, we are accompanied by great strength, a powerful ally, a mighty hero, working for good and in our corner. What an amazing word with which to approach the season—what a great thought: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” The way most of us live our lives, we go along, perhaps for years at a time, feeling fine and in control. We don’t really have a sense that we need God working for our good, because we believe that we are able to do so—that we are in control of how well our lives are going. And then, suddenly, we are not in control. Each of us has our own experience, but observably, if we live long enough, something enters our lives which throws us off balance, and over which we have no control whatsoever. And so we draw comfort from a season which reminds us that we have an Emmanuel—God with us. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to enjoy the submissions to our advent book, which is a collection of stories from people in our congregation who have told of a person, in their lives, who embodied the love of God for them. We invite you to join us for worship, during which we will explore the advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We invite you to join us for our Open House at the parsonage on Dec. 2 from 4pm-6pm, and then to come on Dec. 5 at 6pm for our Congregational Dinner and Quarterly Meeting (which, I am assured, is a lot more fun than it sounds). We invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve service at 5pm on Dec. 24th, a special, family-focused service. And we invite you to enjoy your celebrations with family and friends, knowing that the God who created the universe and continually works for its good, is with you, and in your corner.

Missions: December and 2019

Our Thanksgiving Season was so wonderful! We made and distributed beautiful boxes full of good food to families in need around the city; we celebrated with our friends from seven different congregations on Thanksgiving Day, honoring First Nations, honoring our life of faith, and honoring our community with each other; and we ate like kings! And now comes the Season of Light! During December, Peakland collects toys, which Jericho Baptist distributes through its programs in the city. Knowing this congregation to be a generous one, we celebrate all the chances we will have through our many connections through the city, and the world, to contribute to good work—the work of feeding the hungry, of clothing and housing those without shelter, the work of justice to end war and poverty as best we can. In January, we will resume our program of concentrating on one organization each month, to learn what that organization does, and to connect both with our funds and with volunteer hours. Our January Messenger will include a list of the organizations for each month. Happy Giving!

Martha

Brook Hill Farm Open House



7291 Bellevue Road, Forest, VA
Sunday, December 9th, from 2-5 p.m.
You will have the opportunity to see the horses and the young teens who are being “rescued” by them and guided by the staff and volunteers.
There will be loads of good food and cider for you to enjoy!

Bible Study Group

Every Wednesday
10:30 a.m.

Church Parlor

(No Bible Study on Dec. 26th)



SEARCHERS CLASS

Beginning on December 2, 2018, the Searchers Class will focus on the book, *God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas*. The book is a companion for those who want to experience Christmas in the larger context of Advent and Epiphany through scripture, prayer, history, and art. Authors who will introduce each week's guide to the journey include Richard John Neuhaus, Scott Cairns, Luci Shaw, Kathleen Norris, and Emilie Griffin. The meditations for each week of the season will be discussed at the end of that week.

Come Grow With Us



SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs. (9:45 a.m.)
God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas

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 Hope of Christmas (9:45 a.m.)

Men's Breakfast!

Join us
on December 15th, 8 a.m.,
Acorn Hill Bistro
2134 Old Forest Road



Come join us!

BIRTHDAYS AND *ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

03 Chris Bailey
03 Kristen Cook
05 Harry Haga
06 Larson Wile
11 Tracy Moon
13 Ron Rash
14 Noah Grabeel
15 Melissa Dempsey
16 Craig Ryder
16 Donnie Sale
17 Horace Russell
18 Kelly Dietz
19 David Garrard
19 *Vic and Cheryle Angell
20 *Spence and Niki White
22 *Gary and Fran Christie
24 Ann Weber
25 Sarah Kaboli Welfare
27 *Ernie and Amy Sawyer
29 *Bill and Rondys Cook
29 Matthew Williams
29 *Tom and Leslie Willman
30 Janna Russell
31 Laura Bailey
31 Bruce Rockwell
31 Chris Webb



Decorating the Worship Room

If you would like to help
decorate our worship room,
come Saturday, December 1st,
at 10 a.m.



We always have a good time!

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME!

We are looking for a team of people
who would like to videotape
Martha's sermons on a few Sundays.



Call Jim Ray or Jeff Curcio if you
would be willing to help out
during the year. Easy job.
They will train you!

*The church office will be closed
Monday, December 24th - Tuesday, January 1st.
We will re-open on Wednesday, January 2nd.
Merry Christmas from your church staff!*



*Congregational Dinner
and Meeting
Wednesday, December 5th
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall*



Christmas Open House



*The home of
Monty and Martha Kearse
4102 Peakland Place
December 2nd
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.*

*(Women on a Mission will provide
the food, drinks, and paper products.)*

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

State of our 2018 Finances

As we have concluded the third quarter of 2018, the Stewardship Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the 9 months ended September 30, 2018 as compared to last year for the same period and to our second quarter budget:

	<u>Sept 2017</u>	<u>Sept 2018 Budget</u>	<u>Sept 2018 Actual</u>
Contributions, and other	\$226,873	\$181,782	\$220,549
Expenses	186,623	212,907	211,122
Operating (Loss) Income	\$ 40,250	\$(31,125)	\$ 9,427
Market Increase-Investments	\$106,980	\$ 0	\$ 27,358

Our expenses are close to budget. Our revenue is currently over our expectations primarily because a number of members have accelerated payment of their pledges into the first part of the year. Investments have increased by \$27,358 as the market was better in the third quarter. Our total cash and investments are just over \$1,144,000 of which, \$885,000 are unrestricted. As always, we will have a complete financial report at our next congregational meeting. If you would like more information prior to that meeting, you may obtain detailed financial statements from the church office or contact me with questions.

Amy Ray, Treasurer

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10 am Decorate the Worship room
2 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship 4-6 pm Christmas Open House-at the Parsonage	3 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	4	5 10:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Congregational Dinner/Meeting	6 7:30 pm Choir	7	8
9 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship	10 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	11	12 10:30 am Bible Study	13 7:30 pm Choir	14	15 8 am Men's Breakfast at Acorn Hill Bistro
16 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship 12 noon Diaconate Team Meeting	17 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	18	19 10:30 am Bible Study	20 7:30 pm Choir	21	22
23 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Office Closed! 7:30 am McNeely Book Group 5 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Office Closed!	26 No Bible Study Office Closed!	27 No Choir tonight! Office Closed!	28 Office Closed!	29
30 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7:30 am McNeely Book Group Office Closed!					

CHURCH STAFF:

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse
The Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III
Ms. Debbie Burton

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Music Director

Mr. Allan Heer
Mrs. Donna Johnson
Mrs. Kim Morales

Organist
Administrative Assistant
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.

PHONE: 434-384-2031 EMAIL: peaklandbaptistchurch@verizon.net WEBSITE: www.peaklandbaptistchurch.org