

Entering the Wilderness

As we move out of February and into March, we also move out of the season of Epiphany and into the season of Lent. Many of us did not grow up learning about Lent—all I knew about it for many years was that you were supposed to give something up. After years of trying that as a spiritual practice, I found that all that happened when I gave up chocolate or (heaven forbid) coffee was that I spent a lot of time missing the thing I had given up. These days, I like to add a practice of spiritual discipline rather than give something up. There are many opportunities for this: walking with our walking group on Thursdays, using the labyrinth at Randolph College, coming to the Bible study on Wednesdays, attending the Lenten services at Court Street UMC on Wednesdays (more on this later), meditating, praying more, even fasting as a spiritual discipline. Lent is an inward season, intended as a time of personal reflection. During this season, we'll be exploring the theme of journeying through the wilderness through our biblical stories in worship: the people of Israel journeying through the desert; the stories of Esther, Job, Gideon and Sampson; the temptation and wilderness experiences of Jesus. As you approach your practice of Lent, I will be praying for each of you that it is a fruitful and meaningful time.

March 21st is **World Down Syndrome Day**! In honor of that day, we invite all PBC people to wear your **most fun socks** to worship on March 17th! We will take a moment in worship to recognize the way Jesus reached out to people with disabilities (the way he did with women and children and others on the outside of society) and brought them in as equals. Don't forget your fun socks on the 17th!

New Activities Groups

Thank you to all of you for your feedback and interest in starting some community-wide groups here at PBC. We have two groups getting started right now:

Thursday Walking Group—meets at PBC every Thursday at 2pm—whoever shows up walks!

Tuesday Crafting/Needle Ministry Group—meets at PBC every Tuesday at 2pm—bring whatever you like to work on!

We have had some interest in a walking group on Sunday afternoons as well—if that is something you are interested in, let Martha know! And keep an open mind—you may have an interest we haven't tapped yet. Let us know if you have an idea for a group!

Missions 2019



As you may be aware, a new organization in town, **Food for Thought** (in partnership with all the good ministries at Parkview) began last fall to try and make sure that every child in Lynchburg schools is able to go home with food for the weekend if they need it. Since September, we've been working with E C Glass to find what will work on the high school level—a bit more complicated than the elementary level. During February, we decided to set up both high schools as "markets" rather than backpack rooms with pre-packed bags. With some discretionary funds from our missions budget, I purchased some very nice tubs to keep foods safe in the ECG closet, and bought some items to have on hand: good cereals, individual mac and cheese and meal packets—many things that can be made in a microwave oven. This past Friday, we opened the market for the first time from 7:00am-7:30am. The administrator for ECG had sent out an announcement, and also stood in the hallway inviting students in. Several said, "Well, we don't have any money." When we said, "No, it's all free," you should have seen their faces. Their eyes got wide and they came in and shopped around, each getting only a few things, but happily searching for the thing that they wanted. We are off to a GREAT start with the market, and I look forward to hearing from any of you who would like to be part of making it work at ECG. Go Hilltoppers!

Martha

Bible Study Group

Every Wednesday - 10:30 a.m.
Church Parlor - Come join us!



Come Grow With Us

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

SEARCHERS Meets in the Brooks Education Wing
downstairs (9:45 a.m.)
Devotional Classics

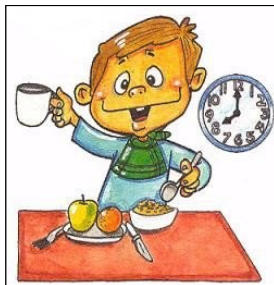
THE FORUM Religion and current events are
discussed in the Brooks Education
Wing downstairs (10:00 a.m.)

ADULT STUDY The Formations - Meets in the
Parlor (9:45 a.m.)
Striving for Holiness

Men's Breakfast!

Join us
on March 16th, 8 a.m.,
Acorn Hill Bistro
2134 Old Forest Road

Come join us!



Women on a Mission

Thursday, March 7th

Meeting and dinner
Boonsboro Country Club
6:00 p.m.

Be sure and mark your calendar!

BIRTHDAYS AND *ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

03 Niki White
06 Denise Hunt
08 Juanita Phillips
08 Mary Rockwell
08 Will Thomasson
10 *William and Sandra Carroll
10 *John and Rashell Riordan
13 Annie Kearse
15 Don Riley
16 Lois Sanders
17 Kelly Mack
18 Barbara Lee
19 Purnell Pettyjohn
20 Susan Epling
20 Farshid Shahrokhi
21 Hayden Dietz
23 Cheryle Angell
24 Nancy Rice
24 Sam Whitesell
26 *Kendall and Leigh Ann Woody
27 Tom Aud
31 Suzanne McNeely
31 Taylor Riley



Special thanks to everyone
who donated medical equipment to our
medical supply room.

We have a good variety in the room.
If you every have a need, just simply
come by and sign out what you need!





Thank you to all of you who have not only bought the book I wrote, but who have read it and done the hard work of examining your own place in the conversation about racial reconciliation. I am humbled, not only by your kind support, but by the integrity and intentionality with which you do everything you do.

*I am so proud to be able to tell people I am your pastor.
Martha*

Shrove Tuesday - Beach Party



**Join us on
Tuesday, March 5th
for a fun night of
games, refreshments,
prizes, and dancing!**

**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall**

**Come in your
beachwear!**



Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, March 6th
7:00 p.m.
First Christian Church**



Join us!

By-Laws Update Team Meeting

***Sunday, March 3rd
12 noon - church parlor***

Congregational Council Meeting

***Sunday, March 24th
12 noon - church parlor***


SAVE THE DATES!

**Turner-Warren Lecture on Life and Faith - Racism in America
Should the Church Call for Unity? Reclaiming our Prophetic Voice
Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m. - First Christian Church, 3109 Rivermont Avenue**

**Jennie Cutler Shumate Lecture on Christian Ministry - The Narrative Arc of Social Transformation:
Idolatry, Heritage, and Our Place in it All
Monday, March 4, 2019, 7:30 p.m. - Snidow Chapel, University of Lynchburg**

**The Rev. Robert W. Lee, IV is an advocate for racial justice and reconciliation.
A 4th generation nephew of General Robert E. Lee, Rev. Lee is a writer, lecturer, and
minister. His second book, *A Sin By Any Other Name*, is due out in April.**

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship (Communion) 12 noon By-Laws Update Team Mtg. Parlot	4 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	5 6:30 - 8:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Beach Party (Beachwear)	6 10:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service at First Christian Church	7 6:00 pm WOM Dinner/Mtg. at Boonsboro Country Club 7:30 pm Choir	8	9 Spring Forward One Hour 
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins! 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship	11 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	12	13 10:30 am Bible Study	14 7:30 pm Choir	15	16 8 am Men's Breakfast at Acorn Hill Bistro
17 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship	18 7:30 am McNeely Book Group	19	20 10:30 am Bible Study	21 7:30 pm Choir	22	23
24 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship 12 noon Congret. Council Meeting	25 7:30 am McNeely Book Group 4:45 pm WOM- Kid's Haven Dinner	26	27 10:30 am Bible Study	28 7:30 pm Choir	29	30
31 9:45 & 10 am Christian Education 11 am Worship in						

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
 Ms. Susan Allan

Organist
 Administrative Assistant
 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.

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