



The Messenger

September 2019

New Spiritual Formation Offerings

Spiritual Formations is just the latest term for the pursuit of growth in our life of faith. It includes acquiring new knowledge, experiencing God in our lives, and using practices that deepen our faith. In service of spiritual growth, we have a few new offerings for this year.

Baptism: On Sunday, September 8th, during the Sunday School hour, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to talk about what we mean, here at Peakland Baptist, who we invite to be baptized. What are we, as a church, sharing in offering to baptism? What are we asking individuals to say when they are baptized. This class is open to anyone, you don't have to be seeking baptism to join us.

Bible Basics: This is a once-a-month class, offered during the Sunday School Hour (9:45-10:45). This class is open to all ages, and will focus on gaining Bible knowledge, learning the Bible books, and what each one means in terms of interpreting those books. We will play games, have Bible drills and enjoy breakfast snacks together on the following dates: 9/29, 10/27, 11/24, 1/26, 2/23, 3/29, 4/26, 5/24

Open Sanctuary Quiet Hours: Wednesday mornings, from 7:00am to 9:30am our pastor will be present in the sanctuary to offer quiet hours. Reading materials will be available, and the sanctuary will be open for anyone who would like to come and sit quietly. The sanctuary will also be open during the week when church staff is in the building (9 am—2 pm weekdays) for anyone who would like to come sit quietly and pray, or read, or meditate.

Women's Dialogue Group: We are currently looking for any women who might be interested in a monthly gathering to discuss a variety of issues. Topics will include (but are not limited to) Personality and identity, using the Enneagram personality scale and other tools to aid discussion; Gender roles; Partnering and Parenting; Living out our faith. Chocolate will be made available at each meeting, as will childcare, as requested. If you are interested, please let Martha Kearse know; once we have the names of those interested, we will work to find a time that works for as many as possible.

Our **Wednesday morning Bible Study, which meets at 10 am on Wednesdays**, will continue, beginning on September 4th. In addition, our **Craft Group**, will continue on Tuesdays at 2 pm, beginning on September 3rd. We would like to keep our **Walking Group** going as well, currently meeting at 9 am on Thursdays. And our wonderful Sunday School classes, **Formations, Searchers, and The Forum**, are available to everyone each week.

PBC Staff Office Hours

Now that we have our office staff settled in, we wanted to post the standard office hours during which we are each available. We love having people (and puppies) around, so come by any time during these hours!

Nicole Zulauf: Office Administrator Hours: 9am-2pm Monday-Friday, available by phone or in person during those hours, with the exception of 30 minutes for lunch. Nicole will return calls made outside of office hours as soon as possible; feel free to leave messages on our voice mail.

Susan Allen: Finance Administrator Hours: 10:30am-2:30pm, Mondays; flexible hours on Friday; available by phone primarily during Monday office hours (with the exception of 30 minutes for lunch) but will return messages left during the week on Fridays.

Martha Kearse: Pastor Hours: 9am-12pm, Monday-Thursday. Meetings off-site generally take place in the afternoons. Martha also does hospital and other visits during the afternoon hours, unless otherwise requested. Martha is usually back at the office between 3pm and 5:30pm, although this can vary. Martha is available on her cell phone (704-223-4251) any time. You can always call her at this number if you need her. You can also make appointments anytime Monday-Thursday, either with Martha or Nicole. Martha's day off is Friday; she makes herself available for church activities, funerals, or other events on Saturdays, but keeps Fridays open when she can.

We have instituted a **monthly staff lunch** on the first Monday of each month (first Tuesday if a holiday falls on Monday) You are invited to join us if you'd like! Just let us know you'd like to join us and we will save you a seat wherever we are going!



We enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast Sunday, (9/25) morning with a great team flipping pancakes. Thank you Gary Christie, Jeff Curcio, Bill Fleming, Monty Kears, Farshid Shahrokhi, and Parks Snead! We followed breakfast with more Sacred Conversations before our church service.



Congratulations Mimi & Gus Hermosa on your 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you for including PBC in your celebrations!

SEARCHERS CLASS September, 2019

September will find the Searchers class completing its study of *The Good Book*, a compilation of writings about Bible passages by well-known authors. We will then have discussions on *Gilgamesh*, the oldest piece of epic world literature. We will be using the translation by Stephen Miller.

Gilgamesh was found when scholars were looking for physical evidence to corroborate events described in the Bible. What they found was that the Bible drew upon much older Sumerian myths. *Gilgamesh's* quest for, and questions about, the meaning of life in the face of death will make for interesting conversations!

The final session in September will be reflections on a portion of a memoir by mystery writer Nevada Barr.



State of our 2019 Finances

As we have concluded the second quarter of 2019, the Stewardship Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the 6 months ended June 30, 2019 as compared to last year for the same period and to our second quarter budget:

	<u>June 2018</u>	<u>June 2019 Budget</u>	<u>June 2019 Actual</u>
Contributions, and other	\$166,888	\$121,919	\$153,071
Expenses	144,260	146,119	139,278
Operating (Loss) Income	\$ 22,628	\$(24,200)	\$ 13,793
Market Increase-Investments	\$ 3,954	\$ 0	\$112,066

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 half of the year. Investments have only increased by \$112,066 as the market was good through June. Our total cash and investments are just over \$1,143,000 of which, \$878,000 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.

According to a lovely barista at Starbucks, fall is already here as the Pumpkin Spice arrives tomorrow! So, we had better get crackin'! We have some wonderful events and special programs planned for the fall—we hope you will put these dates on your calendar:

September:

- 8 SS Hour Baptism Class held in Fellowship Hall What do we mean when we invite people to be baptized? Where do we get our sense of what baptism means?
- 8 Rev. Jimmy Diggs of Monrovia, Liberia in our pulpit to share about World Christianity
- 22 Baptisms at Smith Mountain Lake—immediately after worship—lunch provided (donations welcomed but not required)—bring clothes or bathing suits to change into—church bus will be available for those who don't want to drive
- 23-27 Rivermont Food Pantry Volunteers needed sign up in the narthex

September Missions Focus: Food for Thought

Activity: Cereal/Popcorn/Pop Tart Drive and Rivermont Pantry Days



October:

- 6—Missions Activity Night—7pm with missions crafts, snacks, and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall!
- 12—Trip to Saunders Apple Orchard—Farm Animal Day at the Orchard!
- 20—Apple Butter Making—Lunch provided after worship—Spend the afternoon making apple butter—some to take home and some to share in our Thanksgiving boxes!
- 31—Costume Contest and Trick or Treat Fun at the Parsonage—Prizes for Everyone!

October Missions Focus: Humankind/Churches for Urban Ministry

Activity: Missions night on 10.6

November:

- 10—Blue Grass Mass—Special Worship Service—11am in Sanctuary
- 3-17—Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets
- 24—Basket Delivery

November Missions Focus: Interfaith Outreach Association

Activity: Thanksgiving Baskets

Activity: Jubilee Toy Drive

September Birthdays

- 1 Sam Johnson
- 5 Linda Williams
- 7 Max Brochon
- 8 John Riordan
- 10 Will Jennings
- 11 Sylvia List
- 15 Pat Fleming
- 16 Dan Raessler
- 16 Susan Spencer
- 18 Jeff Riley
- 21 Linda Lee Webb
- 22 Dwayne Lewis
- 22 Julie Palmer
- 23 Nathan Brooks
- 23 Wilma Whitehead
- 24 Elizabeth Flippin
- 25 Ed Burnette
- 25 Sarah Cook
- 25 Peakland Baptist Church
- 27 Jim Faulconer
- 28 Pat Shahrokhi

CHURCH STAFF:

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse
Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III
Nicole Zulauf

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Office Administrator

Susan Allen
Debbie Burton
Allan Heer

Financial Assistant
Music Director
Organist



© Fiona Childs

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS!

SEARCHERS

Meets in the Brooks Education Wing downstairs @ 9:45 a.m.

FORMATIONS

Meets in the Parlor @ 9:45 a.m.

THE FORUM Meets in the Brooks education Wing downstairs @ 10:00 a.m.

Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

September 1	Christian Education Classes	9:45 am & 10:00 am
	Worship *Communion* <i>Blessing of the hands</i>	11:00 am
	BAR Renovation Meeting	12:30pm
September 2	Labor Day	*Office Closed*
September 3	Craft Group	2:00 pm
September 4	Bible Study	10:00 am
September 5	Walking Group	9:00 am
	WOM @ Milano's	6:00 pm
September 8	Christian Education Classes	9:45 am & 10:00 am
	Baptism Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	9:45 am
	Worship	11:00 am
September 10	Craft Group	2:00 pm
September 11	Bible Study	10:00 am
September 12	Walking Group	9:00 am
September 15	Christian Education Classes	9:45 am & 10:00 am
	Worship	11:00 am
	Congregational Council	12:30 pm
September 17	Craft Group	2:00 pm
September 18	Bible Study	10:00 am
September 22	Christian Education Classes	9:45 am & 10:00 am
	Worship	11:00 am
	Baptism @ Mariners Landing SML	1:30pm Lunch followed by Baptism
September 23-27	Rivermont Food Pantry	Volunteers Needed
September 24	Craft Group	2:00 pm
September 25	Bible Study	10:00 am
September 26	Walking Group	9:00 am
September 29	Christian Education Classes	9:45 am & 10:00 am
	Worship	11:00 am