

It is here! The holiday season! Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for each of you, individually, and for this church, corporately. I am very grateful to be here, and deeply grateful for the dedication you have shown over this past year. As part of my effort to communicate and be transparent, I have prepared a **Report from Your Pastor for 2019**. You will receive it this week as a separate email. You will also be receiving:

**The 2019 Financial Report and 2020 Budget;**

**The By-Laws Update;**

**And The Nominating/Ministry Support Team Report;**

I know that this will be a lot of information, but I also know that, as Baptists, you understand yourselves to be stakeholders and owners of this church. I can hear you out there expressing your gratitude, with each new document you receive, that you are empowered to know how things work around here and to have a voice in who this church is and what it does! Your leadership feels your gratitude! All of these documents will be presented for your discussion and approval at our **December 11<sup>th</sup> Dinner and Quarterly Meeting**. Although I know that December is busy, I also know that you value the freedom to be part of the decision-making work of this church and that, if it is at all possible, you will be with us that evening. I look forward to celebrating this beautiful season with you, to singing our favorite carols, to lighting candles and eating gingerbread and feeling the hope, peace, joy and love of the season!



#### 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.*



## 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.**

## SEARCHERS CLASS DECEMBER

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will find the Searchers Class exploring the book *Light upon Light*: a literary guide to prayer for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Meaningful words of poetry, excerpts from classic and contemporary literature and scripture will help us pause and reflect upon the deeper meanings of the seasons.

## FORMATIONS CLASS FOR DECEMBER

The adult *Formations Class* meets on Sunday mornings in the parlor, beginning at 9:45 a. m. We are a bible study group, using resource material published by Smyth & Helwys, from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Each quarter's lessons explores a theme based on text from the Bible. December: "Luke's Christmas Story". Come and join us for study and discussion. All are welcome.

## PBC Weekly Happenings

Sunday: Christian Education 9:45 & 10:00 am  
Worship 11:00 am

Monday: McNeely Group 7:30 am

Tuesday: Craft Group 2:00 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study 10:30 am

Thursday: Choir Practice 7:30 pm

## New Spiritual Formation Offerings

**Bible Basics:** This is a once-monthly class, offered during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 on Sunday mornings). This class is open to all ages, and will focus on gaining Bible knowledge—learning the books of the Bible, learning how the Bible was formed, learning about the different genres of 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:

1.26      2.23      3.29      4.26      5.24

Thank you to everyone who shopped, donated and delivered our Thanksgiving Baskets!







## Congratulations to Amy Ray!

Amy was recently inducted into the business Hall of Fame for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance. A well deserved award and recognition.. We are proud of you Amy!

### State of our 2019 Finances

As we have concluded the third quarter of 2019, the Stewardship Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the 9 months ended September 30, 2019 as compared to last year for the same period and to our 3rd quarter budget:

	Sept 2018	Sept 2019 Budget	Sept 2019 Actual
Contributions, and other	\$220,549	\$182,878	\$230,198
Expenses	211,122	219,178	197,042
Operating (Loss) Income	\$ 9,427	\$(36,300)	\$ 33,156
Market Increase-Investments	\$ 27,358	\$ 0	\$111,769

Our expenses are under budget, especially when you consider the \$8,600 spent through September for the Basement Activity Room renovation which was approved after the original budget was established. We do have significant expenditures in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for our annual commercial insurance and pastor's retirement which will bring us more in line with our total expenses expected for the year. Our revenue is currently over our expectations primarily because our plate collections are very strong. Investments have increased by \$111,769 as the market has been very positive this year so far. Our total cash and investments are just over \$1,162,000 of which, \$897,000 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

### Basement Renovation—McNeely's ...

Our Renovation Team has acquired furniture and had a small closet built around the HVAC unit—the room looks more and more finished and welcoming! Jim Ray is at work on building the entertainment center, which will house the TV and other electronics. We are blessed to have such skilled members! In January, we will share a proposal for the use of the room. For now, we are looking for feedback on the name. We have settled on **McNeely's**, but feel the need for a second part to that name—

**McNeely's What?** If you have thoughts on this, please share them with Jeff Curcio, Jim Ray, Vic Angell, Bill Fleming, Margaret Daniel or Elizabeth Cook (the renovation team), or with Martha Kearsse. We are also still looking for a few more hosts—if you would be interested in hearing about what that position entails, ask Martha!

### Directory 2020

We've spent some time, this year, finding out who would like to be identified as a member here at Peakland and preparing to create a new directory that will better serve our needs. The Congregational Council has decided that this directory will be made in-house, and that it will be formatted to offer each family one page, front and back, for pictures and information, to go in a three-ring binder. In January, we will be sending out the template for the information for each family page. For right now, we are ready to begin receiving digital pictures of your family. Pictures should be sent as JPG files, and should be pictures of:

Family members, where each family member's face is clearly visible and identifiable

Extended family (perhaps, adult children or relations who are former members and still connected to Peakland Baptist)

Family enjoying activities or hobbies

We are asking for FOUR (4) pictures/family—you can let us know if you need more and we will work with you. Send your pictures with For Directory in the subject line to [peaklandbc@outlook.com](mailto:peaklandbc@outlook.com) or [mdkearse@outlook.com](mailto:mdkearse@outlook.com). If you do not have digital pictures and do not know how to make printed pictures into digital pictures, let us know! We can help!



### **December Birthdays**

3	Chris Bailey
3	Kristen Cook
5	Harry Haga
6	Larson Wile
11	Tracy Moon
14	Noah Grabeel
15	Melissa Dempsey
16	Craig Ryder
16	Donall Sale
17	Horace Russell
18	Kelly Dietz
19	David Garrard
20	Mike Sloan
24	Ann Weber
29	Matthew Williams
30	Janna Russell
31	Laura Bailey
31	Bruce Rockwell
31	Chris Webb

The Women on a Mission of  
Peakland Baptist Church  
invite you to an Open House

*At Martha & Monty's home*

*4012 Peakland Place*

*December 8th, 2019*

*4:00 to 6:00 p.m.*

*Refreshments will be served*

*We look forward to a time of  
fellowship and celebration as we  
look forward to Christmas!*

**Ushers Needed!**  
**Sign up sheet in the narthex**

### **December:**

- 1 First Sunday of Advent Under 18's meet after church to plan our Special Christmas Project for December 15th
- 2-6 Rivermont Food Pantry — volunteer sign up sheet in the narthex**
- 7 Decoration Party \*9:30am\* (Poinsettias will be delivered)
- 8 Second Sunday of Advent—Hanging of the Greens—Open House at the Parsonage \*4pm-6pm\*
- 11 Congregational Dinner and Quarterly Meeting \*6pm\* in Fellowship Hall
- 14 Cookie Baking and Parent Shopping Day \*10am-2pm\* Parents can drop off children of any ages to go do any Christmas preparations they need to do (or to just go rest up!) teens 14 or over will be paid \$\$ to help! Sign up with Martha (mdkearse@outlook.com)
- 15 Third Sunday of Advent—Young People Lead in Worship—Youth are invited to lead in worship
- 22 Forth Sunday of Advent—Love Feast during Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
- 25 CHRISTMAS!**
- 29 Fifth Day of Christmas—Regular Worship Schedule

**December 24-Jan. 1 Church Office Closed for holiday**

**Advent booklets are available in the breezeway.  
Thank you Dwight and Vicki Mays for providing these for us!**