



# The Messenger

June 2021

## From Martha

At our May meeting, the Congregational Council discussed the mask policy at PBC. As always through this pandemic, our interest is in protecting the most vulnerable in our midst. As the percentage of people in Lynchburg who are vaccinated remains below 50% and we know that children under age 12 cannot yet get the vaccine, the CC voted to continue with a policy of requiring masks during our worship services. Smaller groups who are able to establish that everyone present is vaccinated are free to make masking decisions for their group. We will continue to re-visit our policy and make changes as more information becomes available.

## Summer at PBC

We have a few things back on the table this summer that we haven't had in a while. We hope to be able to celebrate the possibility of being together this summer in several ways:

### McNeely Room—Begin Open Hours—June 1

Tuesday-Thursday—10am-1pm: the McNeely room will be available for visiting or hosting a club or playing video games or having tea with friends...etc.

Wednesday—7pm-9pm: Any groups are welcome to schedule on Wednesday/month or a single event in the McNeely Room!

## Live from the Deck—Open Mic-Music-Storytelling-Entertainment at Parsonage—ALL AGES WELCOME

June 25

July 23

August 20

Bring lawn chairs (or use some of ours) and join us as we make the deck into a stage and share music, stories, entertainment of all sorts (how do we feel about beach music?) on the parsonage lawn. Each night will have a "special guest" and anyone else who wishes to share something can do so. We'll begin at 7pm and wrap things up by 9pm,. Although those wishing to stay and chat will be free to do so

## Mid-Summer Float—July 31st—All Ages

We'll work with James River Adventures to have a nice kayak float down the James River. We'll set up transportation and portage for those who have their own kayaks or paddleboards and enjoy a lovely day together on the river! Reservations for this event will be required. Those who don't wish to kayak can enjoy a picnic together at Riverfront Park. **Sign up for this event at [pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org)! Sign ups will end July 14th.**

## Second Sundays

As one of our leaders in CC said, there's nothing like a little alliteration to get your attention, right? Beginning in June, we will introduce the Vision Process that our Congregational Council has proposed with **Second Sundays (June 13, July 11, August 8)**, which will look like this:

9:30am—Outdoor Worship in Memorial Garden Parking Lot (tents and chairs provided)

10:15am—Intro Exercise and the Day's Goals

10:40am-11:15am—Small Group conversations

11:15am-11:30am—Large Group Listening and Homework

We will have light snacks and drinks available each Sunday and will use tents and our facility for small group conversations. Tablets and Computers will be made available for Zoom participation in both large and small groups.

## June 2021: Congregational Council

What is it, who serves on it, and why should you care? From Congregational Council Moderator, Kathy Morland Hammitt

Your Congregational Council is made up of church leaders who manage the church in:

- the Spiritual Formation practices of the church;
- the Administration of the work and functions of the church;
- the Messaging of the church, inside the church and with the world;
- the Missions of the church, inside the church and with the world.

In addition to myself as Moderator, your Congregational Council is made up of the following: our Pastor, Martha Kearse; Assistant Moderator Georgeann Snead; Treasurer Amy Ray; Assistant Treasurer Ed Burnette; Church Clerk Becky Howard; and Team leaders: Bonnie Benedict – the Diaconate; Jim Ray – Facilities; Victor Angell – Finance; Linda Williams and Cheryle Angell – Missions; Fran Christie – Personnel; and Susan Epling – Spiritual Formations.

Why care about the Council? We want our church to reflect what you, our membership, want and need. This starts with understanding how decisions are made in our church, who makes decisions, and how your voice can best be heard and ways in which you might want to contribute.

First, let me introduce myself as your 2021 Moderator. I'm Kathy Morland Hammitt, and I've enjoyed being a part of Peakland Baptist Church since its inception. I remember going to Sunday school and church when we met at the old Garland Rhodes school, and my father, Dr. Ken Morland, filled in as an interim minister along with Dr. Fred Rowe – both colleagues at what was then Randolph Macon Woman's College – until the first minister of PBC could be hired. While I've come and gone from Lynchburg and the church over the years, I have always cherished those I grew up with in our church and the older generation that cared for my generation. I live in Lynchburg but work full time for the Sjogren's Foundation, located in the Washington, DC area, as its Vice President of Medical and Scientific Affairs. I was a television news producer in our nation's capital when I was diagnosed with Sjogren's and shifted to what would become a lifelong career in non-profit work as I juggled my chronic, autoimmune disease. My husband Harry and I are grateful to have two adult children and two grandchildren.

I was fortunate last year to be Assistant Moderator to Jackie Asbury, who, as an excellent and experienced leader, initiated me into our church governance. Now, as Moderator, I chair the Congregational Council and, along with Council members, serve as a liaison between church members, service teams and staff and ensure our church functions smoothly through its decision-making processes. As such, we encourage you to express your ideas for and needs from our church community – always in a respectful way, of course! – to our Pastor, myself as Moderator, and/or the Congregational Council at any time. And we hope you'll join us for upcoming opportunities for interaction as a community and discussions with one another on the second Sunday following an outside service during the summer.

We can't lead the church without all of you, our congregation! Baptist churches emphasize congregational governance, and that means all of you – our members – are an especially critical part of our processes and ability to function well in service to all of our members and the broader community. Please introduce yourself if I haven't introduced myself first. We've all struggled through a very tough year, but we're stronger together, so let's join in fellowship and support as we move from this difficult period into a time of renewal, as a community and together.





**We would like to recognize our graduates on their accomplishments!**

- Harry Cook      Jefferson Forest High School 2021  
Plans to attend University of Georgia in the fall
- Mary Cook      College of William and Mary
- Kenzie Woody      Amherst County High School
- Katie Sale      Savannah College of Art and Design

**State of our 2021 Finances**

As we have concluded the first four months of 2021, the Finance Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the period ended April 30, 2021, as compared to last year for the same period and our four month budget:

	<u>April 2020</u>	<u>April 2021 Budget</u>	<u>April 2021 Actual</u>
Contributions, and other	\$ 83,604	\$ 73,410	\$103,622
Expenses	95,224	92,910	80,686
Operating (Loss) Income	\$ (11,620)	\$(19,500)	\$ 22,936
Investment Increase (decrease)	\$(169,609)	\$ 0	\$ 36,557

We are well ahead of our budget for the first four months of the year. Many of our congregation have accelerated their pledge payments which is not uncommon for our church. Additionally, our expenses are below budget because we have not yet paid any of our insurance (it's not due until December), nor have we funded any missions yet.

The market value of our investments increased nicely during the first four months of 2021. As you know, we do not consider this spendable cash as our investments are our long-term savings and can be very volatile. Our cash and investments total \$1,440,000 with \$1,100,000 in unrestricted funds.

All of this stands in stark contrast to last year when the Covid-19 Pandemic was beginning to grip our country and the world. Our congregation has remained faithful to the church, and we are truly grateful! As we start to emerge from the Pandemic, it is important that we all continue to remember the church, with our participation, offerings, and prayer.

As always, if you would like more information, you may obtain detailed financial statements from the church office or contact me with questions.

Amy Ray, Treasurer

# Hello JUNE

## June Events

- 6 Sunday School, Worship \*Communion\*  
13 **Second Sunday Worship at 9:30am, no Christian education classes**  
20 Sunday School, Worship **Father's Day**  
21-25 Rivermont Food Pantry Volunteers Needed  
27 Sunday School, Worship

We are grateful for all that has enabled us to return to in-person worship on Sundays and for Jeff Curcio, who continues to work for PBC as our videographer and video editor, making it possible for people to continue to worship with us online.

Engaging in Worship at Peakland Baptist Church is happening right now in the following ways:

- Online access to worship through Facebook Live, our website, YouTube link, and emailed copies of sermons;
- Sending worship resources and sermons by email and mail to those who do not have internet access;
- Offering space for those who wish to worship in person, with face masks and social distancing on Sunday mornings.

The **Searchers** Class is currently meeting via Zoom. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you are interested in joining them.

The **Formations** Class continues to meet with social distancing and face masks in our Parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:45am-10:45am, with the exception of Second Sundays, class will not meet on those days.

The **Focus** Class is checking in with each other regularly.

## June Birthdays

- 4 Bill Fleming  
5 Kate Flippin  
7 Claude Cordle  
8 Sarah Raessler  
9 Marlene Colucci  
10 John Daniels  
12 James Cook  
12 Rashell Riordan  
12 TJ Russell  
14 Richard Dietz  
14 Leigh Ann Woody  
15 John Cook  
16 Donna Johnson  
16 Christopher Taylor  
17 Amy Ray  
20 Don Riley  
25 Wayne Adams  
28 Wendy Mosely  
30 Lily Hammitt  
30 Mattie Kearse  
30 Bill Phillips



## Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible Study meets at 10:30am each week via Zoom.

The Zoom link is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559562588?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559562588?pwd=NCtPVEloSm9UejVzZk1OMC91OXE2dz09)  
[pwd=NCtPVEloSm9UejVzZk1OMC91OXE2dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559562588?pwd=NCtPVEloSm9UejVzZk1OMC91OXE2dz09)  
Meeting ID—845 5956 2588  
Passcode—778066  
+1 646 558 8656 US

**Feel free to join us!**