



### Anticipating Advent

I know that most people won't get the very clever pun of that title—Advent means preparation, getting ready, anticipation.

Anyway, Advent is almost upon us and we want to share some of

the elements of the season that you can be part of:

- November 21st—Decorating Our Sanctuary  
After worship—Lunch provided
  - Worship Leadership  
Families, individuals, couples—we would love to see your faces!  
Read scripture, say a prayer, light a candle—easy!
  - Music  
Singing—solos, duets, ensembles  
Instrumentals  
See Debbie Burton if you'd like to offer some music!
  - December 5th—Arts & Crafts Fair  
Article on page 1 has details
  - December 19th—Love Feast  
Bring foods to share as we celebrate Love Sunday in our Fellowship Hall as part of worship  
Email Martha (marthakearse@peaklandbc.org) to sign up and be part of a wonderful Advent Season!
- Advent: November 28—Hope  
December 5—Peace  
December 12—Joy  
December 19—Love
- Christmas: December 26  
Epiphany: Jan. 2-Feb. 27

### Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study meets weekly via Zoom to discuss and unpack scripture. We have chosen to study the books of James and Hebrews to follow along with the lectionary texts for the fall.

Join us via Zoom at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046006745?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046006745?pwd=NU11dHpSdHFhdk8yOWgwK1VOL2RSUT09)

[pwd=NU11dHpSdHFhdk8yOWgwK1VOL2RSUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046006745?pwd=NU11dHpSdHFhdk8yOWgwK1VOL2RSUT09)

Meeting ID: 870 4600 6745

Passcode: 423040

Dial: +1 301 715 8592

### Church Office Holiday Schedule

Our Regular Office Hours:

Monday-Friday—9:30am-2pm

Martha in Office or available by phone:

Monday-Thursday—9am-5:30pm

Day Off—Fridays

Leslie in Office or available by phone:

Monday-Tuesday—9:30am-2pm

Thursday-Friday—9:30am-2pm

Day Off—Wednesdays

Susan Allen is available by email at:

[pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org)

Holiday Office Closings

November 25-26—Office Closed

December 27-January 3—Office Closed

January 17—Office Closed



We partner with Jericho Mission's Toy Drive each Advent season by collecting new toys in our narthex. If you would like to donate a new toy, drop it in the box provided any Sunday—they come to pick up the toys around December 10th!

### *Time to Order Poinsettias for Advent!*

Order before November 21 by

- Email to [pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org)
- Call church office —434-384-2031
- Fill in form at church

Cost is \$30/Poinsettia

**Peakland Baptist Church**

**4018 Peakland Place Lynchburg, VA 24503**

**434-384-2031**

**[www.peaklandbaptistchurch.org](http://www.peaklandbaptistchurch.org)**



# *The* Messenger

November 2021



### New Lock Box at PBC!

Back in the late summer, Bill Fleming mentioned that it would be nice if we had an outdoor, secure lock box for people to drop off their financial gifts and pledge cards. Jim Ray and Tom Willman were on it! Jim had a lock box in his basement (because of course he did) and Tom had a friend, Brian Thurston of Thurmetco) who donated the steel (because of course he did!). Tom welded the pieces together and he and Jim installed a lock box that will withstand any tornado or other act of crazy weather that might come our way! The box is located in our circle driveway in front of the office—pull in to the right on the driveway and you will see the lockbox in the garden circle to your left. Thank you Jim and Tom! And thank you, Bill, for the idea!



### PBC Opportunities Booklet

We are still in a season of planning for next year. If you would like to know what opportunities are available for activities, for getting to know each other, for being part of our teams or our leadership, check out this year's PBC Opportunities Booklet! Copies are available in the office if you do not have one. We look forward to all the good things that will happen in 2021!

### ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL—DEC. 5

### **Arts and Crafts Holiday Festival to Raise Money for Interfaith Outreach Association.**

You may be aware of the burden that IOA carried last year, when they had more than one million dollars in state and federal grants. This year, their burden is again growing large, but the grant money is not as present. During this coming holiday season, we are partnering with several other local communities of faith, including **Agudath Sholom Synagogue, First Unitarian Church, Westminster Presbyterian** and several others to offer a fun arts and crafts fair to raise money for Interfaith Outreach.

We can have fun, hang out with friends, shop for really special holiday gifts and help support the work of IOA to help people in need in Lynchburg.

### Here is how you can participate:

1. Do you make stuff? Then, spend the fall making the stuff! **ARTISTS!** If you make your living as an artist, consider allowing us to take a high quality picture of one of your works to use digitally—we can make cards, t-shirts, prints, etc., and you won't have to contribute valuable supplies and time away from your professional tasks.
2. Let Martha know what stuff you're making.
3. Before Thanksgiving, bring the stuff you made to the church if it is non-perishable.
4. After Thanksgiving, bring perishable goods to the church.
5. Come to the Festival, scheduled from **2-5pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church**, and buy stuff!
6. Want to help organize? Tell Martha!
7. Have a great fall with very positive goals!

**NOVEMBER 7: ALL SAINTS' DAY AND FALL BACK TIME CHANGE**



State of our 2021 Finances

As we have concluded the first 9 months of 2021, the Finance Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the period ended September 30, 2021, as compared to last year for the same period and our 9 month budget:

Sept 2020	Sept 2021 Budget	Sept 2021 Actual
Contributions, and other		
\$ 186,619	\$165,173	\$ 234,575
<b>Expenses</b>		
196,388	209,048	197,009
<u>Operating (Loss) Income</u>		
<u>\$ (6,769)</u>	<u>\$ (43,875)</u>	<u>\$ 37,566</u>
 <u>Investment Increase (decrease)</u>		
<u>\$ 46,94</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 87,702</u>

We are well ahead of our budget for the first nine months of the year. However, it should be noted that our revenue includes 2 unusual items as we sold the church bus for \$16,010 and received an estate gift of \$35,000. Without these items, we would currently have an operating loss of (\$13,444). Our expenses are below budget because we have not yet paid any of our insurance (it's not due until December) as well as some scheduled maintenance. We have funded all missions. Additionally, in October, the congregation approved \$15,000 for the repair of the retaining wall in our parking lot. This work is expected to be completed in 2021. All things considered, it is very likely that we will have a loss again in 2021.

The market value of our investments decreased \$22,904 in the third quarter but is still well ahead for the year. 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 \$1,507,000 with \$1,160,000 in unrestricted funds. ***Our congregation has remained faithful to the church, and we are truly grateful! As always, it is important that we all continue to remember the church, with our participation, offerings, and prayer. If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2022, please do so as soon as possible!***

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

Amy Ray, Treasurer



November Birthdays

- 4 Norman Moon
- 4 Parks Snead
- 5 Adrian Heer
- 9 Tom Willman
- 10 Mary Ann Vinson
- 11 Harry Cook
- 12 Elizabeth Taylor
- 13 Gwynn Ramsey
- 14 Thomas Cook
- 15 Leslie Willman
- 15 Diane Russell
- 17 Vicki Mays
- 19 Lucy Cook
- 20 Crawford Heer
- 20 Susan Luce
- 20 Bill Carroll
- 23 Thelma Naff
- 28 Robin Creek
- 28 Lucy Sloan

November Events:

- 7—All Saints’ Day—Communion
- 8-12—Rivermont Pantry
- 21—Hanging of the Green — Advent Decorating Party after worship (12:15)—Lunch provided
- 28—First Sunday of Advent

December Events:

- 5—Arts & Crafts Fair
- 12—Church-Wide Business Meeting: 2022 Budget Approval

December 12 Business Meeting

On **Sunday, December 12th**, right after our worship service, we will gather in our **McNeely Room for our annual church-wide Business Meeting to approve our budget for 2022**. There will be significant things to talk about and you will receive details about those items before Thanksgiving. Your part:

- ⇒ Prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2022 and turn in your pledge card. These help us plan.
- ⇒ When you receive the information about proposals for 2022, read the text with care and begin asking questions early. Proposals come from our teams and represent work that has been happening for months ahead of time. If you are on the team, you have been adding your input. If you are not on the team, you may join the team or treat respectfully the work of the team. You do not have to agree with the team’s proposal, but we expect the work of teams, much of which is based on feedback from our summer discussions and our survey, to be discussed respectfully.
- ⇒ Attend the business meeting. The meeting will be available in person, on a computer or iPad, or by phone. Our quorum is less than 20 people—your voice matters.

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

During these last months, when we have had a hard time gathering, many of you have still been contributing your soda top tabs to the church to support the Ronald McDonald House program. Ronald McDonald Houses supply free or low-cost housing to families who must travel to be with family members—often children or parents or spouses—who are undergoing long-term treatment in hospitals.

Karen Painter was willing to collect all the tab buckets here at PBC and get them to Marcy Catalano, who works with the Ronald McDonald House in Charlottesville. Thank you, Karen!

You can donate here at PBC in several locations around the church—narthex, McNeely Room, church office. Look for tubs that are marked with the Ronald McDonald

House logo and drop the tabs from any aluminum drinking can into the tubs.



The **Searchers** Class have returned to a Zoom meeting at 9:45am on Sundays. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you would like to join them. The **Formations** Class is currently not meeting while worship remains virtual. The **Forum** Class is checking in with each other regularly.