



# PFPC E-PISTLES

February/March 2015

## Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

**Lent through Easter** – On Sunday, February 22, we begin the Lenten season. Pastor Steve returns to the Sunday School classroom to lead, *He Set His Face to Jerusalem: A Lenten Study for Adults*. The book by Richard B. Wilke begins with, "Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and in so doing, he offered us God's life, power, and salvation." Then the book challenges us to consider "Where do we set our face?" The class concludes on Easter Sunday, April 5. All class books have been purchased by the church, for the easiest of enrollments ... simply show up, get a book, and read a chapter per week. By the way, the book can be purchased as a download to your tablets through many outlets.



Holy Week is full of traditions at PFPC. On Palm Sunday we'll celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and distribute "palm crosses" at the end of each service to remember the event. We will hold our Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m., including Communion. The choir will offer their gift of song that evening. For some, a very touching part is when we depart from the Sanctuary in silence into the evening.

Easter Sunday continues the traditions, as we return to the home of Janette and Howard Gammon to gather on their lawn for Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. Immediately following will be a community breakfast on their patio. Then we'll move to the PFPC Sanctuary for Nexus @ Nine. In all the bustle, we'll remember to attend Sunday School at 10 a.m. And then we'll gather at 11 a.m. for our Easter Service.



## St. Patrick's Day

**St. Patrick's Luncheon** – On Sunday, March 15th, immediately following our 11am worship service, we'll gather to enjoy a St. Patrick's Day themed meal. Paul Davis, chairperson of our Fellowship Committee, will encourage our great cooks to bring forward their favorite recipes of corned beef, cabbage, and Irish potatoes. You may look at such faire and wonder what will

your children eat? In the words of Jesus, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what will you drink." (Matt. 6:25) The Fellowship Committee has also called upon those same cooks to offer "kid friendly" dishes. So come worship in the morning, and then hang around and enjoy the fellowship.



**A Note from Your Nurture Committee** – Sandy Breeden, chairperson of your Nurture Committee for 2015, invites you to participate in our monthly prayer group. On the fourth Wednesday of every month the group gathers in the PFPC Sanctuary at 9 a.m. There is no agenda, but all bring their prayer concerns to be shared with the group. The contrast between the Sanctuary and the educational wing is fascinating. As the 3 and 4 year olds exit their guardian's cars and enter the building with their energy and activity for Sunshine Nursery School, we're literally on the other side of

the wall in contemplative prayer. It is fascinating the way the presence of the youth transcends the barriers, just as God does every time we pray. God pierces our own barriers to faith and hope. God is listening, indeed!

**Who's on the session?** With the creation of our early service, Nexus @ Nine, we combined our two bulletins and eliminated some cost and some of the text. One of the fallouts was we had to remove the list of elders serving on the session. So, it seems appropriate that we post those names on this issue of our newsletter. There are twelve elders serving on the session. They are as follows: Ruth Adams— Good Samaritan; Pete Adamson— Planning & Finance; Tom Ballou— Outreach; Sandy Breeden— Nurture; Joe Bryan— Buildings & Grounds; Ellen Davis— Clerk of Session; Paul Davis— Fellowship; Dave Gardy— Worship; Jerry Sprouse— Policy & Personnel; Hayden VanDyke— Nominating; Jane VanDyke— Christian Education; Chip White— Stewardship. Also working with the session are Treasurer Paul Robinson, chair of the Financial Feasibility sub-committee, and Kate West and Connie Bryan, co-chairs of Bluegrass Faith Festival 2015. Such great talent makes for some very interesting session meetings.



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The session of PFPC met on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 in the Madeline Carswell Room of the Educational Wing. Eleven of the twelve ruling elders were in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Supper provided by elder Pete Adamson preceded the meeting.

Subjects discussed were:

- \* Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with prayer reflecting on the Scripture, “How can we recognize a word that the Lord has not spoken?” Exodus 18:21
- \* Pastor Hodges delayed until March a lesson on “Congregational Health” from *Entering the World of the Small Church*, by Pappas, Chapter 8.
- \* Gave privilege of the floor to Kate West, BFF 2015 chairperson. Followed by a 10 minute discussion focused on the needs and expectations of both the session and Rockahock leading up to the coming festival on September 20, 2015.
- \* Approved the “Consent Agenda” for the evening with no withdrawals. Approvals included: all minutes submitted by the clerk of session; Pastor’s Note February 4<sup>th</sup>; Game Night, Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>; St. Patty’s Day luncheon, March 15<sup>th</sup>; Lenten Sunday School class “He Set His Face to Jerusalem;” Johanna Davis as Sunday School teacher for the Upper Elementary class; Valentine Bags distributed on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> during the 11 am service; Annual Yard Sale, Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- \* Commissioned the record at 231 members, a loss of one, reflecting the death of Don Hinchey.
- \* Planned PFPC Clean-up Day for Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- \* Reviewed the 2015 Planning Calendar through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- \* Reviewed the 2015 Action Register.
- \* Discussed the number of elders on duty during the 11 a.m. service, and determined to address the topic at the March stated meeting.
- \* Meeting adjourned with prayer including concerns for Tamara Thompson (coworker of Elder Tom) enduring 6 operations to address G.I. issues, Joe Huber (friend of elder Dave) going in for open heart surgery on Thursday to open a severely blocked artery, and Connie Bryan (wife of Elder Joe) going in for a knee replacement on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- \* All this and more in Jesus Christ our Lord!

The next stated meeting of the session is on Wednesday, March 4th, 2015 at 7pm at Wallace Manor on Rt. 155 ½ mile north of the church. Session Supper will be provided by Wallace Manor at 6pm.

\* This note has been offered to inform readers of the church website and/or PFPC E-pistle by the moderator of session. This note and its contents are not a substitute for session approved minutes. If this note were to contradict session approved minutes, the approved minutes prevail.

*Special*  
  
**EASTER OFFERING**

**One Great Hour of Sharing** – At Easter the P.C. (USA) collects this special offering. The offering goes toward “assisting in the empowerment of others as they move past emotional, physical, and spiritual misfortunes. Your help gives hope.” Through a variety of ministries the Presbyterian Mission Agency strives to help all of God’s people find resilience, hope and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. To learn more and donate visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/specialofferings/one-great-hour-sharing-offering/>



“Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:5

Easter can be a time of sadness. Personally, we may long for the times of our youth. I can remember the Easter baskets my Mom would give me. The crazy green grass hiding the waxy but flavorful jelly beans. As a teenager I remember the big chocolate egg she would give. The nougat center was encased in chocolate. And then I remember when she would mail me a card at college. Perhaps my sister arranged to find the card. And then I remember when it all stopped. My Mom no longer knew it was Easter. For me this brings on deep sadness. The memories of a better time linger within me, when a youthful Mom enjoyed the presence of her children at Easter. Easter can be a time of sadness, if that was all there is to this life, remembering the passing of time.

“Hope does not put us to shame,” wrote Paul to the church in Rome. His message is that the particular hope we Christians have will not put us to shame. It will not make us look like fools running from our sadness. Why? God backs our hope. Because of Christ’s resurrection we know that this bodily life will not be our last experience. I will not go through eternity longing for my Mom to love me again. My hope is that God will see to it that me and my Mom will be fine. The one thing God offers that can remove the darkest sadness, if we will let it, and that word is ... hope.

**March Birthdays**

- 1 Kellie Gray
- 2 Joe Bryan
- 3 Ronnie Lang, Keith Wright
- 4 Sue Anne Martin, Nina Wallace
- 6 James Gray
- 7 Janice Thorndike, Caroline Larochelle
- 10 Margaret Robinson
- 11 Mac Mountcastle
- 11 Link White
- 12 Matt Sun, Kate West, Kristy Geiger
- 14 Ed Batkins
- 15 Joan Gammon
- 18 Janette Gammon, David Mephram, Ray Davis, Denise Caldwell, Ron Stiers
- 19 Anna Black
- 21 Harry Mountcastle
- 27 Chris Hockaday
- 29 Dennis Hockaday
- 30 Dave Gardy
- 31 Megan Mephram, Diane Blanton atkins

**April Birthdays**

- 1 Carter Minter
- 4 Charlie Storey
- 8 Marilyn Forrest
- 10 Rosie Gilbride
- 12 Jane Van Dyke, Robert Hart, Martha Martin, Edwin Wallace, Hunter Hickman
- 16 Aaron Van Dyke
- 21 Betty Wallace
- 22 Danielle Stanley
- 23 Debra Hockaday
- 25 Philip Hickman, John West, Sandy Breedon
- 27 Wayne Smith
- 29 Estelle Minter, Paul Robinson, Jr., Caroline Robinson, Ashton Wallace, Nancy Jean Roberts



**March Anniversaries**

- 19 Dave and Judy Thompson
- 20 Kenny and Cindy Evans

**April Anniversaries**

- 21 David and Melody Raef
- 22 Chris and Jennifer Smith
- 26 Ben and Denise Caldwell



Providence Forge  
Presbyterian Church

To further God's Kingdom on Earth, one soul at a time.

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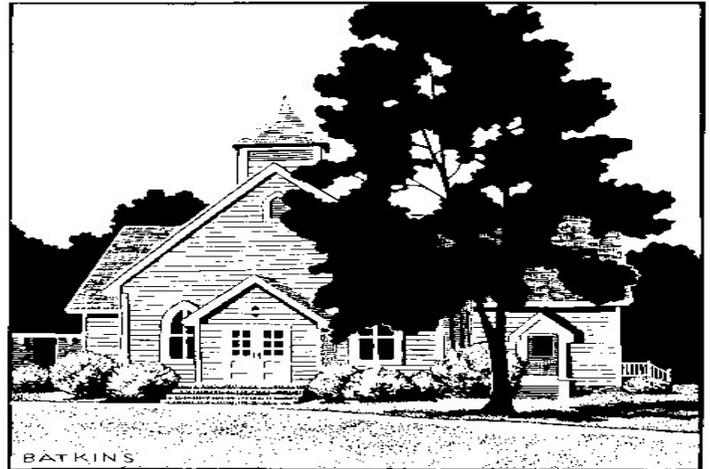
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Friday & Saturday by appointment.  
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**Administrative Assistant** Laurie Rowe  
**Organist/Choir Director** Melody Raef



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Providence Forge VA 23140  
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**Here's your  
February/March E-pistles**

