



# PFPC E-PISTLES

Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

March/April 2015

**Lenten Adult Study for Sunday School** – 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 through many outlets.



**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 Policy and Personnel Committee** – Jerry Sprouse, chairperson of your P&P committee, is tasked with developing and updating the policies and procedures of PFPC. Each of those documents is generated by the P&P committee and then Elder Sprouse presents each to the session for their approval. Over the years it has been difficult to "people" the committee, perhaps because of its nature ... a lot of paperwork and little reward. This committee does not generate the inspiration or fellowship seen from other committees; however, imagine the church without this committee. P&P conducts all personnel reviews and recommends the pay of staff and pastor. It can be said, P&P oversees the health and welfare of the staff. If done well, the church runs well; therefore, this is a critical committee to the life of PFPC. If you'd like to get involved please contact Jerry. P&P meets quarterly and immediately follow the 11 a.m. worship service.



**P&P COMMITTEE**

**What does PFPC mean to you?** "When we moved to New Kent County a year and a half ago we came as strangers to a new country," writes Kaye Aguirre. "We had lived in Newport News for 40 years and as surely as God called Abraham to leave his home, God called us to leave Newport News and go to a new place. We found ourselves in Quinton where we had no family, no friends, no knowledge of country living. I (Kaye) was scared of the changes at this point in our lives but God promised to bless us so we jumped in by signing the contract on our new house forty-five minutes after seeing the house. We signed without contingencies and before our house in NN was even on the market. Talk about putting it all in God's hands! In all the chaos of the next few weeks of purchasing the house we knew we needed to find a church home. Jim found PFPC's website and we decided to visit on a Tuesday afternoon when we were scheduled to have the home inspection here in New Kent County. We found Sue Ann Martin at the church office. What an ambassador she was for PFPC that day. She was so welcoming and took us on a tour of this wonderful church, telling us about Nexus Service and Pastor Steve. We were pretty sure that this was going to be our new home. A few months later we formally joined this congregation and became part of the PFPC family. This church for us means "home", "security", "stability", "community" and all those things that connect us to Christ. We are thankful for the friends we have made at this little country church and feel that God has truly blessed us by leading us here."



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The session of PFPC met on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Wallace Manor, Providence Forge. The meeting was moved to make room for the Church Yard Sale. All twelve ruling elders were in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Supper provided by Wallace Manor preceded the meeting.

Subjects discussed were:

- Meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. with prayer reflecting on the Scripture, "I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge." 1 Peter 5:1-2
- Welcomed and gave privilege of the floor to Kate West. Later in the meeting West presented the answers to many questions posed by the session in February about the coming Bluegrass Faith Festival on September 20, 2015.
- Approved the "Consent Agenda" for the evening with no withdrawals. Approvals included: approval of minutes from February 4<sup>th</sup> stated session meeting; received Pastor's Report March 4, 2015; approved pastor's vacation April 6-12; approved \$332.00 Souper Bowl of Caring collection to go to the New Kent Food Pantry (or equivalent); approved Easter Egg Hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup>; approved "Prayer" box be placed in the church vestibule; acknowledge Girl Scout Sunday on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Commissioned the record at 231 members, no change from February.
- Reviewed the 2015 Action Register.
- Approved Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> to promote BFF 2015 during the 11 a.m. service.
- Meeting adjourned with prayer including concerns for Tamara Thompson (coworker of Elder Tom) enduring 7 operations to address G.I. issues, Janette Gammon recovering from a fall on ice, no broken bones; Davis Gammon under medical care back in New Kent; Don Dzula at 36 years and planned open-heart surgery.
- All this and more in Jesus Christ our Lord!

The next stated meeting of the session is on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7pm at PFPC in the Madeline Carswell room in the Educational Wing. Supper will be provided by Jerry Sprouse 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.



**One Great Hour of Sharing** – One Great Hour of Sharing is an Easter offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more. Take note of special envelopes in our bulletins Palm Sunday.

*"Because (Jesus) himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested."* Hebrews 2:18 (NRSV)

Each Easter I am reminded "Jesus experienced what we experience," wrote Mark D. Roberts. This is an exceptional claim. Sure, we have dear friends who stand with us in some tragic situations, but do they really experience what we experience? Of course not! You cannot possibly know what I'm feeling, and I can't experience your feelings. In fact, when asked, few people can put their feelings into words that connect with anyone else. I suspect you've tried. I have. I'm not disappointed in my friends; I'm simply a realist ... Only Jesus can know my experience and yours too. And this is good news.



Jesus experienced our pain during his ministry and death upon the cross; ensuring Jesus knows how it feels to be human. Jesus experienced love, hurt, suffering, temptations and rejection. By the way, loving someone can hurt, and you know if you've tried it. Back to Jesus, since he knows our experience, knows our heart, He is able to help us. Jesus can understand and help. How does Jesus help? We're helped by the miraculous power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Yes, that may seem strange to many reading this note. Well, it is!

As Roberts noted, "The strangest thing about God is also the most wonderful thing about God!" God knows our experience and is with us. I do believe it. It's OK, we can say it together. God can be "strange."

### March Birthdays

- 1 Kellie Gray
- 2 Joe Bryan
- 3 Ronnie Lang, Keith Wright
- 4 Sue Anne Martin, Nina Wallace
- 6 James Gray, Katie Williams
- 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
- 17 Richard Williams
- 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 Breeden
- 27 Wayne Smith
- 29 Estelle Minter, Paul Robinson, Jr., Caroline Elizabeth Rosado, Ashton Wallace, Nancy Jean Roberts



### Anniversaries and Birthdays

#### March Anniversaries

- 19 Dave and Judy Thompson
- 20 Kenny and Cindy Evans
- 26 Miles Cary & Mary Garland Johnston, Jr.

#### 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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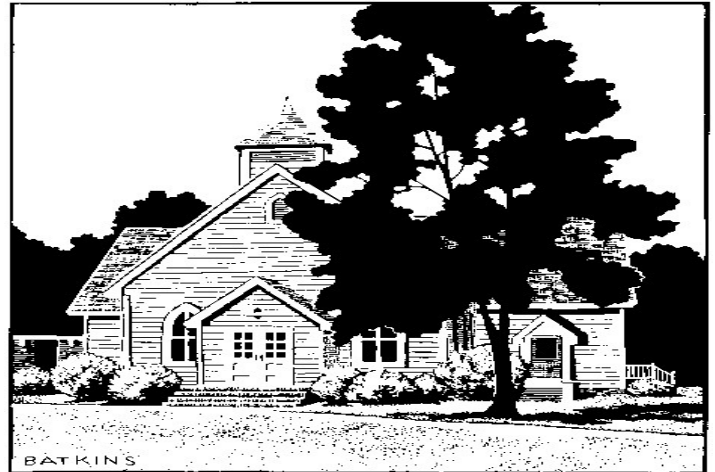
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**Pastor Steve Hodges**  
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Friday & Saturday by appointment.  
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**Administrative Assistant** Laurie Rowe  
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Providence Forge VA 23140  
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**Here's your  
March/April E-pistles**

