



The Spotlight

July/August 2011

Bridgewater
Presbyterian Church
110 East College St.,
Bridgewater, VA 22812
540-828-2442
bridgewaterpc@verizon.net
www.bridgewaterpc.org

Summer Mission Opportunities

Sharing Our Time & Resources with Others

Men's Clothing Drive:

Summer-weight shorts and shirts for men are needed for distribution through the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Guys, this is a great time to part with those items that just don't fit anymore! Make sure they are clean and in good repair. There will be a collection box in the Fellowship Hall through August 7th.

Volunteer Farm Day:

Join the Youth Group on Saturday, July 16th for a day working in the gardens of the Volunteer Farm near Woodstock. We will car-pool from BPC at 7:30 a.m. Anyone interested please contact Kerry for more details.

Email: kfosterbpc@verizon.net
Phone: 828-2442

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Committee

Meetings:

- *Resource: Monday, August 8, 7:00 p.m. at the McQuilkins' 107 Milestone Ct. Bridgewater*
- *SUPER TUESDAY, August 9, 6:15 p.m. for Member Care, Mission, Education and Spiritual Life*
- *Session: Sunday, Aug. 14, 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall*

Those Special Passages...

A note from Judy Rees:

“One recent Sunday during Children's Time, Kerry shared the importance of "special" scriptures; those which we have memorized and hold dear. I remembered many years ago working with Corinne's Sunday School class (*they were 3rd graders at the time!*) creating our own translations of scriptures. It happened that *this year's* Middle School Class was studying some of the same verses. Here is the result of their deliberate effort to embrace more closely Matthew 5:1-12

- **The Beatitudes.**”

God approves of us when we are...

- *Lacking courage.* God is there for us.
- *Feeling down.* God is there to comfort us.
- *Satisfied with who we are.* God will fulfill His promises to us.
- *Aiming to be good Christians.* God will make us whole.
- *Caring for others.* God will care for us.
- *Thinking and acting in the right way.* God will be proud of us.
- *Peaceful and do not hurt others.* God will call us His children.
- *Being bullied for doing what's right.* God knows we are doing it for Him, and will watch over us.
- *Sharing God's Word especially when others don't want to hear it.* God knows we, like His followers before us, understand what it means to be a Christian.



Special Sermon Series in July:

The Essential Tenets of Presbyterian Reformed Faith
More inside on page 4!

MEMBER CARE

Meets @ 6:15 Tuesday, August 9th



Dear Church Family, thank you for the thoughts, prayers and food you provided during Mother's brief illness and passing. Roger and I were touched by your kindness and caring.
-Sonja Bible

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the many graduation and birthday cards. I appreciate your support.
-Kaci Foster

Dear BPC Congregation, Thank you for the nice cards. I am so happy that I attend such a loving and caring church.
-LeeAnn West

Church Directory:

I want to publish an updated directory of members and friends in late August (after I get college addresses). I'd like everyone to confirm a mailing address, and any email addresses, phone numbers, etc. that you would like for me to include.
-Sally

Anniversary Congratulations to:

Lowell & Eleanor Holmes—50

David & Judy Rees—30

Tommy & Betsy Glendye—20

T L C

TLC—July

3 - Joe Price, recovering from heart surgery:

10 - Lowell Holmes:

17 - Bob Rees, recovering from a fall:

24 - Chris & Kerry Foster, have been with BPC 3 years!

31 - Janet Sonifrank, for the many hours spent designing our new signs & the proposed renovations to the College Street entrance:

TLC—August

7 - Nancy & John Spencer, for all they do for the people and property of BPC:

14 - Don Snipes:

21 - David Shobe, who frequently worships with us:

28 - Lacey Johnson, for sharing her gift for music with us and others:

YOUTH
trip to
**KINGS
DOMIN-
ION**
Wednesday,
JULY 20
Open to ALL!
Each person pays
for their own
ticket/food.
Call Kerry if you
are interested so
we have ample
drivers.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Meets @ 6:15 Tuesday, Aug. 9th

Lunch Bunch finishes our study of Revelation on Wednesday, July 14th. Meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Sally the Tuesday before to order lunch. Coming in September: The Beatitudes!

Book Group is reading "Heaven Is For Real" by Todd Burpo. Gather at the home of Jane Crockett on Thursday, July 28th at 7:00 to discuss this work.

Bible Conference at Massanetta Springs is July 31 - August 5. There are brochures and a poster on the kiosk or

www.massanettasprings.org.

Keep in Prayer These Students:

- *Alex McElroy* will be at Marshall Univ. July 11 - Aug. 13 getting a taste of college life;
- *Kendall West* is attending a Young Life camp in New York July 23 - 29;
- *Lauren West* is going to a Young Life Camp in Rockbridge County Aug. 14 -18;
- *Wesley & Kyle Eichlin* are at Boy Scout Camp July 10 - 16 (Dana, too!);
- *Steven Burke* is working at Camp Shenan-

MISSION

Meets @ 6:15 Tuesday, August 9th

"Out of the Country" this Summer

Chris Foster – is in Europe through July 3rd with a group from Riverheads High School;

Bethany Hansburger – is in Uganda doing medical/health-related mission work through July 27th;

Cheryl Burke – will be in Nicaragua July 8-15 building a house with *FriendsNE*. She will also work 2 days at a school for children with special needs;

Hannah Leigh – is in Thailand through August 19th as a team leader for *Rustic Pathways'* "Come With Nothing" program. Students bring only one change of clothing and buy the rest of their wardrobe in local markets. They travel to 3 rural villages in along Thailand's western frontier and live with traditional villagers where they participate in service projects that will directly impact lives in these remote areas.

Keep them in prayer as they make a difference elsewhere!

Recent Special Offerings

Books for Nicaragua: 31

Pentecost Offering: \$315.⁰⁰
40% sent to Mercy House

Thank you!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Meets @ 6:15 Tuesday, Aug. 9th



Summer Music:

July 3 - Dubby White, June's son

Some small groups are preparing for Wildwood but there are a few Sundays in between that are open. Call Lacey at 421-7784.

Choir resumes practice in August - watch the bulletin!

In the Pulpit

on July 31:
Rev. Tom Barner



Worship Attendance

May 1	54
May 8	74
May 15	43
May 22	53
May 29	50
June 5	55
June 12	38
June 19	41
June 26	48

Lectionary for July 2011

- 3 - Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Psalm 45:10-17; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 10 - Genesis 25:19-34; *Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*
- 17 - Genesis 28:10-19; *Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*
- 24 - Genesis 29:15-28; *Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128:1-6; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*
- 31 - Genesis 32:22-31; *Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21*

Lectionary for August 2011

- 7 - Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- 14 - Genesis 45:1-15; *Psalm 133:1-3; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28*
- 21 - Exodus 1:8-2:10; *Psalm 124:1-8; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20*
- 28 - Exodus 3:1-15; *Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Auxiliary Luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 3rd

Served at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren from 11:00-1:00. Proceeds benefit the residents of Bridgewater Home through Peaceful Living Training for 2nd Floor Nursery Care & Gardner Wing (the memory units.) August is the "Gourmet Hamburger Feast" that is fabulous! No meal in July.

OFFICE NEWS

- ◇ Sally on vacation July 18 - 25.
- ◇ Sally is out Tuesday, Aug. 16th.
- ◇ Kerry is away July 30 - Aug. 3. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, contact Sally during office hours or Session Clerk Elizabeth Engleking after Noon and evenings (



Next Newsletter Deadline is
Monday, Aug. 22nd



The 2011 Church Officer Nominating Committee is being assembled by Elder Betsy Glendye and Clerk Elizabeth Engleking. Watch the bulletin.

Shenandoah Presbytery meets Saturday, August 27th at Timber Ridge Presbyterian near Lexington. Our Elder Commissioner will be selected at the next Session meeting.

Save the Date: Saturday, September 17 — Work Day

Resources that will be used in this series - and you can access them, too:

www.pcusa.org

www.shenpres.org

Google
"essential tenets"

The Book of Confessions - copies in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall

Shenandoah Presbytery's Resource Center, specifically a video by Jack Rogers, "Essential Tenets."

Ask an Elder

Ask a Pastor

About Worship in July...

This month, I am exploring in our worship hour several of our "essential tenets," or beliefs, of the Reformed Faith. To find the formal presentation of these tenets, one could go to the current *Book of Order* 2009/2011 and turn to the sections G-2.0300-G-2.0500. Good reading. Or, you could read on, and see a summation as prepared by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Butler, PA. Their "retelling of the tenets" goes like this:

The Essential Tenets of Presbyterian Reformed Faith

1. Presbyterians as Christians share this with other Christians:
 - a. The mystery of a triune God.
 - b. The incarnation of the eternal Word of God in Jesus Christ.
2. Presbyterians as Protestants share this with other Protestants:
 - a. Justification by Grace through Faith.
 - b. Authority of Scripture.
3. Presbyterians as Reformed share this with the Reformed Tradition:
 - a. God's sovereignty.
 - b. Election of God's people for Service and Salvation.
 - c. God's Covenant with Chosen People.
 - d. Faithful Stewardship of Creation.
 - e. Recognizing Human Tendency Toward Idolatry and Tyranny.
 - f. That God's People Work Toward the Transformation of Society by Seeking Justice and Living in Obedience to the Word of God.

You can also search the internet and find other lists by our brothers and sisters of the faith. That is our Reformed Tradition - fellow believers holding fast to solid ideals, but seeking how to best live them out in a world that is torn between "good and evil, seeking and running from God, all at the same time." We as the Reformed Tradition invite conversation and dialogue, we seek to find God knowing we may not all come to the very same conclusions, but we seek the diversity of life that individuals bring to the table. Yes, it is indeed "messy" at times, but that, honestly, is one of our trademarks.

I am hopeful that if others have questions, that they/you will seek out myself or an elder, and continue this conversation. If you would like more resources, let me know, I will help you find them. So, continue to be who you are, a sinner of God's own redeeming, a lamb of His own flock, a fellow seeker of the Way.

Want to know more about this symbol? Log onto <http://oga.pcusa.org/seal.htm>

Can you see a Dove? A Fish? An open Bible? A Pulpit? A Flame? A Baptismal font?



A Note from the Pastor

As the summer unfolds, the nomination process for our next class of elders will be running full steam ahead. Some of you will get phone calls or visits. I invite you who are contacted to listen and to pray, and to be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

For those who say “Yes,” you will become an elder, and you will be installed in the fall. When that day comes, you will be asked questions, one of which goes like this: ***“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?”*** Fairly straight forward stuff, is it not?

Well, maybe not.

There are indeed essential tenets, ten of them. They are there to be a guide for believers in their understanding of their faith journey. They are indeed “essential,” but they are open to discussion about what they mean. Why is that important to any of us?

Simply put, from my perspective, this “open to discussion” is one of our strengths as well as one of our weaknesses. Being “open” carries a lot of possible meanings, but for me - and in this context - being “open” implies that each of us is searching for answers to complex questions, knowing there are no easy answers. If you don’t believe me, the next time a six-year-old asks me “Where do babies come from?” I will send them to you!

If maybe that seems to simplistic, when some one asks me “Why did my spouse get cancer?” I will send them to you as well.

Asking questions is what

Faith is all about. We all wish to have those wonderful, well thought out, time tested responses, but they do not exist. When we face these questions, we need to know the source of the question, know how much or how little the one asking knows, and to be ready to journey with them to find the answer, knowing that the answer may not come completely -or timely- for our needs.

Our questions, all of them, at any level, from any perspective, are vital clues and invitations for going forth together on a journey of unknown direction and length and time.

Maybe that is why we squabble so much of the time with each other. We have forgotten that not everyone sees life the same way we do; that not every one is our intellectual inferior, equal or superior. And we have forgotten that each one of us is a child of God, chosen from before time to be loved by our God, named and adopted out of a deepness of grace, reconciliation, and hope that we cannot ever truly fathom. We all enter God’s house filled with questions, partial answers, doubts, certainty, hope and despair.

It is easy to want to have everyone believe as we do, to vote as we do, to live as we do. If I am the first to tell you that this isn’t possible, I am most grateful to do so. Not out of a feeling of superiority, but out of hope. And that is because I have tried to make that happen, to be sure that those I identify with the most are truly just like me. And it backfired tremendously. I offer as proof of my failure my spouse, my children. Try as I might, they are not “just like me.” They are in some ways, and in other ways, vastly different.

I am going out on a limb and suggest that those who have their own children that this might be a reality for you as well. If you

don’t have progeny, I suggest you look to your parents, and see how different you are from them. And do so with honesty.

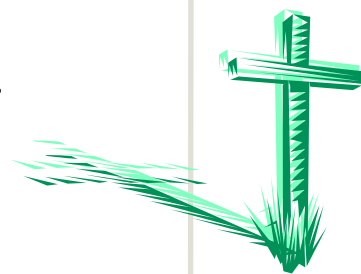
As Presbyterians, we enter this denomination, this church, just as we are. If you are seeking a single homogenous congregation, I don’t think you will find one, at least not in our denomination. You see, how we define ourselves, our “essential tenets,” allows for various viewpoints. It offers a space for discussion, and for disagreement. What it shouldn’t offer is a place for division, for schism. Schism, separateness, division, cannot exist when our essential tenets are embraced.

For me, schism is a sign of weakness, of fear. It is the possibility that “I might become like them” when I gaze across the aisle in church, and see others seeking God in ways I may not. I am reminded that once a group of disciples approached Jesus, complaining that some one else was doing God’s work, doing their work, in the name of God, but wasn’t “just like them.” Jesus’ reply was “not to interfere, for doing God’s work is a sign of God’s presence in that person” (see Mark 9: 38-41).

Essentially, then, we are predestined to disagree, because we choose to be open to dialogue, open to different perspectives on the same questions, open to the fact that God can work in others as well as God works in us. This doesn’t work for every one to be sure, but it works for me. I have a home, and it is indeed in this denomination, as imperfect as it is. Which, in many ways, fits my imperfect journey of faith quite well.

Blessings,
Kerry

Asking questions is what FAITH is all about



The Church's Finances

-prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer



Account Balances - as of May 31, 2011

Operating: \$17,677.24 Special: \$42,691.07 Payroll: \$19.73 Tax: \$499.43
 CD: \$25,310.02 (rolled over 6/24/11) New Covenant Mutual Funds: \$564.83

Totals	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
MAY 2011	\$8,405	\$11,209	\$2,804 under
Cumulative	\$43,494	\$50,295	\$6,801 under

Benevolence to Presbytery

As of 6/19/11: \$1,930

Thank you!

Dear Friends, In July, you will receive a mid-year Giving Statement in the mail. Please take time to check this document against your own record of donations made to BPC. It is much easier to correct an error now, rather than on April 13, 2012 when you are doing your tax return! Bev Carver is diligently preparing a six-month comprehensive financial report as well. Thank you for your generous spirit and loving support. - Sally

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Nursery
July 3	David Rees Dana Eichlin	Jean Whetzel Louise Newell	Elizabeth Engleking & Joe Meslovich
July 10	Glendye Merrill Simon	Tommy & Betsy Glendye	JC & Carla Enterline
July 17	Karen Leigh Steve Humphreys	June White	Cheryl Burke & Sons
July 24	Bev Carver David McQuilkin	Gary & Mary Kay Adams	Judy Rees & Wesley Eichlin
July 31	Emily Heatwole JC Enterline	David & Judy Rees	Merrill Simon & Sarah
Aug. 7	Gracie Florence David Rees	JC & Carla Enterline	Alison & Katie McElroy
Aug. 14	Dana Eichlin Glendye	Steve & Pat Humphreys	The West Girls
Aug. 21 WILDWOOD	Merrill Simon Karen Leigh	David & Charlette McQuilkin	Eichlin Family
Aug. 28	David McQuilkin Bev Carver	Jon & Mary DeVier-Scott	Chris Foster & Steven Burke

Flowers

All Sundays are available. To share flowers call the church office or sign the poster on the information kiosk in the fellowship hall. We love homegrown blooms, too!

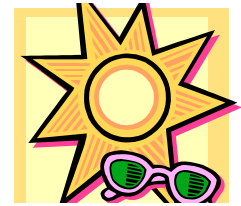
The Session


-Class of 2011-
Betsy Glendye
 (Member Care)
David McQuilkin
 (Resource)
Ed Sonifrank
 (Resource)

-Class of 2012-
Cheryl Burke
 (Mission)
Joe Crockett
 (Mission + Spiritual Life)
Merrill Simon
 (Building & Grounds)

-Class of 2013-
Elizabeth Engleking, Clerk
 (Christian Education)
Jim Enterline
 (Mission)
Emily Heatwole
 (Spiritual Life)

Jul/Aug 2011



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JUNE 26	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 29	JUNE 30	1 Office closed	2
10:00 Worship 3 Music by Dubby White	4 	5 6:00 TOPS	6	7	8 Office closed	9
10:00 Worship 10	11	12 6:00 TOPS	13 10:30 Lunch Bunch	14	15 Office closed	16 Day at the Volunteer Farm
10:00 Worship 17	18	19 6:00 TOPS	20 K. D.	21	Office closed 22	23 Sally on Vacation July 19—25
10:00 Worship 24	25	26 6:00 TOPS	27	28	Office closed 29	30 Kerry on Vacation July 30—Aug 3
10:00 Worship 31 Guest: Tom Barner	AUG. 1	2 6:00 TOPS	3 11—1 @ COB Auxiliary Lunch	4	5 Office closed	6
10:00 Worship 7	8 7:00 Resource @ McQuilkin's	9 6:00 TOPS Super Tuesday!	10	11	12 Office closed	13
10:00 Worship 14 2¢-a-Meal Offering 4:00 Session	15	16 6:00 TOPS	17 6:45 Choir?	18	19 Office closed	20
WILDWOOD 21 9 Breakfast 10 Worship w/ Communion	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 6:00 TOPS	24 6:45 Choir?	25	26 Office closed	27 Presbytery @ Timber Ridge
FH=Fellowship Hall; S=Sanctuary; JL=Journeyland; O=Office; COB=Church of the Brethren. All meetings held at the church unless otherwise noted.						

K. D. = Kings Dominion outside Richmond. Come along for a day of great fun!



Wildwood Park
August 21

9:00 Carry-in Breakfast

Bring a dish or two to share.

Drink & Tableware provided.

10:00 Worship w/ Communion

Bring a lawn chair.

Childcare provided.

Invite your friends & neighbors!

2¢-a-Meal

Sunday, August 14

75% to Shenandoah
Presbytery Hunger



Action Initiatives

25% to Bridgewater Food Pantry

Trip to the
Volunteer Farm
Sat. July 16

The *Spotlight* is a monthly publication of Bridgewater Presbyterian Church; **Sally Smith, Editor**

Pastor: Kerry Foster

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postage

To:



Bridgewater Presbyterian is now on Facebook!