

# Life at BPC



Dear Friends,

**This month's cover page consists of brief follow up to several items of recent interest:**

- In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that the first step toward beginning the search for a new called pastor is to develop a congregational self-assessment exercise. Developing (or adapting from other sources) a comprehensive survey device will take some time. And given the timing of my arrival here, it probably means that much of the congregation will be away for the summer by time that exercise is ready to take place. Therefore, a dilemma arises: is it better to hold the survey until late August, when we can get a better sampling of the congregation (even though that would delay getting started on the subsequent search process)? We are currently gathering responses from Session members.
- Regarding our Seasons of Creation series, I heard a piece on NPR recently about an American dive expert who in early May used a newly-developed compression chamber to make it to the bottom of "the deepest place on earth"—the Marianas Trench in the Pacific, six-and-a-half miles below the surface of the ocean. With the help of high-powered flood lamps, he surveyed the ocean floor. In addition to spotting various exotic species living in frigid temperatures in total darkness, he also found—you guessed it—plastic bags and some indeterminate piece of human constructed objects.
- Since the summary of Session actions from its April 28 meeting is (according to Clerk of Session Jack Call) unusually large, the remainder of this cover article is given over to that summary. Hopefully it will afford you a sense of the breadth of matters that the Session is dealing with.

*Rev. Dave Cozad*

## **April 28, 2019 Session Meeting Highlights**

- The Nominations Committee reported on its progress toward filling the deacon and elder positions that are vacant. It has found a willing group of deacons, but it has experienced some difficulty finding new elders for session. It was decided that it would be worthwhile to consider possible changes to the way session is constructed. Dave Cozad has experience with other types of structures. He and Nancy Artis (chair of the Nominations Committee) agreed to assemble a small group to discuss possible structural changes and report back to session.
- Karen Watson, chair of University Ministry, reported that Suzanne Sanford has stepped down as president of the board and will be replaced by Gary Overstreet, from Christiansburg Presbyterian Church.
- Session approved an Endowment Ministry proposal to use 6% of endowment funds for awards this year, with at least 70% of those funds allocated to 3-year awards (as was done last year). Announcements about the 3-year awards will be distributed.
- Buildings and Grounds Ministry reported that, while it is aware that some of the fire doors in the church (especially the doors to the Hatcher Conference Room) need repair, it has experienced considerable difficulty finding someone capable of repairing them. Efforts to find someone will continue.
- Session approved a Building and Grounds request to remove the prickly bushes in front of the building, next to the main entrance. Working around those bushes has been so hazardous, because of the bushes' thorns, that it has been difficult to find volunteers to work around them. They will be replaced with new bushes.
- The Woodchucks Ministry lost one of its essential trucks this year. One of the Woodchucks, Bill Neely, purchased another dump truck for their use. Session agreed to loan Bill this money, so the truck can remain in his name. This will enable the church, in effect, to pay an insurance rate much lower than it would have to pay if the church were the legal owner of the truck. The money necessary for this loan already existed in a Woodchucks account.
- Session approved a request from Worship Ministry to increase its budget for 2019 by \$1200. The increase will fund expenses that were not anticipated when 2019 budget requests were submitted including \$800 for new choir folders.
- Dave Cozad led a discussion about the process for conducting a congregational self-study, an initial step in the process that will culminate in hiring a permanent installed pastor. The first step in that process is development and administration of a survey instrument. Session agreed that Dave should assemble a small group to begin work on construction of the instrument.

## THANK YOU!

to the upwards of 50 people it took to plan and implement this year's Season of Creation which included a lovely outdoor worship service.

A special thanks to the Season of Creation Planning committee: Sarah Windes, Dave Snyder, Jama Hayes, Dave Cozad, and Gavin Faulkner.



## Prayer Concerns

...for Sarah Windes who is undergoing a medical procedure on June 5;  
 ...for Carolyn White, who is on hospice care;  
 ...for David Doherty as he deals with pneumonia and other health issues;  
 ...for Beth and Rodger Mattson's grandson, Oliver Gillispie (age 6) who is being treated for Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis;  
 ...for Margaret Dawson's family following her passing;  
 ...for Bill Henika who is recovering well from surgery;  
 ...for Sharon Watkins and her extended family upon the death of Shirley Cromer Brown, their mother and grandmother at age 99;  
 ...for Janice Woodard's family following her passing on March 24;  
 ...for Karen Watson's sister and brother-in-law who have been given temporary custody of their 10-week old granddaughter and one-and-a-half year old grandson;  
 ...for Virginia and Dick Bethune as Dick is in full time medical care;  
 ...for Charles Goodsell and family following the passing of Liz;  
 ...for Ranae Lahn who is dealing with difficult health issues;  
 ...for Larry Wright, husband of Anne Wright and father of Marcia Wright and Allison Kruckow, who is in treatment for cancer;  
 ...for missionaries who serve God's people amid dangerous times;

**Continue to be in prayer for** Alfred Howery, Ted Ake, Marcia Cowley, Mark Rakes, Anne Grover, Joan Munford.

# Lectionary Texts for June

### June 2

7th Sunday of Easter  
 Acts 16:16-34  
 Psalm 97  
 Rev. 22:12-17, 20-21  
 John 17:20-26

### June 9

Day of Pentecost  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-34. 35b  
 Romans 8:14-17  
 John 14:8-17 (25-27)

### June 16

Trinity Sunday  
 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
 Psalm 8  
 Romans 5:1-5  
 John 16:12-15

### June 23

2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
 1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a  
 Psalm 42:9-11  
 Galatians 3:23-29  
 Luke 8:26-39

### June 30

3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
 Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
 Luke 9:51-62

# Coming Up at BPC

## June

- June 2**                    **Summer Small Group Begins**  
9:15am in Westminster Library
  
- June 9**                    **Installation/Ordination of Deacons in worship**
  
- June 17-20**   **Vacation Bible School**  
5:30-8pm, Dinner at 5:30
  
- June 23**                    **Session Meetin**  
7pm in Hatcher
  
- June 25-28**   **Middle School Conference**  
at Massanetta Springs
  
- June 29**                    **“Screenagers” at the Lyric, 3pm**  
Free Event at the Lyric hosted by BPC.  
Open to the public.  
*This event is sponsored by the Andrew Bailey Spencer Memorial Fund at BPC*

### Weekly

#### Tuesdays

Morningstars Bible Study 7:30am  
 Quilters at 9:30am  
 Prayer Meeting at 11am

#### Wednesdays

Handbell and Choir Rehearsals will resume in the Fall.

### Monthly

June 2  
 Communion Sunday

June 16  
 Cents-ability Offering

June 24  
 KnitWits, 1-3pm in Westminster

**Presbyterian Women Circles**  
**Take a break for the summer. They will resume in September.**



## Confirmand Class of 2019

Thank you to their mentors!

## Deacons who were elected at the May 26th Called Congregational Meeting



### **Winnie Myers: Class of 2020: (1 year)**

Winnie Myers is an active member of the church since moving, with her husband, to Blacksburg in 1992. She served as a Sunday school teacher, member of the university ministry, Cooper House board, elder, and presently serves on the Malawi group. Winnie served as an educator for First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, FL., Wayne Presbyterian Church, Wayne, PA., Manassas Presbyterian Church, Manassas, VA., and as interim educator for Christiansburg Presbyterian and Blacksburg Presbyterian churches. She and Les have two grown children, Robert and Jennifer, and six grandchildren four of whom will be in college this Fall.

### **Elva Miller: Class of 2021: (2 years)**

Never having served as a deacon, I have been impressed with the responsibility of taking our community of disciples' faith, love, and helpfulness to those not able to be so active. I believe that one of God's gifts to the church is the reality of our shared life as a community of brothers and sisters, all children of God. I enjoy BPC's singing our faith in worship, sharing the Tuesday morning Bible study of the upcoming Sunday's scriptures, great adult studies and ways of relating to the younger families of our church. In the past, I have been an elder, taught church school and served on committees. I work with our refugees and am thrilled with the huge generous support of Blacksburg. A favorite quote is: "life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." If elected, I would hope to grow in God's grace.

### **Bill Hendricks: Class of 2022: (3 years)**



Bill Hendricks, a former Southern Baptist, followed his wise wife in joining BPC in the late 1970s. He chaired the Peace, Justice Global Mission committee and served as Elder in the 1980s. He retired from a busy, rewarding, and intense career in family medicine in 2018. He will bring to his role as deacon his 42 years of experience in counseling patients in crisis, his 10 years of experience in a men's group, his decades of personal work in contemplative prayer and meditation, and increased time afforded by retirement for service to BPC.



### **Phyllis Albritton-Webb: Class of 2021: (2 years)**

Phyllis has been a member of BPC since 1973 and has served as deacon, elder, chair of Peace, Justice, Global Mission: Coordinated mission trips to Good News Partners, Chicago and visits from GNP friends to BPC; served on Building Committee that redesigned BPC; taught church school classes for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, junior and senior highs, and adults; sang in choir for many years; currently member of the Prayer Group. Phyllis has been involved in getting BPC to house Head Start; past member of Endowment Committee and is currently a trustee at BPC.



### **Nancy Furr: Class of 2022: (3 years)**

Nancy Furr has been a member of BPC for just over 30 years. During that time, she has served as an elder on the session twice; once as chair of Children's Ed and once as chair of Buildings and Grounds. She has been active in PW and was honored at the 2019 Annual PW gathering with an honorary life membership. She has served on the communion preparation ministry and is currently serving on the Creation Care ministry. This past year she filled out a term as a Deacon. During the school year, she volunteers with Head Start and at Margaret Beeks Elementary.

## Deacons will be ordained/installed in worship on June 9th.

Here are some excerpts from a useful article recently passed on to us about food waste – an important aspect of creation care.



## 10 Surprising Ways You Might Be Wasting Food and Not Know It

Many of us now realize that food waste is a big problem in the U.S. But did you know that a lot of that food is wasted in our homes—probably more than 40 percent in all. It may seem like just a little bit of leftover dinner going in the trash, but when all of us toss a little bit every week, it adds up to a tremendous amount of wasted food. Besides, there are many reasons why food is wasted because of our bad food habits. Here are a few ways you might be wasting food and not realize it:

1. **Only perfect produce** – When we leave misshapen or scarred fruit in the bottom of the grocery bin, supermarkets change their contracts so that they have fewer of those odd-ball products left unsold. Crooked carrots taste just as sweet!
2. **Milk carton is too big** – Don't be fooled by the "it just costs a little bit more for a much bigger quantity" scheme and don't waste your money on food you're not going to eat.
3. **Chicken breasts** – On the whole, Americans eat significantly more chicken breasts and wings than the rest of the chicken. Excess dark meat either gets exported (with a much higher environmental footprint), further processed (sometimes into pet food), or goes to waste.
4. **Buying food out of season** – Peaches in January. When we demand them, supermarkets figure out a way to supply them. But they come a very long way to get here and they don't sell well because they're pretty tasteless. Seasonal, local foods are picked closer to ripening, thus allowing farmers to harvest more of the crop, plus they taste better!
5. **Romaine hearts** – The name sounds so decadent, but when farm laborers harvest romaine hearts, they leave all the bigger leaves in the field to rot.
6. **Packs of Perishables** – Any time perishables are sold in a pack bigger than you intended to purchase, you may be heading for a food waste set-up. Opt for loose fruits and vogs if you're not going to eat the entire bag. And this gives you the opportunity to skip the plastic packaging while you're at it!
7. **Forgetting food in the pantry, back of the fridge, or freezer** –The back of the fridge is a no-persons-land, so put dates on leftovers and periodically rotate food to keep everything in sight and accessible.
8. **ALL THAT COFFEE** – NRDC did research into what kinds of foods are the most likely to get tossed, and in all three cities surveyed, coffee was the number one discard. We know it takes a lot of resources to grow that coffee. If you're a frequent coffee ditcher, make a smaller pot so you don't waste the resources needed for those precious beans.
9. **Overfilling plates that are too big** – There is amazing research into our perceptions of food and empty space. If we start with a big plate, we want to fill them up, then we have far too much food on our plates. Try it for yourself: eat off of a salad plate for a week and see if you want less.
10. **The Expiration myth** – Food doesn't magically spoil as soon as the date on the package is passed. Sell-by, use-by, and best-by dates are manufacturers' suggestions for peak quality. Learn how to understand these labels and rely more on your own judgment about food quality.

by Andrea Spacht [https://www.nrdc.org/experts/andrea-spacht/17-surprising-ways-you-might-be-wasting-food-and-not-know-it?source=EMOSTFPET&tkd=1033763&utm\\_campaign=email&utm\\_medium=text7&utm\\_source=alert](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/andrea-spacht/17-surprising-ways-you-might-be-wasting-food-and-not-know-it?source=EMOSTFPET&tkd=1033763&utm_campaign=email&utm_medium=text7&utm_source=alert)

## Hunger News: Unity Declaration on Racism and Poverty

Did you know that in 2018 a powerful statement was sent by Christian leaders to Congress asking political leaders to work with faith leaders in making policy choices that address both poverty and racism, together? These two issues both have a clear effect on hunger. The declaration can be found at [bread.org](http://bread.org). Search: Unity Declaration.



*(Hunger News Continued on next page)*

***Hunger News Continued***

Here is an excerpt from the letter:

*Dear Members of Congress,*

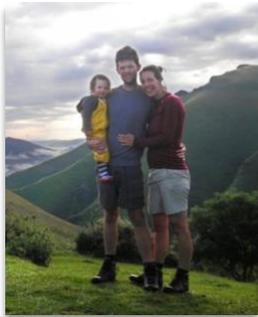
*This moment in time and the clear movement of the Spirit have brought diverse multi-racial church leaders together over the last several months for dinner conversations and times of prayer. Out of those moving times together, we developed a [Unity Statement on Racism and Poverty](#). It has attracted many more racially and theologically diverse church leaders and is now embraced by the Circle of Protection, the broadest group of Christian leaders focused on poverty. The leaders who have signed this statement are from African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American, Evangelical, Catholic, Pentecostal, and mainline Protestant churches; and many national faith-based organizations. We are all committed to help build a fresh, newly energetic, multi-racial Christian movement to make the integral connection between racism and poverty and seek the spiritual power to end both. We are also committed and are ready to work with allies from other faith communities on the crucial intersection between racism and poverty as it shapes public policy.*

And the last sentence of the declaration says this:

*We appeal to all people, especially Christians, to actively work against racism and poverty—in their personal and local engagement and as advocates for public policies that foster racial equity and healing, shared prosperity, and peace in our country and worldwide. The spiritual power of a fresh, energetic, multiracial Christian movement against both racism and poverty is our prayer. So help us God.*



## MALAWI PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY



Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi has a new Medical Director following Dr. Ruth Shakespeare's retirement. Dr. Arie Glas and his wife, Lisanne are Dutch doctors trained in tropical medicine. They have been working at MMH since January 2017. For more information about their work with MMH you can pick a copy of the letter we received from Dr. Arie Glas at the Welcome Window in the Gathering Space or find it at [blacksburgpres.org/global](http://blacksburgpres.org/global).

Henderson Chiotcha, who graduated this Spring from the Mulanje Mission Malawi Community Day Secondary School, has been accepted and enrolled at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) for the Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging (Radiology). He is one of 30 students nation-wide who have been enrolled in this program. In June of 2018 Henderson received one of the highest scores in the Malawi National School Certificate examinations in Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The BPC Malawi Partnership has committed to support the cost of Henderson's tuition, fees and housing at MUST. If you would like to contribute to Henderson's education, you can make a check out to BPC and be sure to include "Henderson" on the memo line. Again, warm thanks to the many BPC members who have contributed to Henderson, to Mulanje Flood Relief and other scholarships!



## Stories from the Pastor Retreat (Part Two)

Two American pastors, Janet Chisom, Associate Pastor at Salem Presbyterian and Mary Jane Winter, from the Presbytery of the James, went to Guatemala for a retreat that all six female Guatemalan pastors were invited to attend. Five of them were able to attend. Also in attendance, CEDEPCA leadership, a translator, and Dahlia, who teaches religious classes “in the field” to mostly lay women who have difficulty coming to Guatemala City. Though difficult to find a centralized location the women traveled to a town near the coast, Retalhueleu, for the retreat.



Filamina, one of the 2 Mayan, indigenous pastors, does not get paid. She lives on a finca, a country estate where the other workers do not have enough money to pay her. In addition, her Presbytery is demanding that she repay a micro-loan she gave out 8-10 years ago, thinking it was a “gift” from the Presbytery. They have told her that she has to repay it before she can vote. Voting is something that is normally guaranteed by Presbytery. Adding to the “unfairness”, men had the loans, too, but are not being asked to repay. While she has repaid some, there has never been any bookkeeping. The other Guatemalan pastors were not happy hearing this, had no idea this was going on, and have said they would try to help her, hoping to get the policy changed.

It is hoped this retreat can be repeated in the future. It was paid for by a grant from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, which covers Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Wash. D.C., and 7 counties in West Virginia. The grant stated 2 or more Presbyteries needed to support the grant.

### You are invited to become involved in several ways:

1. **Consider traveling with the Presbytery to Guatemala through CEDEPCA October 28-November 3, 2019.** This is part of the Intercultural Encounters program and you will meet people whose lives have been changed by the work of CEDEPCA, participate in Bible Studies, and go to the Festival of Kites—ginormous kites associated with the Day of the Dead. This Listen and Learn trip is for anyone!
2. **Give money for the Ecofilters** turning water from the tap into safe, drinkable water. There were Ecofilters set up in drug stores and at hotels where people could fill up their bottles or cups and drink healthy water. Our Presbytery has challenged each church to raise \$50 which buys an Ecofilter that can be used safely for 3 years.

Contact Sandy Schlaudecker, [spspas@aol.com](mailto:spspas@aol.com), for more information.



## Summer Small Group, June 2nd – July 7th

9:15am in Westminster

A discipleship group, facilitated by Scott Smith, Jonathan Anderson and others, will be starting in June. It will be a place for those in the group to learn each other's life journeys, encourage each other, and reflect on how we are shaping our response to God's call to discipleship. If you would like to participate email Scott Smith at [scottsmith4u@gmail.com](mailto:scottsmith4u@gmail.com) Or you can just show up! *If you would need childcare to participate, please let Scott Smith know.*



## Aging in Place:

Your Home, Your Community, Your Choice

A Workbook for Planning Your Future

Materials Compiled by  
New River Valley Aging in Place Leadership Team

**Aging in Place: Your Home, Your Community, Your Choice,  
Workshop June 11, 9am-12pm,  
Montgomery Health and Human Services Building, Community  
Room – 210 S Pepper Street, 24073**

In 2017, the NRV Aging in Place leadership team produced a workbook to assist older adults in planning their futures and then updated the material based on our experiences offering the *Aging in Place* workshop in several settings. Now we are ready to debut five to seven-minute video clips to accompany each workbook chapter and a facilitation guide. Your input on the usefulness and effectiveness of the materials is needed before they are distributed!

We are looking for input from adults 50+ or adult children of people

who want to learn how to ask and answer lifestyle questions as we age. There is no charge to participate.

Contact Tina King at NRV Agency on Aging at 540-980-7720 or email at [tinaking@nrva.org](mailto:tinaking@nrva.org)

Join us for a special screening of

# SCREEN AGERS

**GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

HOSTED BY: Blacksburg Presbyterian Church  
WHEN: June 29th at 3:00PM  
WHERE: The Lyric Theatre, 135 College Ave, 24060  
COST: FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by the Andrew Bailey Spencer Memorial Fund at BPC

[screenagersmovie.com](http://screenagersmovie.com)

We recommend you and your child (ages 10 and up) come watch the hour-long film together. It offers a great starting place to have this important conversation in your family. This event is open to the community so please help spread the word!

Watch the trailer: <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/trailer>

WILD  
GOOSE  
FESTIVAL

July 11-14, Hot Springs, NC  
Spirit | Justice | Music | Art

It's a place where all kinds of people come together, not only to hear great music and incredible speakers, but also to dive into lively conversations. It's transformational, experiential, and it is a place where all are welcome. Seriously,

ALL. Because we are rooted in a progressive Christian tradition, we welcome you, whatever your age, race, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religious tradition, disabilities, different abilities, whether you have money or not, whether you have a degree or not, whether you have a strong faith or no faith, or perhaps a billion questions about faith, whether you have a home or not, whether you're an extrovert or introvert, everyone is welcome here. We welcome all to come and seek the common good.

Interested? Contact Melanie Smith at [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com).



This year's theme for **Big Tent**, *Called to a Movement beyond Institution*, will emphasize our hope of the Gospel and its power to challenge institutional conventions. The goal is to come together and live in this moment, immersed in our current cultural context of racial division, gender inequality, and economic disparity to be renewed, refreshed and reformed, so that we may be sent out to affect change in our own communities. Big Tent will provide a place where our Presbyterian polity and identity is the foothold by which we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in action and answer the call to discern the will of God together. Contact Melanie Smith at [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com).



A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% will go to support the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership and their work with children of the refugee families. You can give to the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 9.

### WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:



Through your congregation



Text **YOUNG** to 20222 to give \$10



[presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)

## June Birthdays

2 – Riley Pienkowski, Marlo Polikoff  
 3 – Judy Bircher, Mary Lee Hendricks  
 6 – Robin Bosch, Adolfo Slagel-Perry  
 8 – Megan Eschenmann  
 9 – Marcia Cowley  
 10 – Shannon Hunter, Reed Lawrence  
 11 – Robert Laing, Lee McCormick, Elva Miller  
 12 – Brent Opell  
 13 – Tyler Warren  
 14 – John Hassler  
 15 – Amy Cowan, Hans Stahl

16 – Dave Smith  
 17 – Leanna House, John Wilson  
 18 – Sue Johnson  
 21 – Nicolin Grieco, Blake Rascher, Courtney Bosworth  
 24 – Steve Andrews, Mike Bircher, Ann Mauldon  
 25 – Joel Hunter, Mary Denson Moore  
 26 – Dale Wolf  
 28 – Brian Smith  
 29 – Ethan Eschenmann, Cole Harder  
 30 – Amy Mauldon

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Viola Howery, Custodian

Kathy Carpenter, Campus Minister for UKirk at VT  
[campusminister@pcusa-vt.org](mailto:campusminister@pcusa-vt.org)