



# The Messenger

## Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

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August Edition

July 30, 2015

### What A Great Summer We're Having

Members of our congregation have been traveling a lot this summer. Folks have been going on vacations, going on retreats, doing mission work, camping, and some just enjoying worship and fellowship right here in Laurinburg. The church calendar has been full with the Youth Puerto Rico Mission Trip, Montreat Music and Worship Retreat, Pool Parties, Vacation Bible School, Montreat Youth Conference, and Scout Camp Raven Knob. Finishing out the month of July were 28 Scouts and 5 leaders from our Scout Troop 420 who spent an energy-packed week-long journey camping, working on merit badges, and enjoying nature at Camp Raven Knob near Mt. Airy.

Even with all the coming and going, we've continued to have very good attendance in worship. On July 19th, we finished our week of Vacation Bible School with worship and communion in the Fellowship Hall. Moving worship gave folks who weren't among the large crowd of children, youth and adults with us during the week a chance to experience some of what "VBS: Blast to the Past" was all about.

A great big thank you to everyone who made VBS 2015 a huge success—from our coordinators: Carol Sellers, Carolina Caddell, Sarah Williams, Denise Herr and too many others to mention—along with our teachers, leaders, assistants, decorators, bakers—We had more than 50 adults and youth who helped teach over 110 children during the week that God's love is incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional, and real!

The week after VBS, many of our youth took off for a week in the mountains to attend Montreat's Youth Conference. This conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship.

One of our advisors said she'd go to Montreat every other week because how often can you be in a room filled with 1200 teenagers all excited about Jesus! Our youth will share their experiences and lead us in worship with "This Is Our Story" on **Montreat Sunday August 9**. This is always a great service so come be a part and worship.

On **Tuesday, August 11**, join us for our last Fellowship Pool Party at Scotch Meadows from 7-9 pm. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served. The rain date is Wednesday, August 12. In case of a summer storm, please check your email about 5 pm in case we have to reschedule or cancel. *Please note from Finance Committee: Only those members who do not have emails will be contacted by phone using the One Call Now system.*

### Wrapping Up with Training & Missions

On **Saturday, August 29**, CNE will conduct **required training** for all youth advisors, Sunday school teachers and staff starting at 9 am. This session will include CPR, First Aid, Safe Sanctuary and Sexual Misconduct training as required by our insurance. Put this on your calendar now as we wrap up summer and prepare for the fall.

**Blessing of the backpacks** is set for **Sunday, August 30**. As part of our mission to the children at North Laurinburg Elementary School, backpacks and school supplies are now being collected in the church office. If you'd like to make a donation instead of purchasing and packing a backpack, the Deacons will be glad to help you. Just drop off or mail your check to LPC marked backpacks by Thursday, August 27 to give them time to shop for you and have these backpacks ready to be blessed during worship on Sunday, August 30.

The Deacons also continue their Soles for Students mission project for needy children in our area. Last year, we found that it's easier to purchase the specific size of shoes needed as these needs arise. If you wish to contribute to this mission fund, monetary contributions should be marked "soles for students."

Also don't forget the first Sunday of every month is the Deacon Food Drive for Church Community Services. Each person is asked to bring one canned good with them to church. Collection baskets are located at all entrances for your donations.

### From Our Pastor

*This is an article I did several years ago, that I think it is still pertinent today.*

Corey Widmer is the associate pastor at Third Presbyterian Church and co-pastor of East End Fellowship, a multi-ethnic congregation in an inner city neighborhood

of Richmond, VA. Corey, his wife Sarah and their four daughters live in North Church Hill and have been part of a community development effort there for the last 8 years.

I have heard Corey speak several times about his mission and outreach in the inner city of Richmond. So, when I noticed he penned an article in The Presbyterian Outlook, I was interested immediately. Of course, the title, The 75% Rule, also caught my attention as well.

For Corey, the 75% rule is simply this: When we gather together to worship on Sundays, everyone should be happy with no more than 75% of what is happening during the worship service. That is a rather strange rule. Yet, they hold to this because they recognize that their culturally diverse congregation is so multifaceted, if someone is happy and comfortable with more than 75% of what is going on, it most likely means that the individual's personal cultural preferences are being dominantly expressed. Thus, they decided that no one cultural form will be dominant and everyone will be equally unhappy with the worship!

I must confess, as a minister in a mainline denomination that struggles to retain members and attract new folks, I do not really approach worship with the notion of making everyone equally unhappy with the worship (yes, I am aware that my hymn selections habitually irritate Jim McQueen; yet, I am okay with that).

Corey and his staff firmly believe this rule is true to the pattern of the gospel. Corey holds that one of the most beautiful things about Christianity is that the Holy Spirit is at work in every culture under heaven to create God-pleasing worship that is expressed in all the many particular cultural forms of all the nations of the earth.

I agree with Widmer that worship is not created or acted out in a vacuum. Worship is never culturally neutral. Each element of worship expresses a particular cultural form that will naturally be more welcoming to some and less to others. The hymns and anthems we select, how long our service is, how I preach. All of these aspects communicate certain things about the kind of people that are welcome there and the kind that aren't.

Corey writes: *I am aware that this seriously rubs against the grain of the way people tend to think about worship in the church. Typically we want our "customers" to be as happy with everything in worship as possible so they will keep on coming back, invite their friends, and give us their money! But it may be more faithful to the gospel to call people to sacrifice a degree of personal preference to make space for the other – and that space is often reflected in the way we worship.*

So go on: embrace the uncomfortable. Be willing to endure a song you don't like or a worship form that seems

awkward or out of place. In doing so, you may be opening the door to a person to know Christ and to be welcomed in your community that, were it not for your own worship displeasure, would never have felt at home.

For the sake of the gospel and our faith community, we need to stretch as much as we can to be as welcoming to as many folks as possible.

## Sunday Worship

### August 2, 2015 - Ordinary 18B

Charles Wentz: "We Are Family (Like It Or Not)"; II Sam 11:26-12:13a; Ps 51:1-12; Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

36 For the Fruit of All Creation

300 We Are One in the Spirit

Flowers given to the glory of God in memory of Doug McMillan & Ken & Anne Malcolm by Kaye McMillan

### August 9, 2015 - Ordinary 19B

Montreat Sunday  
Flowers given to the glory of God in memory of Martha McNair Tornow by her family

### August 16, 2015 - Ordinary 20B

Neal's sermon: "Time"; 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ps 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58;

409 God is Here!

291 Spirit of Gentleness

450 Be Thou My Vision

In lieu of flowers a donation will be made to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Marshall P. James by Frances & Jim Willis.

### August 23, 2015 - Ordinary 21B

Neal's sermon: "As Difficult as That"; 1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Ps 84, Ps 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

394 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

In lieu of flowers a donation will be made to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Virginia Mason Sanders, Ralph Dame Sanders, Marie Cornelius Mason, Kathryn James Mason, Ann Marie Mason & Ann Groves McNeill by their family & friend.

### August 30, 2015 - Ordinary 22B

Neal's sermon: "Simplify"; Song of Solomon 2:8-13 or Deut 4:1-2, 6-9; Ps 45:1-2, 6-9 or Ps 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

630 Fairest Lord Jesus

14 For the Beauty of the Earth

In lieu of flowers a donation will be made to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Dr. & Mrs. S.H. Fulton, Katherine Fulton, & Warren & Jeannie Fulton by Hewitt Fulton.

### **September 6, 2015 - Ordinary 23B**

Neal's sermon: "The Golden Rule"; Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 or Isaiah 35:4-7; Ps 125 or Ps 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

634 To God Be the Glory

177 I Will Come to You

353 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

In lieu of flowers a donation will be made to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Mary Crowell & Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lee Davis by Frances & Hal Jernigan.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Sam Snowdon in his death, and to Ramona Wright in the death of her sister-in-law, Louise Earp.

### **Volunteer Schedule**

#### **BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:15**

Aug 2 Jimmy Stubbs

Aug 9 DRIVER NEEDED

Aug 16 Sam Thompson

Aug 23 Chip Wells

Aug 30 David Herr

#### **AUGUST USHER TEAM # 3** Herman Gillis, lead

Bill Caudill, Craig Ellis, Hal Jernigan, Charles Liles,

Bill & Edna Ann Loftus, Allen McLaurin, John McLaurin,

Penny McLaurin, Gus Purcell, Gray Sellers, Anne Sprouse,

Jimmy Stubbs, Philip Wilkinson, Clint Willis

#### **ACOLYTES**

Aug 2 Alexis Patterson

Aug 9 Daniel Caudill

Aug 16 Katie Carmichael

Aug 23 Emma Herr

Aug 30 Cooper Sutherland

#### **NURSERY**

Aug 2 Pam and Bill Hill, Sara Paige Liles

Aug 9 Eleanor McRae, Gibson McLaurin

Aug 16 Mary & Wesley Quick, Haley Sellers

Aug 23 Leslie & Scott Sellers, McKenna Sutherland

Aug 30 Sue Schulz, Grace Wilkinson

#### **EXPLORERS (3 years-1st grade)**

Aug 2 Carolina Caddell & Pam Hill

Aug 9 Chris & Eddie Carmichael

Aug 16 Kim Liles

Aug 23 Kristen & Ryan Anderson

Aug 30 Carolina Caddell & Pam Hill

#### **TREKKERS (2nd-5th grade)**

Aug 2 Annette Morgan & Candy Nichols

Aug 9 Denise & David Herr

Aug 16 Kristin & Kitson Broadbelt

Aug 23 Sarah Williams

Aug 30 Jamie & Debra Sutherland

#### **GREETERS FELLOWSHIP DOORS**

Aug 2 Fred Mabry

Aug 9 Julian Butler

Aug 16 Larry Schulz

Aug 23 Lynn Mason

Aug 30 Maggie Liles

#### **GREETERS ELEVATOR DOORS**

Aug. 2 Kitson Broadbelt

Aug. 9 Chris Carmichael

Aug. 16 Doug Harris

Aug. 23 Bill Loftus

Aug. 30 Chris Rhue

#### **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Margaret Miller 8/1

Emma McInnis 8/4

Philip Wilkinson 8/4

Sumner McLaurin 8/5

Chris McDavid 8/6

Robert Poage 8/6

Doug Harris 8/7

Barbara Bateman 8/8

Don Ohl 8/8

Lucile Bridgeman 8/9

Pat Hix 8/10

Bette Parker 8/10

Daniel Bowden 8/11

LeGette McLean 8/11

Laura Beth Urie 8/11

Caroline Bounds 8/12

Betty Wayne Cooley 8/12

Sara Paige Liles 8/12

Malcolm Doubles 8/14

Bill Phillips 8/14

Lane Roberson 8/14

Cole Broadbelt 8/15

Denise Herr 8/15

Helen Livingston 8/15

Jerry Bruner 8/16

Clarence Coughenour 8/16

Michael Sellers 8/16

Gary Bowden 8/18

Ralph Parker Jr. 8/18

Linda Maddox 8/19

Zoe Broadbelt 8/20

Randy Miller 8/20

Noah Altman 8/21

Ann Pridgen 8/23

McKenna Sutherland 8/23

Jane McKay 8/24

Lisa Hecht 8/25

Ryan Anderson 8/27

Randy Blackburn 8/30

Gib Jones 8/30

Nick Sojka 8/30

Mary Hambright 8/31

Wayne Freeman 9/1

Lillian Boger 9/3

Annabelle Holman 9/5

## MUSIC NOTES:



### Mark Your Calendars:

Hymnfest is Sunday, September 27 at 4 pm!

Watch bulletin announcements and next month's newsletter for more details to come.

### How it Works: Hymn Selection

As we are navigating the transition to our new hymnal, *Glory to God*, we thought some of you might enjoy a “behind the scenes” look at how we select the hymns for each week. Neal, José, Sean, and I will meet to pick hymns for the fall (mid-September through the end of the church year) in early August, but the process actually began a few months ago, when we sketched out a calendar for the upcoming academic year. In fact, you should probably take a moment to add the following events to your 2015 calendar: Hymnfest on September 27; Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata on December 6; Christmas Pageant on December 13. Go ahead—I’ll wait. :)

Now that you’ve updated your calendar, let me share some observations on our hymn selection process. First of all, if you’ve spent any time with us as we discuss music, then you know we have a lot of fun. But we also look very seriously at the scripture verses for each day and try to figure out which music works best with each one. There are lots of resources for this: the on line week-by-week lectionary provided by the Presbyterian Mission Association; multiple indexes in each hymnal; and guides and calendars published by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. We use these last resources particularly heavily as they recommend hymns, anthems, preludes, offertories, etc. for choirs and instruments of all types. Until now, we’ve been using reference books that were nine or even twelve years old, but José picked up some new resources at Montreat this summer so we will be up to date and able to use the new hymnal more effectively. In addition to the lectionary, we also try to match hymns to important days in the life of our church and congregation, including communion, Reformation, Tartan Sunday, and graduation, which is why need to discuss the calendar first.

A few general principles always apply. Opening hymns focus on gathering the congregation and offering praise to God, and they should also be upbeat and encourage active participation. Middle hymns fit with the scripture verses that will be the focus of the sermon—which means Neal and Lyndsey have to make their preaching selections well in advance. The middle hymn is also where we tend to use something slower and more reflective. Closing hymns focus on sending us into the world with God’s message, typically in an uplifting fashion, although sometimes somber reflection is more appropriate at the end of the service. We always try to choose a variety of familiar and unfamiliar music, although one of the challenges José, Sean, and I face is that we’ve all worked with other congregations and other hymnals fairly recently, and tunes get stuck in our heads pretty easily, so things that are familiar to us may not be familiar at LPC.

José usually picks the Chancel Choir anthems prior to hymn selection so that, if the choir is singing a hymn setting as our anthem, we don’t duplicate that with the congregation. Sean usually selects preludes, offertories, and post-ludes after we pick the hymns, and you’ll notice that he often plays variations on the hymn tunes for the week. I try to choose songs for the kids that fit the themes of the scripture readings as well. Our goal is always to have the parts of the service fit together in a coherent fashion, and sometimes (because we pick things so far ahead of time) it doesn’t work out quite as we had anticipated, while other times we are pleasantly surprised by how well a service seems to meld. Hopefully this little peek behind the scenes will help you more fully understand and participate in our collective worship.

Jaime Martinez

### Music Rehearsals Set to Resume Soon

**Chancel Choir** will resume singing weekly anthems on Sunday, August 16. We will meet at 10:20 am to put together a simple anthem for that day’s service. Regular rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 19. We practice Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. New members (high school youth and adults) are always welcome!

**Whitechapel Ringers** will resume in early September. We have traditionally practiced immediately after Sunday worship services but are considering some new approaches to and schedules for rehearsals that will hopefully allow more members of the congregation to participate, so talk to José if you are interested in ringing and have preferences about rehearsal days and times. Whitechapel Ringers is open to youth (middle school and older) and adults.

**Joyful Singers & Ringers** (Grades 1-8) starts again on Wednesday, September 2! We practice 6:30-7:10 pm in the upstairs music room. We participate in worship once each month, October-April, and will also present our Christmas Pageant on December 13 and a concert on April 20. We are always eager to welcome new members, so talk to Jaime (jam6ah@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us!

#### **2015 Music Conference at Montreat:**

The Worship and Music Conference has been a part of the Presbyterian tradition for close to 60 years and according to PAM executive director, Bill McConnell, it is considered the largest annual gathering within the Presbyterian membership.

This summer, several members from the chancel choir attended the Montreat Music and Worship Conference and re-established a tradition tracing several generations. We had the privilege of being part of a 400 voice choir, improve our handbell ringing techniques, and worship with a team of creative and inspiring leaders. One of the highlights of the conferences was listening to the children, youth, and chamber choirs in worship services and evening concert performances.

As I reflect upon this memorable week, I realize that music is an extraordinary gift that elevates our spirit, connects us to God and one another. This year's conference gave us an opportunity to grow, appreciate each other's musical gifts and talents, and reconnect with old and new friends in Christ (i.e, Bill McConnell). Yet, perhaps the most memorable moments we shared were probably spent preparing daily meals, singing the doxology to bless our food, and sharing our personal stories around the kitchen that brought us closer together in Christian fellowship. We are all looking forward to the 2016 Music and Worship Conference and also considering the possibility of extending this opportunity to our young singers! The Montreat Worship and Music Conference: A Presbyterian tradition that continues to enrich our lives and the lives of generations to come...

Peace,  
José Rivera

## **Christian Education**

**On Saturday, August 29**, CNE will conduct **required training** for all youth advisors, Sunday school teachers and staff starting at 9 am. This session will include CPR, First Aid, Safe Sanctuary and Sexual Misconduct training as required by our insurance. Put this on your calendar now as we wrap up summer and prepare for the fall.

#### **Sunday School - Children's teachers needed for a once a month rotation**

Please contact Sarah Williams, 276-1416, if you would be willing to teach a rotation.

We have nursery during worship with Darlene Swing and volunteers. Children's SS is taught following the children's sermon. Explorers (3 years-1st grade) meet on 1st floor, and Trekkers (2nd-5th) meet upstairs. During the summer months, two adult classes are taught at 9:45 am: Men's Bible Class in the Session room, and the 3M's Class meet off the fellowship hall. The Fun Adults and Part Time Adults will resume in September.

**Scotia Lectionary Study** meets at 1:30 pm every Wednesday in Scotia's 2nd floor Living Room.

## **It's Time to re-link your Harris-Teeter VIC Card to LPC-CC #7357**

It's August and now time to re-link your card. When you go to Harris-Teeter please remember our Childcare account # 7357. In June Harris Teeter presented the Childcare Center with their third Together in Education (TIE) check for the school year 2014-2015. In March-May period we earned \$269.71. We had 43 family units linked to LPC's Childcare Center. There's always room for one more! #7357

**On the Calendar**

Sundays: 9:45 am SS Adults; 11 am Worship;  
 11:20 am Children's Church; 12 Lemonade on Lawn  
 Sun 8/1 5:30 pm Deacons' Meeting  
 Tues 8/4 7 pm BEG Committee  
 Sun 8/9 Montreat Youth Sunday  
 Tues 8/11 7-9 pm Pool Party at Scotch Meadows  
 (rain date Wednesday, Aug. 12)  
 Wed 8/12 7 pm Finance Committee  
 Mon 8/17 7 pm Session  
 Tues 8/18 5:30 pm Childcare Advisory  
 Wed 8/19 7:15 pm Chancel Choir rehearsals  
 Sat 8/29 9 am Required Training for Youth Advisors,  
 Children SS teachers & workers  
 Sun 8/30 Blessing of the Backpacks  
 Mon 9/7 Labor day - office closed

**Deadline for Elder and Deacon Nominations 8/16**

Elder and Deacon Nominations for the Class of 2018 are needed from LPC members. Please mail or drop off your nominations to the church office and note for chair Craig Ellis by August 16.

2015 Nominating Committee Elder Craig Ellis (chair); Elder Lynn Mason (chair-elect); Pat Hix, Deacon; Lillian Boger, PW; Caroline Bounds, youth and At large members: David Herr, Carol Sellers, Lucy Sojka

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** are broadcast on WLNC 1300 Sunday at 11 am, on the internet (wlncradio.com), the previous week's service TV Channel 2 on Sundays at 10 am and Tuesdays at 8 pm. Plus Sunday's (same day) service is shown at Scotia's MMEC at 2 pm.

**Contacts for staff**

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