



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church Street
www.laurinburgpres.com

Laurinburg NC 28352

910.276.0831

laurinburgpres@bizec..rr.com

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Our Vision Statement: The Word In Action

July 2018



Vacation Bible School: Join us for the
EVERYWHERE FUN FAIR!!!

On the mornings of July 9, 10, 11, and 12, our Fellowship Hall will become an international carnival, inviting the children of our congregation and community to visit four different parts of the world as we learn about the ways God calls us to be good neighbors.

Day
Monday, July 9
Country
Japan
Bible Story
Sarah and Abraham Welcome Visitors
Color of the Day
Red

Day
Monday, July 10

Country
Zimbabwe
Bible Story

The Good Samaritan
Color of the Day
Yellow

Day
Monday, July 11

Country
Mexico
Bible Story

Jesus Feeds the 500
Color of the Day
Green

Day
Monday, July 12

Country
Australia
Bible Story

Peter and Cornelius
Color of the Day
Blue

This year's VBS will not conclude with a formal program, although parents, grandparents, and church members are welcome to join us each day at 11:45 for the closing session--and the LPC pool party at Scotch Meadows on Thursday evening will also serve as a sort of VBS finale!

We hope that you will join us for the journey! You can register as a participant (PreK through Grade 5) or volunteer (middle school and older) via a link on the church website. Please bring your friends, cousins, and neighbors.

Reflections on our Mexico Mission Trip

11 LPC youth and adults, along with 4 youth and adults from Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Bill Reinhold from the Coastal Carolina Presbytery, traveled to Tabasco, Mexico, from June 11-16. We spent three mornings helping build the Jose Coffin Sanchez clinic in the Gulf of Mexico Presbytery, and then in the evenings visited three churches to lead some VBS-style activities for their children.

The scripture story tying together our evening activities was Luke 9:10-17, Jesus feeding the 5000. Sometimes this manifested itself in slightly silly ways, like asking the children to toss foam loaves and fishes into buckets as part of a relay race game. But we saw this miracle, and its message, in more meaningful ways throughout the week.

...In the radical hospitality with which we were greeted. Congregations throughout the Presbytery took responsibility for feeding us over the course of the week. The clinic's doctor hosted us at her house for breakfast one morning and a farewell party on Friday evening. Every time we turned around at the work site, we were handed new tropical fruits to taste, often out of our hosts' own yards and gardens. It was very clear that they would have shared their last few pieces of bread, confident that somehow, God would make sure there was enough to go around.

...In the ways that our small gifts were multiplied before our very eyes. None of us were particularly skilled at tying rebar, but the skilled construction workers responsible for teaching us worked by our sides to keep us on track. In the evenings, we entered a church yard or pavilion with one suitcase full of supplies and turned it into a fun environment for dozens of children each night. We brought a few skills, a willingness to work, and a lot of faith, and God made amazing things happen.

...In the spirit with which everyone showed up, embraced the unknown, and found ways to both teach and be taught. In the collaboration among our two congregations and the two Presbyteries. In the way that we all sang together, with whatever talents we had, the theme song for the week--"We Are the Children of God."

At every turn, we received more than we could possibly give. We broke down barriers and built connections that will hopefully grow as we move forward. And we are very grateful to the leaders of the Gulf of Mexico Presbytery who hosted us and the many members of this congregation who contributed to our trip and prayed for us.



Montreat Worship & Music Conference

From June 17-22, twelve youth and adults from LPC attended the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship & Music Conference at Montreat. This year's theme was "Sacraments and Seasons," and each day focused on a different season of the church year. We participated in choirs, handbell groups, art workshops, Bible classes, and worship services each day, and we will be incorporating what we learned into LPC's services and activities throughout the coming year. This conference has provided crucial opportunities over the last few years for both fellowship and learning for our choir members and music staff, and we would like to thank the congregation for supporting us with a budget appropriation for housing, and Anne and Bill Goodwin for hosting some of our group.

Jaime

"... they devoted themselves to fellowship—and all those who believed were together and held everything in common." --The Acts of the Apostles 2: 42, 44

Dear Ones,

The text above from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47) is a powerful reminder to all of all that Christianity is about community and not individualism. It is about concern for the common good rather than our own individual wishes or wants or demands.

I recently came across an article by the author and contemporary theological Chad Bird that addresses this tension between individualism and communal concern. The essay is entitled *"Christianity Is Not About a Personal Relationship With Jesus"* and it speaks powerfully and profoundly to this tug and pull between "mine" and "ours"—a tension that is prevalent and pervasive in our world today. Bird writes:

We talk about having personal things. We employ a personal trainer to help us shed pounds and get that coveted beach body. We open a personal bank account to manage our finances. And, please, keep your hands off our personal property and your eyes out of our personal diary.

As Christians, we very often import this language into our faith as well. We talk about having a personal relationship with Jesus. Or working on our personal relationship with him. Or desiring that relationship to grow, to deepen, to become more intimate.

But here's the thing: Christianity is not about a personal relationship with Jesus. The phrase is never found in the Bible. And the whole biblical witness runs contrary to it.

*Our life with Christ is communal, not personal or private or individual. When the Scriptures speak of believers, they are part of a community, a fellowship of other believers. Christianity **is not** about an individual, relationship with Jesus but rather a communal one.*

I know this runs contrary to what many modern believers think. And even desire. In an age when we are more isolated than ever, when our worlds often shrink to the size of a phone screen, talk of community sounds like a radical departure from the norm. It is. But the norm of the Christian faith is not isolated believers, little islands of spirituality, but a continent of Christians banded together by the Spirit.

We are baptized into one body, the body of Jesus. Our so-called personal relationship with Jesus is indeed with his person—his body of which all other believers are a part. Fingers don't have a relationship with Jesus apart from the hand, the hand from the arm, the arm from the shoulder, and so on.

*Even when we pray, we pray communally. Indeed, the only prayer Jesus taught us to pray begins, "Our Creator," not "My Creator." No one ever prays alone. We pray in Jesus, through the Spirit, to the Creator, in a vast concert with all other believers. **Me-and-Jesus prayers** are impossible. There are only **us-and-Jesus prayers**—"us" being that innumerable throng of saints from the foundation of the world until now, whose unheard voices join ours in an ongoing prayer to our Divine.*

When we read the Bible, we read communally. Think about it. The Bible you read—the book itself—is a communal product. Translated, printed, bound, and sold not by us personally but by others. We read, often unconsciously, with the voices of preachers, teachers, and parents from over the years guiding our knowledge, assumptions, and beliefs. And, ideally, we read the Scriptures with others. In groups, in classes, with an eye to the wisdom of the past and the voices of brothers and sisters studying it with us in the present.

Above all, however, Jesus calls us into a living, active, worshiping community that regularly gathers around his gifts. We are washed into his body on the stream of baptism. We eat the communal meal together in remembrance of his communal call. We sing together, pray together, confess together, grieve and heal and eventually die together. God gives us pastors. God gives us brothers and sisters in the faith. God gives us children to teach, elders to emulate, and even less-than-likable people to love as those for whom Christ.

Christianity is not a solo endeavor. Not a private relationship between Jesus and me. As God formed Israel in the Old Testament as God's people, forged together into a body by God's covenant, so God has formed the church in the New Testament as God's people, washed together into a body by baptism.

Thank God it is this way. Heaven forbid that I should have a personal relationship with Jesus. For I know what would happen: I would end up, in my mind, reshaping my personal Jesus into a strikingly familiar

image: the image of me.

Thanks be to God for the truth that Jesus is reshaping us into his image, in the church, surrounded by others, all of whom together, communally, are the one body of Christ!

I hope your summer continues to be restful and restorative . . . and I look forward to all of us being back together as Christ's body this fall!

Much Peace,

Rob

WORSHIP SERVICE

July 1, 2018 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

In lieu of flowers this Sunday a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Purcell and Agnes Lynn Buchanan by the family.

July 8, 2018 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

In lieu of flowers this Sunday a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Sarah Pate Townsend by Dolly and Richard Brown.

July 15, 2018 15th Sunday In ordinary Time

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps.24; Eph. 1:3-14;

Mark 6:14-29

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Anna Jenny Bushoven by her family.

July 22, 2018 16th Sunday In Ordinary Time

2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37; Eph. 2:11-22;

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29, 2018 17th Sunday In Ordinary Time

2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Volunteer Schedule

BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:20

July 1	Chip Wells
July 8	Bradley Williams
July 15	(Scotia to bring)
July 22	(Scotia to bring)
July 29	David Bounds

ACOLYTES

July 1	Max Anderson
July 8	Poppy Bounds
July 15	Claire Carmichael
July 22	Garrett Sellers
July 29	Cooper Sutherland

NURSERY

July 1-29	Darlene Swing
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COMBINED CHILDREN CHURCH (3 years - 5th grade)

July 1	Jen & Chris Rhue
July 8	Carolina Caddell & Pam Hill
July 15	Kristen & Ryan Allen
July 22	Carmichael Family
July 29	Catherine McLaurin & Lynn Massey

GREETERS FELLOWSHIP DOORS

July 1	Carol Sellers
July 8	Julian Butler
July 15	Susan Wentz
July 22	Chris Carmichael
July 29	Jim Mason

GREETERS ELEVATOR DOORS

July 1	Kirsten Dean
July 8	Candy Nichols
July 15	Susan Hartwell
July 22	Bette Sellers
July 29	Sis Thomas

GREETERS SANCTUARY DOORS

July 1	Jimmy Stubbs
July 8	Martha Fulton
July 15	Kathleen Purcell
July 22	Jacque Britt
July 29	Laurene Stubbs

JULY SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

*Kaye McMillian, chair, Barbara Bateman, Maggie Ratcliffe

JULY USHER TEAM #2

*Brian Bounds, Leader, David Bounds, Eddie Carmichael, Jim Mason, Boyd McLaurin, Randy Miller, Kevin Patterson, Bill Purcell II, Chip Wells, Charles Bounds, Bob Dyer, John Decembrino

Thanks Everyone For Volunteering

Pastor Rob

LAY LEADER SCHEDULE

July 1- 29, 2018

So just be sure if you cannot make a certain date that you find a replacement and be sure you let Cathy and Pastor Martin know of the change in time for the bulletin printing on late Thursday afternoon

July 1	Kristen Anderson
July 8	Janet Smith
July 15	John Clark
July 22	Lyn Mason
July 29	Danny Caddell

PRESBYTERIAN PRESENCE

This is being written before the end of the General Assembly so I have no report on what happened there, Tune in next month! But I do want to make you aware of a trend which began at the last GA in 2016 when co-moderators were elected to serve for the following two years. This was a first. Long time friends, Denise Anderson, an African American pastor and Jan Edminston, a presbytery executive, worked as a team and found many examples of faithful Presbyterians doing extraordinary things to further the Kingdom of God here on earth.

So this year, I was interested in who was running for Moderator at GA. Behold, there are three sets of co-moderators! One combination is two women, one an elder from Miami and the other a pastor involved with two New England presbyteries as a resource person. Another duo is a man and woman. She is an elder working for her Synod in Pennsylvania while he is an interim pastor in Skokie Illinois. The last pair are two pastors. He serves at Riverside Church in New York City while she is in an executive position in Seattle Presbytery.

Let's trust those voting for this leadership position in our church will elect those who will see possibilities for our demonstration of what a church could and should be in this divided world.

P.S: On the fourth ballot, Vimarie Cintron-Olivieri and Cindy Kolhmann were elected co-moderators.

Meredith Hudson

OPERATION BACKPACK

Each year our church helps support needy students in our community by providing school supplies and backpacks. Please watch for further announcements on how you can help be a part of this wonderful program!



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church has demonstrated great support for our local food pantry sponsored by Church and Community Services. Unfortunately, this is a need that does not seem to lessen. Every ten items donated make up one bag of food for a family in need. Please remember to bring your canned goods to the church each Sunday and place them in the bins provided at each entrance.



!!!Thanks The Deacons!!!

Name tags send a friendly message to visitors!

JULY BIRTHDAY'S

For almost two months now we have been using name tags as a way of making it easier for our new Pastor, Rob and his wife, Do, to get to know us by name. However, in the mean time we quickly realized that it was not only Rob and Do who benefit from the use of name tags, but our entire congregation – both old and new members.

Additionally, we realized that name tags are a way of letting visitors know that we care to know their name and that we would like them to know our name as well. At a recent Presbytery meeting it was shared that name tags are an important way of welcoming visitors. To that end we are asking that all members join us in wearing name tags each Sunday to worship.

There are several options of types of name tags that are available for you. You may get a stick-on tag each Sunday, a pin-on name tag or a lanyard to wear around your neck. Of course name tags are not a church requirement, but we encourage you to consider wearing one as a way of welcoming visitors.

It is our hope that everyone who steps in a door at LPC will feel welcome. We also hope that if visitors are looking for a church home, that they will feel welcomed and will want to join this community of faith. We have been blessed with a very special church family. Please help us welcome all who walk through the doors.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

Shalom,

Annette Morgan, Chair, Membership and

Stewardship Committee

Grace Batten	07/01
Clay Bruner	07/01
John "Charles" McKeithan	07/01
Annette Morgan	07/02
Kathryn Williams	07/02
Angela McDonald	07/03
Marion McNair	07/03
Sara Williamson	07/04
Alison Norton	07/05
Jackson Sellers	07/05
Hallie Willis	07/05
Ron Crossley	07/06
Jim Morgan Jr	07/06
Rebecca Priode	07/06
Harrison Priode	07/06
Charles Bounds	07/07
Turner Bounds	07/07
Vivienne Rhue	07/07
Gary Dwyer	07/08
Lee Anne Harling	07/08
Claudia "Sis" Thomas	07/09
Robin Snead	07/12
Maggie Ratcliffe	07/14
Cheryl Stang	07/15
Marilyn Garner	07/16
Martha Underwood	07/16
Ryan Phillips	07/17
Betty Decembrino	07/18
Will Freeman	07/18
John Carmichael Jr	07/19
Blossom Harris	07/19
Marcus Norton Jr	07/19
Heidi Poage	07/20
Caleb Wood	07/20
Sharlene McLaurin	07/21
Leslie Sellers	07/22
Lou Presler	07/23
Bradley Williams	07/23
Baxter Lee	07/24
Lib Currie	07/25
William Davis	07/25
Erin Salzlein	07/25
Joann Altman	07/26
Paula Blackburn	07/27
Anna Sorensen	07/27
Miriam Bounds	07/29
Kevin Patterson	07/29
Sharon Brandon	07/31

Mac McKeithan III
Terri Purcell
Dawn Sellers

07/31
07/31
07/31



***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN
JULY
FROM PASTOR ROB
& STAFF***

On the Calendar

Sundays: 9:45 am SS Adults; 11 am Worship;
11:20 am Children's Church

Fourth Of July Closing: Church Office and Daycare will close at 1:00 on Tuesday July 3, and will be closed July 4 - 6. Operations will resume on Monday, July 9th.

Vacation Bible School will take place July 9-12

JULY 12 POOL PARTY @ Scotch Meadows

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Youth Camp at Montreat July 15-21

ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN

AUGUST



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 & Tuesdays at 8 pm. Sunday's (same day) service is shown at 2 pm Scotia's MMEC.

Contacts for staff

The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III ext. 310
cell: 650-283-0167
Revrobmartin@yahoo.com

Charles Bounds ext. 304
lpcaccounting@bizec.rr.com

José Rivera ext. 305
cell: 414-218-2822
jriver45@gmail.com

Sean McDonald ext. 305
cell: 910-373-1776
seanmichaelmcdonald@gmail.com

Cathy Meekins ext. 301

Dr. Jaime Martinez cell: 910-258-8459
jam6ah@gmail.com

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