

The Quaker Quill



June 2020

www.qmpc.org

As we read about Jesus and the disciples in the gospels, we may often wonder at their lack of understanding and the difficulties they had comprehending the full meaning of what Jesus was teaching them. Often I have heard people say "If only I had been one of the followers to actually see Jesus! If only I could have walked with Him, eaten at His table, heard Him preach, asked Him questions and witnessed the miracles firsthand, I would be a different kind of follower now. I'd be more committed, so much more mature!"

Two questions arise: One, is that true? Would we really have a deeper faith, a more creative witness? Would we really reflect more strongly the Christ-like behaviors of Jesus? I am not so sure we would be that different than the disciples then. The twelve disciples were with Jesus for three years. And it did not seem to make any difference for they still fell to denial, betrayal, quarreling, despair and doubts.

The second question is: What changed this rag tag bunch of followers into mighty apostles, preachers, theologians, healers, teachers and martyrs?

The difference was Pentecost, the coming of the power of the Holy Spirit. As Presbyterians, we often play down the role of the Holy Spirit. Maybe it is harder to understand the Holy Spirit than God the Father and even God the Son. Maybe it speaks to us at an emotional level and not an intellectual one and we don't know what to do with that or maybe we really feel uncomfortable with that level of the unknown.

The truth is that Jesus did not give the disciples the Spirit's power so that they could stay behind locked doors happy in their companionship with one another. God gives his Spirit as a power to move people out into the world -- even if we don't always know exactly where we will end up.

God's Spirit opens our minds to understand God's word and seek to know God more; to know our need for forgiveness and salvation. God's spirit also opens our hearts to want to live as God has commanded - To have compassion on those in need and the courage to tell others about God's grace.

There is a world hungry for God's Good News and our job through the power of God's Spirit is to tell this good

news. Our job is to be the good news with our lives and with our prayers and with our voices. The Spirit draws us to God the father and son with reverence and awe and gives us spiritual gifts to serve God in ways we never thought we could or would. That same Spirit is available to us today.

The question is, are we ready and available to the Spirit? This is an open moment in the life of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. We have not yet finished a time of safe distancing, closed businesses, stay at home orders. And we do not know when these restrictions will end.

As we look to the future we will need to determine what is possible in the ways of worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, small groups, youth and children's activities and mission programs.

We will need to bring creativity to bear as we seek ways to safely gather together to worship, learn, serve and get to know others.

We have and will continue to grieve many losses that have come with this disease and we need to reflect on how God has been at work during this time. Even as we slowly move into phases of more human contact, it is important for us to reflect on what this separation has meant to us. What did we learn about ourselves, our families, our work and our God? To help us unpack that a bit we need to tell stories to others of how God walked with us, empowered us to deal with the unknowns, cope with our fears, meet new requirements, cope with losses and even find joy in the creativity.

Our ministry will look and feel different as we move forward. We most likely cannot go back to the habits and traditions we once had. We need to be willing to adapt to new ways that continue to keep us and others safe.

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on all the believers on Pentecost, the question was how they would use those new gifts for the benefits of others. How they would share their new learnings with others.

This is the time for all members, and elders and leaders to move into new ways of sharing their spiritual gifts with others and this is a time when entire congregation can be strengthened in our faith journey.

Nancy Dawson, Interim Pastor

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP PART 2

Instead of trying to paraphrase from the book "Young Children and Worship," I thought it would be better to quote directly from it. Here, then, is the authors explanation of their approach to worshipping with young children.

"The key to this approach is a worship context for telling and working with biblical stories, instead of a school environment. There are three reasons for choosing a worship context.

First, the intent of worship is to experience and praise God. While the experience of God in worship leads to knowledge of God, the primary mode of knowing is by participation. God is experienced as we enter into scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to convince us of the truth of God's word.

Second, worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. The experience of God is one of mystery, awe and wonder. Where education attempts to explain and interpret mystery, worship allows us to experience and dwell in the presence of God as a way of knowing. The time and space of worship engage a special remembering, called 'anamnesis.' Anamnesis is a way of bringing both the Christian community's experiences of God from the past and God's promised future into our present experience through memory, imagination and meaning. So when we hear God's word proclaimed in word and sacrament we find ourselves 'participating' in the original event or experience. Together with Jesus' first disciples and all the others, right up to the present, we commune in the breaking of the bread. The experience of sacred time and space in a special place set aside for God enables us to experience God in every time and every place.

A third reason for choosing a worship context is that it meets the needs of the young child. Young children need God and a religious community. They need love, security, appropriate freedom, continuity, order and meaning. The ritual of worship in the children's worship center meets these needs. In worship, God is central. We find meaning and order in relation to God.

Children do love and worship God, but they need to be introduced to the meaning and actions of corporate worship in a sensorimotor way. They need to know how to find the quiet place within, which enables them to get ready to worship 'all by themselves' rather than sit in a church in an imposed silence. They need to experience the essential parts of worship freed from the details of corporate worship, but in a worshipping atmosphere instead of a class where worship is merely explained.

Our goal is to create an environment that enables young children to encounter and worship God. Here they abide in God's love as experienced in biblical stories, parables, and liturgical presentations, in order to make meaning and order in their live and, as the body of Christ, live as Christ's ministers in the world."

Stewart, Sonja M., and Berryman, Jerome W. *Young Children and Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1988. Pp 13-14.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At it's Stated Meeting on May 16, 2020, the Session approved:

- Membership transfer request from Stephen Eubank
- Contract from C.L. Garbee Co. Inc. to re-pave parking lot
- The reopening parameters as set forth by the Reopening Task Force
- The opening of QMPC for committee meetings as of May 18, 2020
- The opening of QMPC for worship as of May 31, 2020, dependent on State Mandates.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts received in May

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY
Bill Cress	Jim & Sarah Garrett
Bill Cress	Jane Roark
Bill Cress	Doug & Sue Evans
Bill Cress	Winelda Hall
Bill Cress	Doris Daniel
Bill Cress	Janis Tibbs
Bill Cress	John & Janet LaPrade
Bill Cress	Barbara Ward
Bill Cress	Randy Sayre & Family
Bill Cress	Bob & Carolyn Eubank
Bill Cress	Fran & Kent Ford
Buzz Curtis	Bryon & Martha Maddox
Buzz Curtis Bill Cress	Phyllis Webb
Bill Cress Peggy Harris	Carolyn & Reuben Womack
Buzz Curtis	Peyton & Sandra Baker
Bill Cress Glenn Clingempeel	Evelyn Glass
Buzz Curtis	Thomas & Rhonda Hill

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY
Buzz Curtis	Brenda & GM Tribble, Jr.
Bill Cress Jackie Metcalf Glenn Clingempeel	Jack & Ginny Kerr
Bill Cress	Jim Tibbs
Bill Cress Buzz Curtis	Bob & Maureen Lockridge
Bill Cress	David & Andrea Webb
Buzz Curtis	Tammy & Lee Campbell
Buzz Curtis	Mr. & Mrs. William H Ogden, Sr.
Buzz Curtis	Joel & Kemper Lillard
Bill Cress	Chuck & Kitty Jordan
Bill Cress	Sharon Johnston
Bill Cress	Herbert & Joan Peak
Tim Roach	Phillip & Laverne Roach
Buzz Curtis	Ada Johnson

Thank You!





No Book Club

As we were running some errands Saturday I saw a sign that read Stop the Spread, Safer at Home, LYH Strong. I agree. Let's help stop the spread of the covid virus by staying at home another month. As long as we are having spikes in new cases we will not meet for book club. For any questions contact Linda Jennings at 525-5423 or at lcjenn805@gmail.com.



in June

Restaurants are open but restricted to minimum capacity. If we can't be close enough to catch up on the news from each other we might as well not meet. There is also the danger of being exposed to other folks who may be carrying the virus. In the meantime, know that Howard and I miss seeing all of you and look forward to a time we can be together again. Linda Jennings 434-525-5423 or lcjenn805@gmail.com.

Book of Philipians

Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Nancy

Nancy is doing a study through the book of Philipians on ZOOM Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Zoom is easy to use and just requires an email address so we can invite you. You will have to download the software, but it is free.

Send an email to office@qmpc.org if you want to join, and please indicate which time you will participate.

Wednesday Evening Church-wide Prayer Time



We would like to invite QMPC family, near and far, to make every Wednesday 6pm to 7pm an intentional church-wide hour of prayer. If a different hour works better for you, feel free to modify

that, but if you can at that hour, please do. The point is to get us all praying for needs that are near to us as well as all other situations we or others are facing. Read each name on each list and the concern out loud or quietly, in giving thanks or petitioning on their behalf. Do it individually or with family and/or with friends. Call each other and share this prayer time together. Lord knows we all need it. Be a prayer warrior for those in need and even those we think are not in need.

Before the distancing, we had 2 prayer groups that met. Centering Prayer at 11am every Wednesday morning, and the Wednesday Evening prayer group once a month on the 4th Wednesday at 6:45pm. God willing, we will resume that schedule soon and all are welcome to be a part of either group or both. If you have any questions, please contact the church office by phone or email.

Christian Education

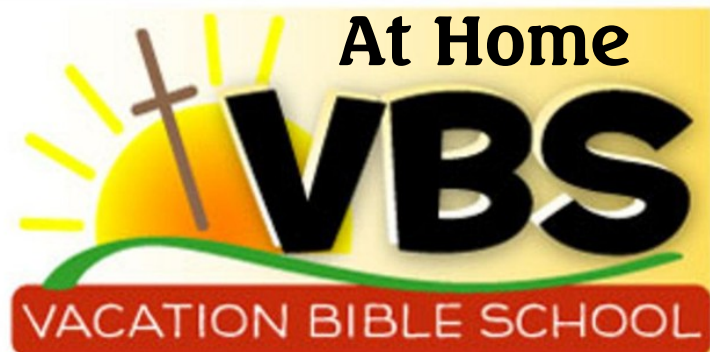
Due to the changes and restrictions in place at this time because of COVID-19, we are offering an alternative VBS for families or small groups to complete.

These VBS Family Packs can be done throughout the summer and will include the lesson as well as a few of the supplies required to complete the lesson. The kits will be assembled during June and available for pick up on Sunday, June 28th after service or Monday, June 29th between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Julie at (434)420-0851 or juliedyke0906@gmail.com to reserve your pack today.

We know that this summer will be more difficult for families with so many activities being cancelled, but we encourage each family to participate and take the lead in faith formation at home.

Blessings,
Julie



A note from your Youth Group Leaders:

Stay tuned as some unique, appropriately-distanced summertime activities for the youth group are being planned. Please remember to keep in touch with your youth group friends and peers while we are isolated and keep praying for each other. Please remember this unusual "Paradox Blessing" during this unusual summer time:

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half-truths, superficial relationships,
so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you will work for justice, equity, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed
for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them
and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think
that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you will do the things which others tell you
cannot be done.



HEY KIDS!

SINCE WE CAN'T MEET TOGETHER RIGHT NOW, GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO FIND A WORSHIP SERVICE JUST FOR YOU!

[HTTPS://WWW.QMPC.ORG/WORSHIP-AND-MUSIC.HTML](https://www.qmpc.org/worship-and-music.html)

Congratulations to QMPC's Christopher Webb!



**Central Virginia Governor's School
for Science and Technology
The Larbie Mensah Award**

This \$1,000 scholarship celebrates Larbie's life by honoring a CVGS senior who has demonstrated the same positive spirit, enthusiasm, and energetic friendliness that were hallmarks of Larbie's interactions with his peers and staff. Selected by the faculty, the name of the winner is commemorated on a plaque that is part of the permanent honors display at the Governor's School. For 2020, the winner is Christopher Webb from Jefferson Forest High School.



The Quaker Community Garden has been flourishing this spring!

We have just finished harvesting the crop of loose leaf lettuce while the other plants are enjoying the heat! This year we have introduced some new veggies to the garden – for the first time ever we have two beds of sweet potatoes and we are trying out Jericho Romaine lettuce. It is a lettuce variety that was developed in Israel to be heat tolerant so we are hoping to be able to harvest it longer into the summer! We have planted a purple clover patch as well as a wildflower bed on the outskirts of the garden to provide for our newest and most populous garden helpers – the BEES! Yes, you read that correctly, the garden has a hive of bees! They are tucked into the corner of the garden that has been hung with wooden wind barriers to protect our little pollinators. Many thanks to the senior high students who painted these barriers!

Keep up with the garden at

<https://qmpcgarden.wordpress.com/>

We always welcome new helpers – in the garden or to help deliver the produce once it is picked!

The beehive, its wind barrier and the sweet potatoes!





June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 7 pm Ladies Gathering on ZOOM	5	6 10 am Communion pick up
7 Communion	8 PNC on Zoom 7 pm	8 10 am Bible study on Zoom	10 6-7 pm Church Wide Prayer (at home)	11	12	13
14 11 am Session (Fellowship Hall or Zoom)	15 PNC on Zoom 7 pm	16 10 am Bible study on Zoom	17 6-7 pm Church Wide Prayer (at home) 5:30 pm Haiti Meeting	18	19	20
21	22 PNC on Zoom 7 pm	23 10 am Bible study on Zoom	24 6-7 pm Church Wide Prayer (at home)	25	26	27
28	29 PNC on Zoom 7 pm	30 10 am Bible study on Zoom				

Weekly Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary (RSVP to office) or
Online at [twitch.tv/QMPC](https://www.twitch.tv/QMPC) or Facebook Live