



The Quaker Quill



March 2019

www.qmpc.org

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

Every believer and congregation is called to the Great Commission of "Go, and make Disciples" (Matt. 28:19) and the Great Commandment to "Love God, neighbor and self." (Matt. 22:36-40). Because we are called to fill these commands in unique ways, our role is to listen to *God's specific call* through prayer, Bible study, silence and discussion.

Discernment is a gift of the Holy Spirit that orients us to be attentive to the presence of God in our midst. While business practices and principles are used to identify the future in terms of a purpose and goals, this work is first and foremost a spiritual endeavor. It involves prayer, a humble surrendering of personal agendas and control, reflection on God's Word and careful listening to God's voice.

Through Spiritual Discernment, we seek

- *to recognize what God is already doing*
- *to see situations and opportunities from God's perspective*
- *to listen for what God desires for the present and the future*
- *to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to hear and obey*

When our deepest desires are aligned with the deepest desires of God's heart, then individuals and congregations are fulfilling the purpose for which God created them and God is glorified and praised.

The Bible Study and small group discussions we will be doing have been prepared to assist you in listening for and to God's voice. You will be asked to read the scripture, prayerfully reflect on what it says allowing God's voice to speak into the silence, then answer the questions as you are led by the Spirit. At the end of each week you will join with others in a small group to discuss your insights, and learnings.

It is timely that we will be doing this discernment process during Lent as Lent is a time for prayer, Bible Study and reflection. Let me thank you in advance for your faithful participation and involvement in this process. It helps set the framework for discerning the qualities, characteristics and gifts needed in the next Installed Pastor for QMPC.

Blessings,

Nancy Dawson

Interim Minister

nancy@qmpc.org



A Story About Discernment

God speaks, touches, and reveals in God's own way and in God's own time.

Let me share with you a story about some fish who lived in a very small puddle of water. Listen to their conversation.

"Give me that waterbug." "No, I saw him first" "Get your fins off my supper." And so every day the little fish spent their time competing for waterbugs. Their stagnant puddle was cradled between the roots of an ancient oak tree, just beside a flowing river.

But one morning, there was a sudden Splash! An amazing brightly colored fish had jumped into the riverside puddle---a fish with golden scales. And---what was most unusual in this particular puddle---he was smiling!

One of the puddle-fishes asked, "Where do you come from?" The Sparkling Fish smiled brightly, "I come the SEA!" "The sea, what is the sea?" The sparkling Fish was surprised. "No one has ever told you about the sea? Why the sea---the sea is what fish are made for. It isn't like this little puddle; it's endless. A fish needn't swim in circles all day---he can dance with the tides! And it's sparkling clear! The sea is what fish are made for!"

Then a pale gray puddle-fish spoke up: "But how do we get to the sea?"

The Sparkling Fish answered: "It's a simple matter. You jump from this little puddle into that river and trust that the current will take you to the sea"

Astonishment clouded the puddle-water. At long last a brave little fish swam forward with a hard, experienced look in his eye.

He was a Realist Fish. He said: "It's pleasant talk about this "sea business;" but---if you ask me---we have to face reality. And what is reality? Obviously, it's day-to-day life - swimming in circles and hunting for water bugs. Life is hard. It takes a Realist Fish to face facts."

The Sparkling Fish smiled, "but you don't understand--- I've been there. I've seen the sea. It's far more wonderful than you can ... " But before he could finish, the Realist Fish swam away.

Next, a fish came up with a nervous twitch in his tail. He was a Scared Fish. He stammered, "You mean, we're suppose to j-jump into that big, swift river over there?" "Yes. For a fish who wants to go to the sea, the way lies through that river."

The Scared Fish's voice trembled in terror ... "Look, I'm just an ordinary fish! That river is deep and strong and wide, and I don't know where it goes. Why I might be swept away by the current. If I jumped out of my puddle, I wouldn't have any control over my life. NO! It's too risky for me!"

The Sparkling Fish whispered, "Just trust Me. Trust that the river will take you some place GOOD. " But before he could finish, the Scared Fish hurried away.

Finally there swam out a very dignified figure in a black robe. He was a Theologian Fish. Calmly he adjusted his spectacles saying: "My brother and sister fishes, our distinguished visitor has expressed many views which merit our consideration.

However, these puddle-fishes have expressed OTHER views. By all means, let us be reasonable. We can work this out. Why not form a (committee) discussion group? We could meet every Tuesday at 7 o'clock, and I'm sure some of the lady fishes would be happy to bring some refreshments."

The eyes of the Sparkling Fish grew sad ... "No, this will never do," he said.

You JUMP. You jump out of this puddle and trust that the river will take you to the sea. Who will come and follow me? At first no one moved. But then a few puddle-fishes swam to his side. Together they jumped into the river and the current swept them away to the sea. The remaining puddle-fishes began to swim in circles and hunt for waterbugs just like they always had.

When we are seeking discernment, it is not just decision making, we are seeking God's will in our life.

Trust.

We have to be willing to trust God and each other. Trust that God is present to us, speaks to us, is loving and merciful, and has work for us to do. Trust that opening our heart to others, we will encounter the Lord.

Listening.

We must listen with open hearts and open minds, especially to what we do not want to hear. If discernment is to take place, we must let go of our preconceptions and expectations. We must be willing to hear the appealing and the unappealing, the familiar and the unfamiliar. If we become selective, we may turn a deaf ear to God. We must listen in silence, for stillness and silence enable us to hear.

Prayer.

Through prayer we seek for ourselves total attentiveness to the all embracing presence of Christ. As we move from self-will to God's will, we place our lives in the hands of God. And then, we find that God has work for us to do.

"Listening Hearts, Discerning Call in Community"
Suzanne G. Farnham, Joseph P. Gill, R. Taylor McLean,
Susan M. Ward
"Once Upon a Puddle" from "Barriers to Change" by
Linda Douty

Discernment Bible Studies

At our meeting on Feb. 17, the Session approved the Mission Study to begin seeking God's guidance as to the future direction of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. This is the first step in our journey toward calling a new minister to our pulpit.

As Presbyterians, we do not simply assign new pastors to churches at the direction of a Bishop as the Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist denominations do. We first discern what God is calling the church to be and to do in this current day and age. Then we discern the qualities and gifts needed in a new pastor to lead the church in the direction God is calling. This process takes some time and is important to finding the pastor who is called to this church and is a good fit for the congregation.

QMPC is not the Session's church, it is YOUR church. As the congregation, you

are an important part of this process. Not only do we need your prayers of support during this time, but we will also need your assistance in gathering the information needed to help us discern the path we are to take. It is our desire to involve as many members of the congregation as possible. Those of you who are regular attendees, but not "members" please know that you are included in this invitation.

We will begin our odyssey with a Bible Study and small group discussions. The dates and times of these are printed below.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to engaging with all of you as we walk this path together.



The small groups have been scheduled as follows:

- Group A** Sundays 9:00 AM to 9:55 AM – March 10 - April 14. This group will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- Group B** Sundays 11:15 AM to 12:15 AM – March 10 - April 14. This group will meet in the Library.
- Group C** Mondays 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM - March 11 - April 15. This group will meet in the Library.
- Group D** Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM – March 14 - April 25. This group will meet in the Library. There will be no meeting on April 18 (Maundy Thursday).
- Group E** On line via e-mail for individuals. Directions will be sent via e-mail.

Please call or email the church office, office@qmpc.org, with the group that suits you best. There will also be an insert in the bulletin with a place to sign up.

True Lenten Discipline



Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of all light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; Feast on God's providence.
Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; Feast on positives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.

May God grant you a fruitful Lent.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the February 2019 Session Meeting:

- New copier for office was voted on and approved.
- Discernment process was discussed and approved.
- Task forces set up for discernment process.



Fellowship will start the year off with our Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 pm. Skip Wodke & his team will be flipping flapjacks. Syrup, Sausage, Bacon, Milk Orange Juice will also be provided. Bring along a dessert if you'd like and definitely bring a friend!

Our Fellowship Activities for the year are:

- **MARCH 5-PANCAKE SUPPER**
- **MAY 5-POTLUCK SUPPER**-Don't miss this one. We'll be discussing the results of the information gathered during our discernment process.
- **JUNE 9-PENTECOST**
- **SEPTEMBER 8-RALLY DAY**
- **NOV. 24-GIVING THANKS DINNER**
- **DEC. 15-CANDLELIGHT BUFFET**

We could REALLY use some extra hands for these affairs. If you're available to help with one or more of these events, please contact the church office or Julia Bryan (phone: 434-401-0962 or email: oddspirit07@gmail.com)

Dear Members of Quaker Memorial,

Thank you for your kindness to our family. The reception was wonderful. The food was very special & so good. We all appreciate your being there in person. Virginia (Ginny's) friends were all present. She would be so happy as she loved all of you & you were a great part of her life.

Thank you so much,
Beverly Lightner
Ronnie & Lisa Hodges



Thank you Care & Nurture Team!

February sure has been a busy month. There were 3 funerals with receptions here at Quaker this month! These ladies continue making food, and serving the families with joy. We are so thankful for each one of you!

In Memoriam



In Memory of Virginia Hodges:

Brit LeCompte
Kimberly & Joseph Deal
Shirley Morris
Melvin & Brenda Scott
Doris Daniel
Frances Swart
Vicki Boyles
Buzz & Sara Curtis
Nancy Perry
Cecile Parker
Barbara Afflerbach
Mike & Dana Chenault
William C. Rice
Kathy Beatrice
Virginia Lukens

Scott & Marcia Delicate
Robert Lockridge
David & Andrea Webb
Helen Petrill
Nancy Wellons
Phyllis Webb
Terry & Diane Ray
John & Joy Williams
American Hofmann Corp.
Tim & Ann Daniel

In Memory of Alfred White

Buzz & Sara Curtis
William C. Rice

Lent Schedule



Lenten Resources

It is important to employ various methods to awaken our spirit to the great symbolism which is part of our faith. Richly laden with stories, events, and traditions, the Lenten season provides opportunities to highlight the services of worship by making a collage of these symbols of our Easter faith. As we reflect a on these important symbols, each family is encouraged to build a collage of their own. Watch the table in the Narthex for resources for your family to build a collage using these symbols.

Ash Wednesday

We will again join Bethlehem Lutheran Church for Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6.

Mauddy Thursday Worship– April 18 at 7 :00 p.m.



Lunch Bunch– March 20

Lunch Bunch will greet spring with lunch Wednesday, March 20 at 11:30 a.m. at La Villa, 8109 Timberlake Road. We hope you will join us for food, fun and fellowship! Please let us know if you can join us by contacting Linda Jennings by Monday, March 18 at 525-5423 or at lcjenn805@gmail.com.

Book Club– April 4

There are lots of interesting books to read in 2019. In March we are reading *Light on Snow* by Anita Shreve then we will meet April 4th to share our thoughts on it. Check out the list for the year posted on the bulletin board in the upstairs hall. If you would like a copy of the list let us know.



Young at Heart– March 28

Our program this month will be a performance by the Caprichords. This quartet has performed together for 46 years and features our own Margaret Tucker. Sub sandwiches, drinks & dessert will be provided. Cost is \$2. Hope you will join us and feel free to bring a friend or two!

Everyone is welcome! For questions contact Linda Jennings at 525-5423 or by email at lcjenn805@gmail.com.

Music & Worship News

Children's Choirs!

- **The children will sing in worship on Sunday, March 24.** Please be here and in your robes by 9:30 a.m.
- It's time to register our children and youth for Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Our group from Quaker will leave for Montreat on Sunday morning, June 23, 2019, and will return from the gorgeous mountains of North Carolina on Saturday, June 29. Contact David Webb, Sr, Lisa Cawthorne, or Helen Ford for more information.



Earn Money for QMPC through your Kroger Card!

Here is how to do it:

Our assigned a new NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number

HH690.

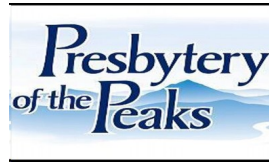
Visit <http://www.kroger.com>, under **Savings & Rewards**, select **Kroger Community Rewards**

- If you have NOT signed up your Kroger Plus card online before, you will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and your Kroger Plus card. Give it a 24 - 48 hrs and then try to enroll.
- You can also call Kroger customer service. **Make sure you have your Kroger Plus card handy because they will need the number on the back of the card.** 1-800-KROGERS (1-800-576-4377) and select option 3. Tell the agent you want to enroll your Kroger Plus card in the community rewards program. Specify that your rewards go to **Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church NPO # HH690.**
- If you have signed up your Kroger Plus card online before, once logged into your Kroger account, search for **Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church either by name or HH690** and then click Enroll.



If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, please go to the customer service desk at any Kroger and they will help you get one.

\$44.88 Total Donations between 01-Sep-2018 to 30-Nov-2018 , 11 Households



Two Cents-a-Meal

A little history...

Originated with Presbyterian women to provide opportunity for individuals and families to participate in corporate response to world hunger. In November 1975, Florida resident Rosellyn Calvert, whose own family was struggling financially, asked God what she could do to help those suffering from hunger and poverty around the world. She was led to give just two cents a meal. The Calvert family committed to each give two cents, and in 1976 Rosellyn shared the concept with her presbytery.

How is the money used?...

45% of the offering is awarded through grants **locally**, 45% is awarded **regionally, nationally and to international organizations and agencies**. All grant recipients must address hunger through one or more of the following five Presbyterian Hunger Program areas of emphasis: direct food relief, development assistance, public policy advocacy, hunger education and/or lifestyle integrity. 10% is for administration.

Here at QMPC...

An example. We were blessed to receive a grant to help start the church garden. Our stewardship of this investment has been blessed mightily by God and it has grown and multiplied over and over, far surpassing the original amount given. We give thanks to God for his continued hand in this work. Your 2 cts is providing fresh food through the Food Bank.

What can YOU do?...

On the 1st Sunday every month, QMPC collects a offering in the red bowl located in the narthex. You can also give on the collection plate on any Sunday, only please indicate that it is specifically for Two Cents-a-Meal. If you do the math (*if math hurts your head, I have done it for you*) it is a very minimal amount per individual.

2 cts  x 3 meals  x 1 day  = 6 cts per day 

6 cts  x 30 days  (nice round #) = **\$1.80 per month** 

* While this is the **minimum**, if you feel God has blessed you to give more, **please give more**. This lent season, consider doing a lenten challenge to give 2 ct with each meal, including coffees, other tasty beverages, snacks etc.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) presents:

**THE 2019 TURNER-WARREN
LECTURE ON LIFE AND FAITH**

with

REV. ROBERT W. LEE, IV

RACISM IN AMERICA

***SHOULD THE CHURCH CALL FOR UNITY?:
RECLAIMING OUR PROPHETIC VOICE***

Sunday, March 3, 2019

4:00 p.m.

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3109 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

THE JENNIE CUTLER SHUMATE LECTURE

Also with Rev. Lee

***THE NARRATIVE ARC OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:
IDOLATRY, HERITAGE, AND OUR PLACE IN IT ALL***

Monday, March 4, 2019

7:30 p.m.

**Snidow Chapel, University of Lynchburg
Lectures are free and open to the public.**



The Reverend Robert W. Lee, IV is an advocate for racial justice and reconciliation. A 4th generation nephew of General Robert E. Lee, Rev. Lee is a writer, lecturer, and minister. His second book, *A Sin By Any Other Name*, is due out in April.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 10 am Art class	5 9 am ROMEOS 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 10 am Prayer Shawl 10 am South River Writers 11am Centering Prayer 7 pm Ash Wed. Service Bethlehem	7 10 am- Book Club 3 pm Communion at Valley View 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 10 am Lynchburg Retired teachers Meeting	9
10 Daylight savings time 9 am Discernment Group A 11:15 am Discernment Group B	11 10 am Art class 10 am Discernment Group C	12 9 am ROMEOS	13 11am Centering Prayer	14 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6 pm Discernment Group D	15	16
17 9 am Discernment group A 11:15 am Discernment Group B 7:30 pm Session	18 10 am Art class 10 am Discernment Group C	19 9 am ROMEOS	20 10 am Prayer Shawl Group 10 am South River Writers 11am Centering Prayer 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	21 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6 pm Discernment Group D	22	23
24 9 am Discernment group A 11:15 am Discernment Group B Children sing in	25 10 am Art class 10 am Discernment Group C	26	27 11am Centering Prayer	28 11 am Young at Heart 6 pm Discernment Group D 7 pm Choir		

OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Sunday School	5:45 p.m. Youth Supper
10:00 a.m. Worship Service	6:15 p.m. Melody Choir
4:30 p.m. Combined Bell Choir	Jr. & Sr. Youth Fellowship
5:00 p.m. B.I.G. Youth	
Cherub Choir	