

Shenandoah Press

Volume 7, Issue 6

July/August 2021

A Message from our General Presbyter

“Summertime, and the living is easy” so the song goes – but not this year! With what feels like waking up after a big sleep, our days are filling quickly with all the things we want to catch up on, as well as the continuation of all our other usual rhythms of life.

What we need to remember is that we cannot catch up on everything in a few weeks - and it's okay. I know that I am working at reconnecting with friends and family in a way that has not been possible in more than a year. I will finally get to visit with one of my sons that I have not seen in person since December 2019! I told him to expect the water works when I lay my eyes on him at the airport. And I am not sure when I will get to do the same with his brother who I also have not seen in person since December 2019.

Perhaps you are having some of these same experiences. All of this is taking time and we need to allow ourselves that time. Time to be with one another, time to allow our spirits as well as our bodies to relax from the tension we have held for so long.

Friends, let us have patience with one another as well our ourselves as we navigate reentry. Relax, reflect, renew. God is with us and with God all things are possible – just give it some time....

Have a blessed summertime!

Bronwen



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Special Presbytery Meeting July 13

A special presbytery meeting, via zoom, is called for Tuesday July 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM for the purpose of approving, by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the members of presbytery present and voting, the call of the Rev. Ann Pettit to become co-pastor of Massanutten Presbyterian Church upon the dissolution of her current call as associate pastor. (Book of Order G-2.0504c).

[Register Here](#) - you must register before July 13.

Stated Presbytery Meeting August 28

The 190th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Please mark your calendars and watch for registration information, along with the Handbook for the Meeting.

Zoom Practice Session August 25

For those new to Zoom, new as a commissioner to presbytery, or those who need a refreshment of the instructions, we will be holding a Zoom practice session on Wednesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm. Watch for emails.

Presbytery Staff

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Larry Holsinger, Treasurer

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

In a letter dated April 20, 1883, to Winchester Presbytery (one of the forerunners of Shenandoah Presbytery), Moderator A. S. Moffett wrote:

“Your Presbytery would affectionately urge on your attention the fact that the relations between those who hold office and the private members of the churches *are reciprocal*.”

And while Rev. Moffett goes on to name Elders, Deacons, and Ministers in individual congregations, I believe this applies to congregations and the Presbytery itself. That is, our relationship is reciprocal—or, as I often put it, we live in a covenant, through which “we are in this together.”

The Presbytery is not an office in Harrisonburg, nor is it the staff. The Presbytery is all of us, worshipping together, ministering together, following Christ’s word and example—together.

We are all the Presbytery, together. In Presbyterian tradition and polity, we do not have Bishops. Rather, the whole Presbytery acts as a Bishop- in approving calls and installing pastors, in discussing and voting on issues, in sharing guidance and best practices, and bearing, as Paul says both burdens and sorrows: “If one part of the body suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Cor. 12:26)

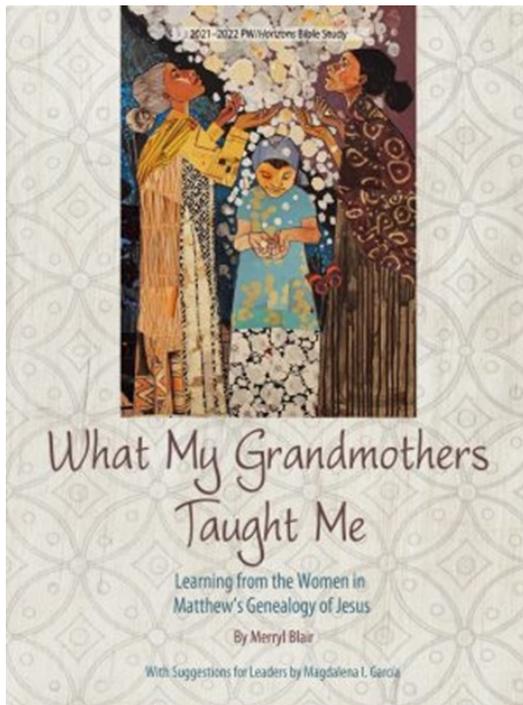
These past 15 months have been difficult, but I hope we have found strength, comfort, and guidance, together. As we begin to re-convene, please let us know how—and what—you are doing! If we can be of support or resource, please let us know that, as well.

To close, in the words of Rev. Moffett:

“These things, we exhort you in the name of the Lord Jesus. And may grace, mercy and peace abide among [us] all. Amen.”



Thanks to Carmen Silliman, member at Moorefield Presbyterian Church, for sharing the historical document.



Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study

Saturday August 21, 2021 10 - 11 am, via Zoom

This will be an introduction and overview of the 2021-2022 Horizon’s Bible Study, “What my Grandmothers Taught Me, Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus” by Merryl Blair.

The author says this:

“Reading the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew...invites us into the family stories that helped shape Jesus and that, therefore, shape us too....As we enter into these stories together, think about your own family stories...Mathew has named these women [Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary] for a reason. Their stories will lead us into the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus Christ. My hope is, having explored their stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.”

I hope you will join us!

To register and receive the Zoom link, please email Donna at shenpres@shenpres.org

Congregational Singing



Congregational singing is something that is both deep in the heart of worship, and deep in our hearts. Singing together is something that we have deeply missed in this pandemic time. As many congregations are now beginning to re-convene physically for worship, how can we- Can we- safely sing together?

The PC(USA) has not issued guidance specifically on congregational singing. The CDC has issued an infographic that shows “indoor choral singing” as “safe” for those who have been fully vaccinated, even without a mask, but lists indoor choral singing or attendance at full capacity worship service as “least safe” for those who are not fully vaccinated, even with a mask.

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians is meeting at its annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference at the end of June. Here are their guidelines:

What's the latest on singing at Worship and Music 2021?

Summary: We're singing masked.

Based on the responses to PAM's Vaccination Survey (which indicate a very high percentage of vaccinated conferees), the latest CDC guidelines, North Carolina state guidelines, and Montreat Conference Center protocols, we feel able to say that, as of this moment, we can look forward to masked singing at Worship and Music. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's May 14 mandate includes this word for events like ours: “Masks will still be required in childcare, schools and camps as most children are either not yet vaccinated or are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.” (<https://governor.nc.gov/news/following-new-cdc-guidance-face-coverings-governor-cooper-lifts-many-covid-19-restrictions>) PAM remains firmly committed to the priority of safety of everyone at our intergenerational conference: those who are vaccinated as well as those who are not yet able to be. We also know that unexpected changes to national or state guidelines might require a change to conference plans. As always, we are grateful for your patience and adaptability in these days, and we look forward to being gathered in God's name for Worship and Music!

Note several things about this guideline by PAM. They are following local, state and CDC guidelines regarding masking, full vaccination status, (Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to follow CDC guidance of masking and social distancing), consideration for those not able to obtain a vaccine, and capacity for gatherings and time limits on gatherings. They are prepared to make changes if local or state conditions require it. They have informed all participants about what is expected. These are all parameters for Sessions, pastors and congregations to follow. As always, Sessions are responsible for the worship life and wellness, both spiritual and physical, of the congregation.

For more information:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

Presbyterian Association of Musicians: <https://www.presbymusic.org/covid-protocols>



Congregational Communion Query

A query was sent out to congregations in Shenandoah Presbytery, asking, in this emerging time of re-convening and varieties of vaccination statuses, how they are celebrating communion?

Of our 98 congregations, 34 have answered (as of this writing). Of those 34 congregations, the majority, 21, continue to use pre-packaged communion kits.

Of the remainder, 8 have kits made by communion stewards, which people get as they enter worship, one congregation is still continuing virtual worship, and so congregation members celebrate using elements at home, and the rest of responders have elements which are passed or served by elders.

Scripture: Psalm 77:19

This devotion was written by Judith LePera of Trinity Presbyterian Church. She shared it with the Committee of Educational Resources at their last meeting.

"Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen."

One of the great pleasures of going to the beach is looking for shells. In order to search, of course, one has to walk through the sand. While I like the feel of the sand between my toes, I do not look upon it in general as one of God's blessings. It gets in your hair, your eyes, and your bathing suit. It is easy to track it into your dwelling place and almost impossible not to. It seems to stick to the towel no matter how hard you try to shake it off.

Shells, on the other hand, are easy to gather and easy to clean, and collected, they remain a most beautiful memento of time spent at the seaside.

Both can also be reminders of God's creative power and God's plans for our lives. God's plans for us are just like the sand on the beach, too numerous to list, much like the grains of sand. Rather than lavishing in this love and faithfulness it would seem we are constantly trying to wash it off and remove it or we fail to notice it as we look for that perfect shell. And perfect shells are few and far between. Most of the time, what is washed up are useless things like seaweed or a dead fish or crab. The roll of the tide and the crashing of the waves often leave the seashells broken or less than perfect, just like us.

Life can take twists and turns that may feel like we are in a storm on the sea. The winds are violent around us; the waves are crashing in on every side, and it seems like we may drown. Then, just like the waters of the sea are calmed, God steps in to calm our very own storm.

When we put our trust in the One who calms the sea, we will see that even in the murky waters of trouble, God is with us. Like the seashell that has withstood the violent waves and remained intact, so shall we. The treasure that we see in a lovely seashell is how God sees you and me...a treasure that, even broken, is worthy to hold onto.

As you hold a beautiful seashell, whether it be whole or broken, scarred or perfect, worn or new, let it be a reminder that God is faithful even in the storms of life.

Berkeley Springs Church Awards Scholarships

Berkeley Springs Presbyterian awarded four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors at Morgan County high schools. Three seniors at Berkeley Springs High School were recipients and one graduate at Paw Paw High School. The scholarships are valid for colleges or trade schools.

The church will present the scholarship checks at worship one Sunday.

Second Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Hosts Vaccination Clinic

Earlier this year, several of those who attend our Disciples' Kitchen lunch program began asking us how they could register to receive a vaccine. I contacted the Community Outreach team at Augusta Health. They provided me contact information for the Augusta Health COVID team. In late March, our Session met with two representatives from the COVID team and set a date of April 15 to host a vaccination clinic.

Flyers about the clinic were provided those attending our meal program, sent to the groups that help with our meals and to neighboring churches. To ensure there were not too many or too few vaccines available the day of the clinic, Augusta Health asked that we pre-register those interested in receiving a vaccine. We pre-registered over 45 individuals prior to April 15 and had a few walk-ins the day of the clinic. All those wanting to receive the vaccine, were able to.

Fifty individuals received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. On May 13, forty-seven of these individuals were able to return for their second dose. One person forgot their appointment and two others were not feeling well. All three were referred to the Augusta Health COVID team to schedule with another clinic and receive their second dose.

We now provide contact information for the Augusta Health COVID team for those individuals who inquire about receiving a vaccine.

Linda Fields
Second Presbyterian, Waynesboro VA

Homemade Bags for CWS School Kits Available

We have bags!! We have bags!!

Louise Tardy from Collierstown Church has been very busy this last year! She has sewn more than 200 bags for our churches to use for the Church Word Service School Kits. CWS needs kits all through the year, but the school bags are especially welcome at the beginning of each school year. Take up a collection at your church for school supplies and then assemble them and box them up. For a list of items for the bags, and packing directions, [click here](#).

If you are interested in receiving some of these bags, please let Donna know at the presbytery office. She will arrange a way to get them to you. Send a note to shenpres@shenpres.org or call the office at 540-433-2556. Thank you for your gifts!



Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Virtual Men's Conference

July 17, 2021

“Be joyful in hope, patient in
affliction, faithful in prayer”

Rom. 12:12

Every year for the past several years, Massanetta has had the privilege of hosting the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men's Conference. However, due to COVID-19, 2020's conference was postponed. This year, the Synod Men's Council would like to invite our brothers and sisters across the Synod to the 2021 Virtual Men's Conference held July 17.

This year's theme is based on Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer". God laid this verse on the hearts of our Conference leaders, Nachee Miller, Gary Blackmon, and Walt Martin, in 2019. Hear ministers from across the Synod, as well as our PC-USA 221st General Assembly Moderator Rev. Dr. Heath Rada speak on this verse.

While unfortunately there will be no gathering at Massanetta this year, we will still benefit from great teaching and the fellowship of breakout sessions which have made the Men's Conference so special to so many over the years.

2021 Conference Speakers

 REV. TIM TATE <small>Pastor at Blacks Memorial PC in Monroe, NC</small>	 REV. DR. HEATH RADA <small>Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 221st General Assembly</small>						
 REV. DR. DAVID ROLLINS <small>Pastor at Bayside PC in VA Beach, VA</small>	 REV. CLAYTON RASCOE <small>Executive Director of Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center</small>						
 REV. JOHN SALLEY <small>Pastor at Bedford PC in Bedford, VA</small>	<p style="margin: 0;">2021 Conference Leaders</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>NACHEE MILLER</small></td> <td><small>GARY BLACKMON</small></td> <td><small>WALT MARTIN</small></td> </tr> </table>				<small>NACHEE MILLER</small>	<small>GARY BLACKMON</small>	<small>WALT MARTIN</small>
							
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[Register Here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

BIG EVENT

HYBRID Education Event
Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA

Saturday, September 18

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



SPEAKER: REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS
Director, Presbyterian Office of Public Witness

Big Event sponsored by Committee on Educational Resources of the Shenandoah Presbytery
Contact for more information: cer@shenpres.org

Remember: You Can Now Pay Online

We now have online payments available on our website. Churches can pay their acceptances with a few clicks of the mouse.

To use this feature, point your camera at the QR code below, or go to the [payment webpage](#).

If you have questions, contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org.



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SHENANDOAH**

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ShenPres.org



Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

July 2021

- 5 - Office Closed for Independence Day
- 6 - CPT 10:00 am
- 8 - CRM 9:30 am
- 8 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 12 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 13 - Special Meeting of Presbytery 10 am
- 13 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 22 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am
- 22 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 27 - CPC 10:00 am

August 2021

- 2 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 3 - CPT 10:00 am
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 10 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 10 - CNCD 3:15pm
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 12 - CER 10:00 am
- 12 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 12 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 18 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - PW Bible Study Overview 10:00 am
- 23 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 25 - Zoom Session for Presbytery Meeting 7:00 pm
- 26 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am
- 26 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 28 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held via Zoom.