

Shenandoah Press

Volume 7, Issue 8

October 2021

A Message from our General Presbyter

Our son got engaged this summer and we are thrilled! He has found the person he wants to travel through life with and we couldn't be more excited for him and for her. But that means there are changes. Now I'm not saying anything that most of you don't realize – that as our children grow there are changes, our relationships with them change, our influence changes, our interactions change. We understand that this is a part of life and welcome the growth and change.

Change, it is sometimes welcome, sometimes not, yet change is inevitable. To change is to live, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. The more important thing, I believe, is how we choose to respond to the change that comes our way. Change is constant, how we react can change.

As the pandemic has lingered, I have heard more folks expressing their frustration and anger, understanding that many of us share those feelings. But the anger and frustration seem to be overtaking more of our responses to everything that we are confronted with, rather than remembering who we are and whose we are. We are children of God; followers of Christ called to love our neighbor. So, we need to be practicing patience with one another, forbearance of one another, sharing and showing the love of God in our interactions with those around us. Let us try and find the good in people and the beauty around us, even in difficult circumstances, because that is how we can make change for good.

Take a cue from nature. The new season is upon us as we watch the trees change color delighting our eyes, and as some of us welcome sweater weather. There is beauty in this change, even as the leaves are falling, if we are willing to see it. There is growth in change, we need to be willing to acknowledge it – like my little boy is now a man getting married.

Let us remember the blessings that come to us in the form of change, giving thanks to God in all things.

Happy fall y'all

Bronwen



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Strong Ministers Grant Deadline Extended!

The application for the Fall 2021 Strong Ministers Grant has been extended to October 5! Guidelines and application are available on the Presbytery website at <https://shenpres.org/strong-ministers-program/>.

Please email your application to Tom Holden at tholden3@gmail.com by Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

"I wonder...."

In the Godly Play approach to faith formation, we hear a Bible story, and then wonder about it.

We ask questions not to gain a specific answer, or to grow in fact finding, but to wonder, to sit with the story and with God, to wonder about God and ourselves. It is a holy question, this "I wonder..."

Wondering is part of the process of adaptive change. Wondering can be part of testing the spirits. (1 John 4:1). As Sessions become bodies of discernment, rather than only decision making bodies, we have to wonder...together. (https://www.leaderwise.org/?mc_cid=505dc6915e&mc_eid=3fe40926de) And covid has certainly pushed us into both decision making and discernment.

My own children used to mock me if I did too much "I wonderings..." as I was teaching, but I believe it is valuable tool to move us from simply deciding things (although there are times when decisions must be made) into discernment. Wonderings take time, but can also come in the spark of the moment, a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Try this with your Session, your committee, your church: "I wonder what new thing God is calling us to next?"

"I wonder what we are learning in this time?"

"I wonder what being faithful to God and to each other looks like now?"

and "I wonder how we can best exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to our neighbors right now?"

May God bless us in our wonderings, together.

Nancy



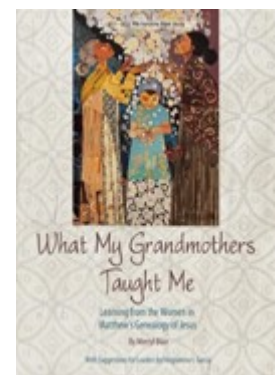
PW "ZOOM" Circle 2021-2022 It's Not Too Late to Join!

Horizons Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus," by Meryl Blair.

We had the first lesson on Monday, September 28, but we have 8 more to go! You can still join in. See below for registration information. We meet, via Zoom, on the last Tuesday of every month (except for December), at 7-8 pm. The study is led by Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter. The remaining dates are: Oct 26, Nov 30, Jan 25, Feb 22, March 29, April 26, May 31 and June 28.

This Bible Study is for everyone: for those whose congregations do not have PWV circles, those who cannot make the circles work with their schedules, to those who want an additional Bible study. The zoom sessions will be recorded, for those who cannot make the Tuesday evening time—but you must be registered. You are free to join us for all 9 lessons, or to use this as a "make-up" for a particular lesson that you miss with your home circle.

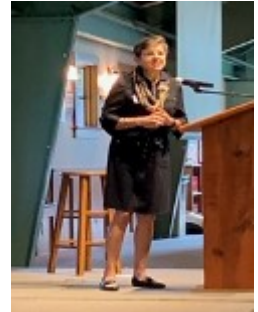
For more information, contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org. To register, contact Donna at shenpres@shenpres.org.



The Big Event Was a Big Success!

On Saturday, September 18, the Big Event of Shenandoah Presbytery was held at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. Our theme was “When Did We See You?”, from Matthew 25: 44. We had 40+ people attend in person, with 10 more attending on zoom.

Our preacher for morning worship was Rev. Dr. Margaret Grun Kibben, Chaplain to the US House of Representatives, and a PC(USA) Pastor. Her sermon was titled “The Power is in the Name.” Rev. Kibben also led a workshop, “Please Release all your Eternal Resources,” and shared her call story as well as about her work as Chaplain.



Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins, Director of the PC(USA)’s Office for the Public Witness and United Nations also presided in worship. His keynote address was: “We see Jesus when we See Each Other.”

Rev. Hawkins also led a workshop, “Faith Informs our Actions in the World.” Rev. Hawkins has previous experience in Shenandoah Presbytery, serving at both Massanetta and Camp Paddy Run as a camp counselor.



Also at the Big Event was a RoundTable Discussion by members of Trinity (Rick Comstock), Tuscarora (Kate Lewis Brown), and Massanutten Churches (Janina Peachey), as they discussed the steps their congregations have taken as they live more fully into being a Matthew 25 congregation.

Rev. Tom Groome led a book discussion on *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson.



Thanks to all who came, either in person or via zoom, and to all who set up (Thank you Sarah Hill and Jim Yao!) spoke, taught, provided music (Thank you, Ed Glover!) or tech (thank you, Anna Scott George and April Cranford!) and to the Committee on Educational resources for providing such a rich learning experience for us. Look for the Big Event in fall of

Mandatory Boundary Training in October

Boundary Training will take place via Zoom, on Tuesday October 19, 10 am-1 pm, OR Saturday, October 23, 10 am-1 pm. Participants may choose one date; attendance at both is not necessary. There is no fee for this training, and a certificate will be mailed to you after completion.

Shenandoah Presbytery requires that all Congregational Leaders (Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and those "At Large") take part in a Mandatory Boundary Training every 3 years. If you have not taken a Boundary Training with Shenandoah Presbytery, you are required to do so, per Shenandoah Presbytery Policy. For those who took Boundary Training in Shenandoah Presbytery in 2018, you are due to renew. Congregation members and Ruling Elders are also welcome.

Healthy churches and healthy people have good boundaries. To register, contact Donna at shenpres@shenpres.org.

The training will be led by Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, and Rev. Dr. Seth Normington, who is the pastor at Cooks Creek Church in Harrisonburg. Seth received his Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Seminary where he focused on lifelong leadership development, mentoring, and coaching pastors and leaders. He coaches cross country and track at Bridgewater College, officiates track nationally, and tries to run himself occasionally. He is a certified leadership and personal development coach and certified to teach Healthy Boundaries by the FaithTrust Institute. He lives in Harrisonburg with his wife, Gemma, an artist and teacher, and they have three grown children.

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.

Pay Everything On Our Website

Attention All Church Treasurers:

You are now able to electronically pay your entire church remittance online through Vanco.

Go to shenpres.org and choose online giving on the red ribbon at the top.



Committee on Nominations

The Nominations Committee is looking for a few good women and men to serve on our presbytery's committees which assist us in local and worldwide mission activities, help develop and take care of our congregations and pastors, prepare ministry candidates and support the presbytery's staff and its overall work.

If you or any member of your church has gifts and/or interest in serving the Lord through Shenandoah Presbytery, please contact us (see below). Some but not all committees prefer to have ordained persons (ruling elders and teaching elders). Our committee attempts to maintain proper member representation standards on each committee. Most of the committees meet via ZOOM. While most committees have standard meeting days and times, a few convene at the members' convenience (see below). You can look up each committee on the presbytery's website and see their purpose, duties and the name and contact information for the committee chair. The committee chair will then relay your interest and contact information to the Nominations Committee. Or you may directly contact the Nominations Committee chair, Brad Langdon (see below).

Presently, the Nominations Committee is looking for potential committee candidates for the Class of 2024 (three-year term), although other shorter one-year and two-year terms are also available on some committees.

We are also gearing up for the General Assembly meeting in 2022, and have begun soliciting interest from anyone interested in applying to be nominated as a General Assembly (GA) commissioner, alternate GA commissioner, or Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD), and alternate YAD. Look for the application process to be detailed soon.

The Nominations Committee plans to present a slate of presbytery committee nominees at the November meeting of presbytery.

The Presbytery Committees are:

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT) - 1st Monday, 1 p.m.
Committee on Educational Resources (CER) – 3rd Thursday 10 a.m.
Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO) – 1st Saturday 9:30 a.m.
Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD) - 3rd Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.
Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) – 3rd Thursday 1 p.m.
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) - 3rd Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT) - 1st Tuesday 10 a.m.
Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM) – 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m.
Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) – meets only when needed.

Grace and peace,

Brad Langdon, teaching elder, Nominations Committee, chair

jblangdon@comcast.net

304-886-9461 call/text

Moffett Grant

The deadline for submitting Moffett Grant applications to the Presbytery Office is no later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, **October 7, 2021**. The application is available through the Shenandoah Presbytery website: <https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/>.

Refugee Resettlement at Massanetta Springs Needs Your Help

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you took Me in."

These are the words from Matthew 25 of Jesus calling us to welcome refugees to our community. I'm sure you are familiar with the news that there are many Afghans housed at several military bases in Virginia, who will need to be resettled. I wanted to take this time to share with you what is happening in our community in response.

Church World Service in Harrisonburg is the lead resettlement organization for the Shenandoah Valley. CWS expects approximately 100 Afghans to come to the Valley likely in mid-October.

CWS is working with Massanetta Springs to provide transitional housing for 60-90 days. When the Afghan families are ready to leave Massanetta Springs they will be resettled in towns up and down the valley.

We are already working together.

The cost of housing refugees at Massanetta Springs will be covered by a grant from CWS National. But the cost of providing food for 100 people for 2 to 3 months falls at somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000. CWS and Massanetta Springs are working to help reduce the costs and seeking donations to support food and other ancillary services. Presbytery's Committee on Mission and Outreach has created a sub-committee on Refugee Resettlement. Dave Thalman (dthalman@comcast.net) is the chair of that committee. Carolyn Thalman (cjthelman@comcast.net) is a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Refugee Ministry Team. Both Dave and Carolyn are available as resources for churches in the Presbytery that are interested in finding ways to welcome new neighbors to our communities.

On Oct 3, World Communion Sunday, we will receive the Peacemaking and Global Mission Offering – one of the four church wide offerings of the PCUSA. 50% of the offering goes to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, 25% goes to the Presbytery Peacemaking Program and 25% remains here in our community. What could be more Peacemaking and Global Mission than helping to resettle refugees? Consider designating your 25% of this year's Peacemaking Offering to go to CWS to help resettle refugees.

WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO?

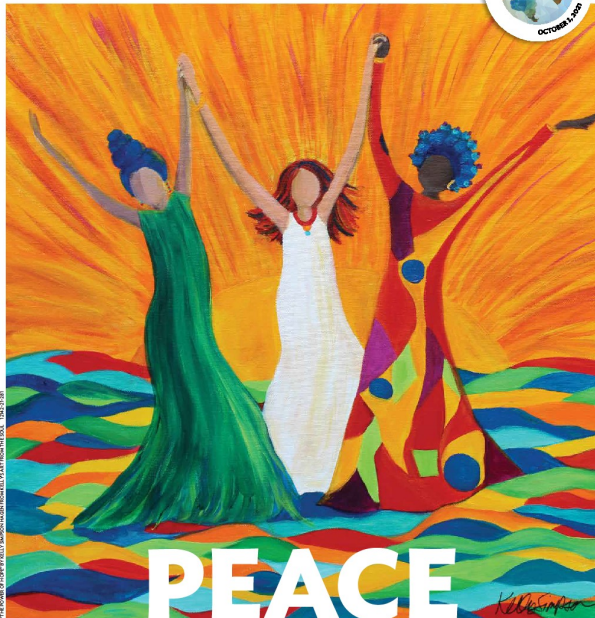
- * Make a donation to CWS Harrisonburg (cws-harrisonburg.org) designated for Transitional Housing at Massanetta Springs.
- * Designate your 25% of this year's Peacemaking Offering to go to CWS to help resettle refugee
- * Consider co-sponsoring a family as a congregation.
- * Needs are changing rapidly. Watch for specific emails from the Presbytery about how you can help in the next few weeks.

And above all, you can pray for Afghan Families and for the organizations and volunteers who are opening their hearts and hands to welcome the stranger in our midst and learn to call them friends.

Submitted by Carolyn Thalman

The [CWS] Harrisonburg Immigration and Refugee office has resettled refugees since 1988 from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Burma, Colombia, Congo (Kinshasa), Croatia, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan within a 100 mile radius of our office. Our primary goal is to help the refugee form long lasting relationships in the community which become the basis of self-sufficiency. In order to reach this goal a family must be able to maintain their own basic needs in a sustainable lifestyle. Our program provides a bridge from their former life in their home country to a new set of cultural, linguistic, and practical skills that will enable them to be successful in Harrisonburg.

 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16



Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give to Peace & Global Witness or visit pcusa.org/peace-global for more information.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

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WELL THAT EXPLAINS IT ... YOU'VE
BEEN STUDYING FROM THE KING JAMES
BOND VERSION

(FYI: the new James Bond movie comes out this month)

FALL FESTIVAL

October 16, 2021
9:00 – 3:00

YARD SALE	APPLE BUTTER
ARTS & CRAFTS	BRUNSWICK STEW
LOCAL MUSIC	HOT FOOD & DRINKS
FULL FACILITIES	BAKED GOODS

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS
& New Beginnings Christian School

Timber Ridge
Presbyterian Church
73 Sam Houston Way
Lexington, VA 24450



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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!

October 2021

- 2 - CMO 9:30 am
- 5 - CPT 10:00 am
- 12 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 12 - MPMC 12:00 pm
- 12 - Strong Ministers 3:00 pm
- 13 - CPM 10:00 am
- 14 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 14 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 20 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 20 - Nominations 2:30 pm
- 21 - CER 10:00 am
- 21 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 26 - CPC 10:00 am
- 28 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am
- 28 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

More Dates

- 5 - Strong Ministers Grant Deadline
- 14 - Moffett Grant Application Deadline 4:00 pm
- 19 & 23 - Boundary Training 10:00—1:00 pm
- 26 - PVW Bible Study 7:00 pm
- Nov. 16 - Stated Presbytery Meeting 9:30 am

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