

Shenandoah Press

Volume 8, Issue 1

February 2022

Special points of interest:

- New Address!
- 8 Habits of Evangelism
- Lent Lectionary Group
- Book Give-Away
- Much more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

Have you seen portraits that are made up of tiny individual portraits? They are called picture mosaics. From far away you see a portrait, but when you get up close you realize that it is made up of many individual pictures.

I hope you have seen one, because that is the image that came to me as I sat on a subway train in New York City. We were there visiting family and as I looked around, I saw all these people – all with different faces and it struck me that all of these different faces are made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)



And so, if we are each individually reflections of God then we need to be thinking how we are treating one another as we meet each other going about our daily lives. If we are all part of the portrait of God, then as we look at another, we are to see the face of God – and if we keep that in mind then I believe we will treat one another better. We will want to be more kind, more gracious, more forgiving, more loving.

As this new year continues, I want us to be aware of how we reflect God in our daily lives, in how we treat one another - family, friend or stranger. Let us show the world how to be better by reflecting the one who made us and redeems us!

Blessings for a continued new year
Bronwen

Shenandoah Presbytery Has a New Mailing Address

The Shenandoah Presbytery office has a new mailing address. We are in the process of changing the address on our documents.

If you have sent mail to the North Main Street address - don't worry - we are still accepting mail there, but are making the change to the post office box now.

Please update your documentation and directories with our new address:

Shenandoah Presbytery
P. O. Box 1146
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Thank you for your cooperation!



Presbytery Staff

- Bronwen Boswell,
General Presbyter & Stated Clerk
Email – presbytersc@shenpres.org
- Nancy Meehan Yao,
Associate General Presbyter
Email – assocgp@shenpres.org
- Kim Stroupe, Admin. Assistant
Email – kims@shenpres.org
- Heather Carter, Funds Admin.
Email – bookkeeper@shenpres.org
- Donna Lanaghan, Communications
Email – shenpres@shenpres.org
- Larry Holsinger, Treasurer

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

8 Habits of Evangelism

Many congregations wonder what evangelism looks like, now, for congregations and members. While we want to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, in a changing world, we might not be sure of how to do that. Evangelism has a lot of baggage of people coercing, buttonholing, even boring people, with no effective results. The “urgent call of the church in our time is to make disciples,” per Ray Jones, Director for Theology, Formation and Evangelism, PC(USA).



This past fall, several pastors and leaders of congregations in Shenandoah Presbytery attended the PC(USA) REvangelism conference. Among the many things discussed and discovered, are the 8 Habits of Evangelism.

These habits are things congregations are already engaged in:
Radical Welcome; Worship; Sacraments; Prayer; Justice; Teaching; Fellowship and Generosity.

And these habits are all things that shape and equip us, as congregations, and as individuals, to share the Good News. There are no “scripts,” no pre-made speech to say as we knock on doors and stand on street corners, no 100% guaranteed results for a billboard or a blurb put in the newspaper or on Facebook. Rather, these habits, these practices, shape and nurture us, developing and strengthening in us “a love of God, neighbor and creation...” and by the power of the Holy Spirit, these habits enable us to live out and share the Good News of Christ in our words and in our lives. A group is forming to meet (via Zoom) and discuss these habits in our congregations. Want to join us? Please contact me at assocgp@shenpres.org.

Blessings, Nancy

The 1st Habit: The Habit of Radical Welcome:

Radical Welcome is the spiritual practice of embracing and being changed by the gifts, presence, voice and power of The Other: the people who are systematically cast out of or marginalized within a church, denomination or society.

Think for a minute, of your congregation. Who is there? Who is not? Who is in your community, and does not worship with you? Who needs to hear the Good News?

While we might say we are “a friendly church,” we need to ask if what we really are is “a church of friends,” that is, a church that is made up of people like us: people we went to school with/raised kids with/who look like us/agree with us.

The Good News of Jesus Christ calls us to welcome those who are not like us, not in a condescending way, but as equals, as beloved children of God, even as Christ welcomes those at the margins of his life.

Habits for Radical Welcome include:

Develop a plan that all can participate in. What is your outreach to the community- all the community? How is your space open, accessible and affirming to all?

Do not always expect people to come to you. Rather, find ways to go out and be involved in the community around you.

Reflect diversity in who leads. Admittedly, most of our congregations in this Presbytery are not very diverse, in age, race, or background. How can we be more inclusive in who leads/reads/serves in our congregations?

Do your own work. Before we can welcome others, we need to examine what biases we have in our own congregations and in ourselves. If our welcome implicitly says “you have to look like us, behave like us, be like us,” that’s not truly welcoming.

Even if you do not “succeed” not on the first try, do not give up. You might need to try a variety of things, many different times. Your work is to be open to the Holy Spirit.

Blessings, as we proclaim the goodness of God together!

(content adapted from 8 Habits of Evangelism, PC(USA), PDS 23308-21-001)

Lent Lectionary Discussion Group

A Lenten Lectionary Discussion Group will be held, via Zoom, on Saturday, February 19, 9- 11:30, and Saturday, March 19, 9-11:30.

The February 19th meeting will cover Lectionary texts for Ash Wednesday, and Lent weeks 1-4, and the March 19th meeting will cover lectionary texts for the 5th Sunday in Lent, Palm/Passion Sunday, and Holy Week.

These are designed as discussion groups, not lectures (although some background about the Gospel of Luke will be shared) and will focus on how leaders might preach/lead worship in their particular ministry contexts. All are welcome!

To register go to <https://shenpres.org/registrations/>. For questions, contact Nancy Meehan Yao at assocgp@shenpres.org



Mandatory Boundary Training

MANDATORY BOUNDARY TRAINING MARCH 2022 via Zoom

Mandatory Boundary Training, for Pastors and CREs will be held:

Saturday, March 5, noon- 3 pm

Tuesday, March 22, 9 am- noon

THIS TRAINING IS REQUIRED by the Presbytery every 3 years- If you had your last Boundary Training in 2019, or are new to Shenandoah Presbytery, this training is for you.

To register go to <https://shenpres.org/registrations/>, and choose the date that works best for you.

CMO Wants To Hear From You!

Greetings Churches of the Shenandoah Presbytery!
I hope this email finds you warm and well! I am contacting you on behalf of the Committee on Mission & Outreach (CMO). We would love to have an update on your **LOCAL MISSION** efforts.

- What LOCAL missions are you currently participating in?
- Are you partnering with other local churches or organizations?
- What is working – or not working?
- What particular challenges are you currently experiencing?
- How can the CMO be of assistance to you? How can we pray for you?

Please, just tell us what you are up to (locally) and how things are going (bragging allowed!).

Your responses can be sent directly to me at pastorhpc@comcast.net, and I will share them with the committee at our next gathering.

Thank you in advance! And keep up the good work!

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Vanessa Smith
Hedgesville Presbyterian Church



Committee on Nominations

Rarely do the number of openings/opportunities to serve on a particular presbytery committee outnumber the currently filled positions. But that is the case, as we begin 2022, for the Committee on Relational Ministry. Chaired by Howard Boswell (Class of 2024), the CRM has four opportunities in each of the Class of 2023 and the Class of 2024.

A special skill set of pastoral concern, congregational empathy, and energy is needed for those who would like to serve on CRM. The CRM has a wide range of responsibilities “related to oversight of congregations and teaching elders in their ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to matriculation of new pastors, periodic visits with sessions and pastors, support for clergy and Certified Christian Educator wellness and professional development and minimum standards for clergy compensation.” A list of CRM’s specific duties may be easily accessed at the Shenandoah Presbytery website under “Committees”.

Without a full complement of committee members, the CRM faithfully struggles to meet its basic duties, let alone consider new directions for the benefit of the presbytery.

The Nominations Committee implores pastors and ruling elders to prayerfully consider if God is calling them to serve on this committee, or if they may be led to ask someone else in their congregation who seems to have the appropriate gifts for this important committee ministry. We would welcome all suggestions so that we can follow-up with any prospective nominee.

Need more information? Ready to refer a potential nominee to us? Contact: Howard Boswell howard.boswell@gmail.com, Nancy Meehan-Yao assocgo@shenpres.org, or Brad Langdon jblangdon@comcast.net, of the Nominations Committee.

Thank you.

Committee on Educational Resources

Are you interested in the educational opportunities that Shenandoah Presbytery has to offer its congregations? Do you feel called to serve the churches in our area by planning educational events and sharing resources? Are you looking for ways to support camp and conference ministries or college campus ministries by providing scholarships and prayerful support? Would you jump at the opportunity to join a committee that many local experts* are calling “super cool” and “an absolute joy to be a part of”?

Well then Shenandoah Presbytery’s Committee on Educational Resources might be just for you!

If you are interested in CER or have questions about our work, schedule, or responsibilities, please contact Revs. Sarah Wolf and Tommy Carrico at CER@shenpres.org.

If you feel led to join this ministry, we will be happy to put you in touch with the Shenandoah Presbytery’s Committee on Nominations! We look forward to hearing from and hopefully working with you soon!

*Revs. Carrico and Wolf are “many local experts”

Stated Presbytery Meeting February 26, 2022

The 192nd Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on **Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 9:30 am** via Zoom.

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

Practice Session February 23

We will also be holding a practice meeting on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 pm. This is for those new to Zoom or who need a refreshment of the instructions.



Buckton Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 Congregation

As part of their efforts to eradicate systemic poverty, (one of the 3 foci of the Matthew 25 initiative), they have created a "blessing box" in front of their building, contributed to the 4 cents a meal program, and held Food Drives throughout the year for local neighbors:



In addition, they have been making sleeping bags out of donated material for those who are homeless:

All of this is because the Buckton Congregation wants to bring HOPE to the community.

Thank you, Buckton and CRE Mark Johnson, for sharing this good news!



Waynesboro Second Becomes a Matthew 25 Church

We have been moved by the many and overwhelming needs of our local community which we see first hand as we partner in our Disciples Kitchen ministry with area churches. We believe the Matthew 25 initiative to "build congregational vitality" will help us to experience a renewal and resurgence, to grow in our faith so that we are better equipped to meet the needs of our community.

We are excited about this opportunity to better grow in our faith so that we may thrive here in Waynesboro, to be better equipped to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and world.

We have good and exciting news here at Waynesboro Second. After prayer, discussion, and unanimous vote in our Session, We have committed to becoming a Matthew 25 church. Below is the response I received after I signed us up:

Matthew 25 Thank you

"Thank you for signing up on our website and committing to become a Matthew 25 church. We are called to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned and poor. By joining us on this journey, you are uniting in common mission with Presbyterians to become a more relevant presence in the world.

You will soon receive a Welcome Kit containing more information about what it means to be a Matthew 25 church and ways you can engage your congregation and community. Please visit our website to discover resources available to you.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 502-569-5065 or by email.

When we practice justice, love and kindness, we are a living translation of Jesus Christ. Welcome!

*Cindy Rubin
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)"*

*Reverend Caitilin R. Hoy, MDiv, MS Patient Counseling
Pastor, Waynesboro Second Presbyterian Church*



Refugee Resettlement in the Valley

The Committee on Mission Outreach is happy to report that many evacuees from Afghanistan are being resettled in the Valley with our help. Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center will continue to serve as a transitional housing location until mid-February.

We are working with Church World Service, the resettlement agency for our region. They have had a long-standing presence in Harrisonburg and are now in the process of opening a satellite office in Winchester. A coordinating team is working with community volunteers, mostly from area churches, to find housing and jobs, and manage initial orientation and transportation needs. Winchester First is acting as the initial fiduciary agency.

To date, 14 Afghan men and two families have arrived in Winchester. Several of our other churches are continuing their resettlement ministries around Harrisonburg.

This is a significant Mathew 25 effort. Cash donations are important to sustain this on-going effort. Information can be found at cwsharrisonburg.org. Donations specific to the ministry in Winchester should be sent to First Presbyterian Church, designated for Refugee Resettlement. CMO will keep you posted as we grow this immediate, vital ministry. Specific questions can go to Carolyn Thalman (cjthalman@comcast.net)

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Disaster Kits Needed AGAIN

Church World Service continues to be in need of disaster kits, particularly the hygiene and cleanup buckets. The past disasters have greatly reduced the stockpile of kits at CWS warehouses. Having those kits available for immediate distribution has helped those in need and allowed everyone to respond quickly.



"AND DON'T FORGET TO DO GOOD
AND TO SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED."
— HEBREWS 13:16

Even now during this resurgence of the omicron COVID strain, we need to prepare for future needs of these kits. The Presbytery's Disaster Preparedness and Response Team suggests we all make plans now to collect and when possible, to assemble kits to provide help with some basic human needs such as those found in hygiene kits, school kits, and cleanup buckets.

As we have done before, let us join together "virtually" to provide disaster kits. You may wish to send the funds in to purchase the supplies for some kits, or you can assemble the kits yourselves. The details about all three kits can be found at the Church World Service Kits site at <https://cwskits.org/>. At this website you will find a list of contents and assembly instructions, the cost of each kit if you wish to purchase them, and where to deliver or ship the kits.

We have a CWS Kit Depot located right here in our presbytery at the Church of the Brethren District office in Weyers Cave, VA. You can call to make arrangements for delivery there by calling (540)447-0306. If you wish to deliver or ship them, the address is 1453 Westview School Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

Kits can also be shipped or delivered to the New Windsor, MD warehouse at: CWS, Brethren Service Center, 601 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776.

Because of very limited times when the Presbytery office is open, we are now encouraging everyone to deliver kits directly to the CWS warehouses.

Thank you in advance for continuing to stand alongside our neighbors in this special way.

Doug Sensabaugh, Co-Director
Disaster Preparedness and Response Team
Shenandoah Presbytery

From ICare member Lou D'Olive: Some good news from Ethiopia:

A letter from Addisu Chanalo, a student sponsored through this Presbytery's Ethiopian Partnership:

Dear my foster family!!

First and foremost, I want you all to know this letter isn't even half of the neither words nor emotions I have towards you all. I don't tell you enough how much I love you! My story has been rocking, emotional, but it's my story. From the moment I walked in gore hostel 4 years ago to join university and I'm stayed three years in university and today I am graduated my first degree by criminology and criminal justices two months ago from Gondar university and again after my graduation I am started my second degree in Ethiopian police university by competition and today I am employer at Ethiopian police university and at the same time I am started my masters degree at that university , you treated me as your own when I am in the university up to today. You've taught me so many things along the road of this journey called life.



You changed my life in ways I am never understood. Many times kids who grow up in foster care want to feel loved, accepted and understood. All of that came natural from you guys. Not once did I ever feel out of place or unwelcome. I've always known that y'all were my family, and I couldn't let go. See, the difference you made in my life isn't something that stopped when I turned 18. We have formed a bond just like any other family. I call you about some of my issues but not all of them, because I want to be independent from the family. I know that at the end of the day, I can always turn to you. You are my parents, not my "foster" parents; nothing about our relationship was just you fostering me. You took me in when I had no other placements, especially after you were done doing foster care, not because you had to, but because you loved me.

I have felt alone sometimes, but you have been there to catch me when I fall and when I felt sad. You taught me that it's okay to sad, and sometimes being sad. aren't the worst thing in the world. Not only did you love me, but you gave a forever family. Yes, sometimes we get on each other's nerves, but what family doesn't. I never knew what it was like to have parents until I moved in with you guys. My wonderful parents have been there through thick and thin when they don't understand what struggles or life issues that I face on a day-to-day basis. Y'all have taught and loved me so much that I can't put in words. Just know there is no way I can repay you for the endless love, support and times we spend as a family.

Over the years, I have had some obstacles, but you have been there for me through everything. I'm honored and blessed to know that you choose me. Recently, everything in my life changed. I received an amazing job opportunity in Ethiopian Police University. For the two years, but before that, my biological mother died. You've been there for me in ways I can't even understand. I'm forever grateful for you! I appreciate everything you've done for me! You are literally the best and only mom and dad I've ever had!

Thank you for supporting all of my hopes, dreams and wishes especially supporting me when I do dumb stuff! You've taken me in like your own and I'll forever be grateful for that! You deserve the world!

My unchangeable God be with you and I wish to you long live plus my today's life always bless you and my love to you doesn't have end forever

With all my love, your son!



And from Derartu Fite, who has been supported by our Hostel for some years ago. She graduated from Gore Vocational Training college with information communication Technology and then got married. This picture shows her marriage on November 7, 2021.

"We kindly appreciated the foster parents of Derartu Fite for their kind support."

Thanks to Lou D'Olive for sharing this information.

Rev. Beth Pyles: Books to Give Away

I've been culling through my library and find I have a whole bunch of books I'm looking to part with and would love them to go to a good home, so I'm offering them to anyone who'd be interested (feel free to give them as gifts to others who might enjoy and learn from them as I have).

Attached is an [alphabetical list by title of the books](#).

If you're in the area, I'll arrange to get them to you. If you're out of the area, I'll mail them to you - just let me know your mailing address.

These are almost all books of a religious/spiritual nature (as opposed to novels).

So first come, first serve -- just let me know the titles you want, and we'll go from there.

Any questions, or to arrange for books, contact Beth at beth.pyles@gmail.com.

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.



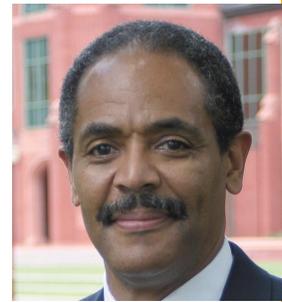
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Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, to Preach at Trinity Presbyterian Church February 20

The Reverend Dr. Brian Blount will be at Trinity Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, February 20 at 10am**. All are welcome to join by Facebook live - [www.Facebook.com/TrinityHarrisonburg](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityHarrisonburg), and the video will be available following the completion of worship at the same link. If anyone in the area would like to be here in person, we do have limited space due to COVID protocols. We ask you to reserve a spot: <https://rsvp.church/r/EwBXf80f>. We are currently requiring all worship attendees to be vaccinated to the fullest extent possible and to wear a KN-95, KF-94, or N-95 mask throughout the worship service.

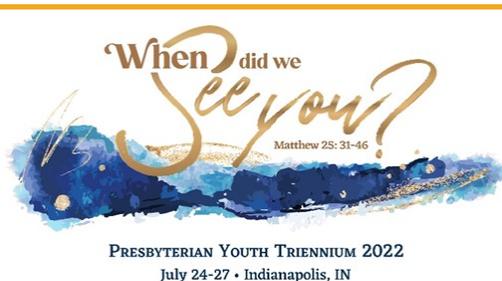


[Click here](#) for a biography of Dr. Blount.

All are invited to watch live at [www.Facebook.com/TrinityHarrisonburg](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityHarrisonburg).

Westminster Church Seeks a Short-Term Sabbatical Relief Pastor

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, Virginia is currently seeking applicants for a short-term sabbatical relief pastor position. Our need is anticipated to be 12-14 weeks beginning in mid-late May or a mutually agreeable alternative date and lasting through Labor Day 2022. Those interested are requested to review [the job description](#) and respond with a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and cover letter to wp-church-info@lumos.net.



Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Presbyterian Youth Triennium Meets this year,
July 24-27, in Indianapolis

A gathering for High School age youth, youth leaders and young adults in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches.

Fee: \$515 Youth / \$535 Adults

NOTE: SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY HAS FUNDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP WITH THE COST.
Transportation is being coordinated with nearby Presbyteries.

TRIENNIUM IS A LIFE CHANGING EVENT, full of FUN, FAITH and MUSIC!

Leadership includes Rev. Dr. CeCe Armstrong, Rev. Peggy Jean Craig, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, and Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon.
<https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>

For more information, please visit the website, or contact Rev. Sarah Wolf (revsarahwolf@gmail.com), Shenandoah Presbytery's registrar.

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

P. O. Box 1146
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

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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!

February 2022

- 3 - CPT 10:00 am
- 8 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 8 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 8 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 11 - CRM 9:30 am
- 11 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 14 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 16 - CPM 10:00 am
- 16 - Nominations 2:30 pm
- 17 - CER 10:00 am
- 17 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 24 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 10 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 12 - PW CT Meeting 10 am
- 19 - Lent Lectionary Discussion 9:00—11:00 am
- 22 - PW Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 23 - Practice Session for Presbytery Meeting 7:00 pm
- 24 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 26 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am

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

