

# The Gazette



Laurel Presbyterian Church

*Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve*



## Communion: The Gathering of the People Around Love

I am very excited to share that starting in October, we are moving to serving communion twice a month. This came out of a Vision Task Force meeting where a member shared how the simple act of receiving the tangible gifts of “bread and wine,” at an important inflection point in her life, was a “lifeline” for receiving God’s Love. For her, worship had become jumbled words that did not touch her soul. Yet, taking the concrete gifts of Christ into her body, was transforming. The Session, after consulting with the Worship and Education (WE) Team, thought this was a significant form of grace that we could incorporate into our collective lives. We know there are times in our lives when words just seem to come at us and do not change us. Nate Bargatze, the comedian, who lives with dyslexia, said opening a book was just overwhelming – “there were so many words!” There are many reasons why words “spoken” and “read” cannot reach our hearts.

But God’s love is meant to mold us, to change us, to meet us where we are, and we hope that by providing an additional way to receive this love, it will meet us where we are as a congregation.

At the heart of it, I love that communion is a reminder that we share in something larger than ourselves. A reminder that we belong to God and to one another. It is a reminder that we participate in Love itself, which transcends our individual points of view and yet draws us closer to each other. It is a reminder that each one of us is needed to be this Body of Christ. Each one of us has a gift from God, for the people of God. Last month, we talked about coming back into this Body this fall with fresh eyes and energy to look at our lives and what God was speaking through them. How are we enlivened? Where is God asking us to serve? Where might we try something out? We live in a highly charged time when it is so easy to become consumed by the fragments of our culture, rather than live from our identity in God. Communion unites us at the core. It tells us who we are as God’s beloved ones. It reminds us that God is at work bringing goodness to the world—and not just through us. And through communion, it calls us back into the life of the Body as a spiritual touchpoint for everything we do. It brings us into something larger than what happened in the world this day. It connects us with each other, where we are seen, valued, and honored because all of us are seen, valued, and honored by our Creator. The inclination to dismiss “the other” for bad behavior is real, but that is not what Jesus showed us. He included and forgave the other, and we are asked to imitate God in doing likewise. And it reminds us that all of us are needed “to be” the kingdom from all our neurodivergent “otherness” so that we might inhabit that day when the “leopard lies down with the kid, and a little child leads them (Isaiah 11:6-7).” We keep our eyes on this kingdom—and each time we come together to worship, each time we express our gifts from God, each time we share in communion, we participate in the goodness of Love that makes room for all of our gifts. Laurel is a wonderful place to discover our calling and to connect to this bigger, always bigger vision of God’s love making itself known to us and through us. So, we might embody the change that God is bringing about on earth through us.

We anticipate serving communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, with modifications for Christmas Eve and my schedule. We hope to provide this concrete way to receive God’s Love for the next few months and then re-evaluate it in February. Please let us know how you feel about incorporating this spiritual practice into our corporate life.

We are grateful for the bread provided by Janice Berger (often homemade) and Michael Henderson. Linda Patterson has agreed to cut the bread into cubes to make it more easily accessible and hygienic. And as we always do, we will offer the all-in-one cups. In addition, we will continue to try out new ways of coming to the table and sharing the elements, as we did with our “outdoor” worship services this summer.

This month, we will celebrate communion on both October 5, which is World Communion Sunday, and October 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope this will feed our spirits and enliven our communion, as this Body of Christ, whether at home or in person. May you know concretely how much you are loved and good.

With Deep Joy in the Body of Christ,  
Rev. Ann



### Wednesday October 1

1:00pm Beloved A meets in Parlor.  
3:00pm Beloved B meets in Parlor.

### Thursday October 2

5:30pm Choir meets.

### Sunday October 5

9:00am Sunday school meets in Fellowship Hall.  
10:00am Worship/Communion/Good Samaritan offering  
11:15am Team Meetings

### Wednesday October 8

1:00pm Beloved A meets.  
3:00pm Beloved B meets.

### Thursday October 9

5:30pm Choir meets.

### Sunday October 12

9:00am Sunday school meets in Fellowship Hall.  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Lingering-Worship & Education

### Tuesday October 14

10:00am Circle meets in Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesday October 15

1:00pm Beloved A meets.  
3:00pm Beloved B meets.

### Thursday October 16

5:30pm Choir meets.

### Sunday October 19

9:00am Sunday school meets.  
10:00am Worship/Communion  
11:15 am Session meets in Parlor.


### Thursday October 23

11:30am Lunch Bunch meets at Perla Restaurant  
(previously Little Angela's in CrossRidge).  
5:30pm Choir meets.

### Saturday October 25

9-12 Forward Foundation

### Sunday October 26

9:00am Sunday school meets.  
10:00am Worship/Five Cents a Meal offering.  
\*No Vision Task Force meeting  
4:00pm-6:00pm Trunk or Treat 

### Thursday October 30

5:30pm Choir meets.

**Friday October 31**  
**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

**Shepherd on Call:** The Shepherd on Call for the month of October is Gladys Chamberlayne. She may be reached at 804-755-6172. Please call Gladys if you know of anyone who needs a call or visit.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS OF LAUREL. MAY YOU BE  
ABUNDANTLY BLESSED THIS YEAR!**

Eddie Ann Mathewson (1)  
Carolyn Stinger (4)  
Jill Day (6)  
Beverley Shepherd (6)  
Laura Jo Pike (11)  
Carol Short (17)  
Woody Patterson (18)  
Amber Horigan (24)  
Pauline Njorge (29)



### OCTOBER SANCTUARY FLOWERS

**October 5** – Madeline Clore & Thomas Miller – To the Glory of God and in memory of grandmother, Doris Bradshaw Clore.

**October 12** – Bernie Cheatham – To the Glory of God and in memory of Bettie Cheatham and mother-in-law, Vivian Christian.

**October 19** – Open

**October 26** – Sharon Riley – To the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Draper's birthday.



Our next lunch will meet Thursday, October 23, at 11:30. The location is Perla Italian Restaurant, 10246 Staples Mill Road (in CrossRidge where Little Angela's Restaurant was).  
Mary Searce



Dear Reverend Cherry and  
Laurel Church Family,

On behalf of the students  
and staff at Virginia  
Randolph, I want to extend

our heartfelt thanks for your generous clothing donations and supplies to our school. We deeply value your partnership and the care you continue to show our school community. Your contribution allows us to provide students with gently used items that can be reused and repurposed to meet their needs.

We are truly grateful for your generosity and continued support. Please know that we welcome additional donations of gently worn or new items to help keep our school clothes closet stocked and ready to serve our students.

Thank you again for being such a valued partner in our mission to support and uplift every child.

With gratitude,

Adria Mayo,

Principal

The Campus at Virginia Randolph



### IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!!! SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th 4-6PM

We need **YOU!** We have asked all teams to participate in this community event. If you are not on a committee and would like to help, please let Ann Whitby know. If you are not familiar with Trunk or Treat, it is a way to reach out to our community and provide a safe, less spooky alternative to traditional trick or treating. We need people to help with food and drinks, help with staffing the parking lot, help with games and music and providing fun, and to open trunks and pass out candy to the children! We have extended invitations to Gingerbread Cottage and Coal Pit families. The sign-up sheet to open your trunk is in the Narthex. We still need more people to come out and open their trunks and pass out candy! No worries if you don't want to decorate your trunk for Halloween, just a bucket of candy and a pumpkin/mum will suffice. Please join us at this fun event! (Please provide store-bought candy or wrapped candy and no peanuts or other nuts please).

Vision Task Force Team

### WELCOME BABY LUCCA BELLA!



Congratulations to Sally and Justin Torres on the birth of their second child, Lucca Bella, and to Ruby Torres, proud big sister! Lucca was born on September 7, 2025. Mom, Dad, Ruby and baby Lucca are all doing well.



Please continue to bring in pantry items for our Lamb's basket food donations. Please place them in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

### SAVE THE DATE...LAUREL THANKSGIVING MEAL. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am

MCM team will be providing us with our Laurel Thanksgiving meal on Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> directly after church service. They will provide the turkey, gravy, rolls, cranberry sauce, and dressing. We ask Laurel members to bring either side dishes or a dessert. All are welcome! Come join us and let's give thanks for this wonderful community we are in. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex at the beginning of November.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL...** We meet every Sunday at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! You can receive the Sunday School material by emailing Michael Henderson at [mhenderson94@hotmail.com](mailto:mhenderson94@hotmail.com).



### CHOIR IS BACK IN REHEARSALS:

Love to sing but not sure you are ready for prime time? Consider tossing caution to the wind and joining the choir on Thursday nights at 5:30 pm for rehearsal. James Sudbury is a joy, and our choir is joy-filled and eager to infuse our worship with passion. Come lend your voice to love.

## **TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING...**

Here is some food for thought in advance of our annual Stewardship campaign.

Taxes help us support our community needs. But did you know that there are two simple ways that you can make pre-tax donations to Laurel and other qualified organizations that could, if you choose, enable you to give a bit more than you thought might be possible?

If you receive distributions from a Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are at least 70 ½ years of age, you are likely eligible to make pre-tax contributions directly from your account to Laurel and other qualified organizations using a Qualified Charitable Distribution, also known as a QCD. And if you are receiving Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a QCD you make can be applied to that RMD.

If you have a brokerage account containing stocks and various other fund instruments that you accumulated over the years, you may be eligible to create a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) that allows you to avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stocks to a DAF and directing them as donations to Laurel and other qualified organizations.

Both of these options are fairly simple to put into place, so if you think one might fit into your circumstances, contact your account representative for further guidance.

Pete MacRae



## **MEMBER CARE AND MISSION MINUTES**

August 31, 2025

Margaret reported on her delivery of our collected school supplies and clothes to The Virginia Randolph School. She says the school was incredibly happy to get the supplies. She also suggested that since no socks were included, we sponsor a sock drive after Christmas.

Our next activity will be the Thanksgiving Meal, but Ann Whitby would like our help with Trunk or Treat, which will take place on Sunday October 26, from 4:00 – 6:00pm. Further information will be provided closer to the date.

Closed in prayer.

Rebecca Owen

## **STEWARDSHIP & PROPERTY TEAM MEETING**

September 14, 2025

### **New Business**

Awnings at Gingerbread entrance and fellowship hall are faded. Gingerbread attempted to clean the awning to no avail. The team authorized Capital Awning Company to prepare a price quote to replace the two awnings.

GingerBread asked if we would share the expense to have tile flooring stripped and waxed. The team felt that was reasonable and will request the invoice for this service.

Southeast Connections a vendor for the gas service has marked gas service to everyone along Staples Mill Road – Pete has been monitoring this issue.

We will launch the Stewardship campaign in November.

### **Old Business**

The Vision Task Force asked S & P to research the issue of having a cell phone tower on our property. This is not a straightforward process and there are a number of concerns, such as:

Should we enter into a contract which is generally 50 years?

The vendor needs 24-hour access.

The provider can sublet to multiple other providers.

There are zoning concerns, and our neighbors most likely will oppose this issue.

There are concerns about health risks such as radiofrequency and radiation exposure.

There was discussion about having an ADA compliant bathroom. Constructing a new bathroom is cost prohibitive. The notion of converting the pastor's bathroom was discussed and to modify this area has its challenges. We would have to relocate the infrastructure for the fire alarm system, which would be difficult and pricey. The team is recommending that we convert either the men's or ladies' room for this need and obtain price quotes for this conversion.

Tod Balsbaugh

## **WORSHIP AND EDUCATION MEETING ON**

August 31, 2025

Plan for communion twice a month. Recruit new elders to serve communion. This will begin with World Communion Sunday in October.

Linda Patterson suggested that we use pre-cut bread cubes for hygiene issues. She will cut 1" by 2" cubes with no crust. She will place them on a pewter or glass serving tray. We will try it and review it starting in

October. Grape juice will continue to be used in the chalices as previously.

Discussion of increase in cost of flowers. The cost is going to be \$41.00. Discussion of alternatives.

Two requests to fix the projector in sanctuary. There are funds in Vision task force. Per Rudy—The issue is the cable to projector is broken. The cost to replace it is high.

The projector may have blue tooth capability but needs computer within certain vicinity. And need additional computer.

Thomas Miller did a wonderful job teaching Sunday School.

Michael Henderson



Our Supper Club Chefs—Chef Dameron (in yellow) and her Sous Chefs, from left to right, Margaret Fitch, Carolyn Stinger, Joan McArthur and Gladys Chamber



### 3 REDNECK TENORS

Friday, October 24, 2025  
7:00 pm  
Saturday, October 25,  
2025  
7:00 pm  
Tickets \$45

***“What happens in the trailer park, stays in the trailer park.”*** When in Rome, see the Three Tenors... When in Glen Allen, see the **3 Redneck Tenors!!!** Back by popular demand, this musical comedy trio featuring classically trained veteran artists brings us a show that could best be described as “the Blue-Collar Comedy Tour goes to Carnegie Hall.” Written by opera-veteran Matthew Lord, with music arranged by award-winning composer Craig Bohmler, and starring Mr. Lord, Blake Davidson, and Sean Steele, the 3 Redneck Tenors bring a barrel of down-home laughs with a heaping haul of big city music every time they come to town! Get ready for two side-splitting shows as the 3 Redneck Tenors delight with their vocal prowess and a smorgasbord of songs ranging from country to Broadway to classical and everything in between!

### 2nd Stage

#### THE SOUL SHAKERS

Sunday, October 26, 2025  
3:00 pm  
Tickets \$25

*The Goatacado Food Truck will be on-site! Center Field Outdoor Show! General Admission Seating. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join us for a fun afternoon of live music on our outdoor stage! Wine/beer/beverages and snacks available for sale at the show.*

The Soul Shakers are an all-star collection of Richmond music veterans led by drummer/vocalist, Chris Mendez (The Taters). The group plays a mix of classic R&B, southern soul, and Motown. Anchored by a solid rhythm section, this feel-good ensemble is augmented by blazing horns and impeccable vocals. The band covers a wide range of classic artists such as Otis Redding, Delbert McClinton, Van Morrison, Wilson Pickett, the Bamboos, and many more. Come party outdoors with CACGA and The Soul Shakers!

### CHARLIE BROWN THANKSGIVING-INSPIRED CHOCOLATE BARK

(Delish.com by Candace Braun Davison)

#### Ingredients

**24 oz.** semi-sweet chocolate chips.  
**1 cup** popped popcorn.  
**1 cup** Crushed Pretzels  
**1/2 cup** Jellybeans

#### Directions:

**Step 1** Microwave chocolate in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until melted. Pour onto a parchment-lined baking sheet with edges (or a jelly roll pan), spreading with a spatula until evenly coated.

**Step 2** Top with popcorn, pretzels, and jellybeans, pressing them down to secure them in the chocolate. Place the baking sheet in the refrigerator to set, 25 to 30 minutes.

DEADLINE FOR GAZETTE – 19th OF EACH MONTH

Consider going paperless and receiving the Gazette via email. Just send me a message at the address below and I will take care of the rest.

Gazette email: [pamacrae@comcast.net](mailto:pamacrae@comcast.net)

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