



# Presbyterian

## R E P O R T E R

Volume 58, Issue 1, February 2018

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### A Note from the Pastor Falling in Love with God

This year Lent begins on Valentine's Day and ends on April Fool's Day. The timing could not be more helpful (or providential) in highlighting the meaning of the holiest season of the year.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the reminder that there is no greater love (and no better Valentine) than God. No matter how far we stray, God is always gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Lent culminates on Easter Day with the good news that there is no greater power than God's love. We stand at the empty tomb and cry "April Fool's," celebrating the triumph of love over death and the raising of Jesus (and us) to new life. God has removed everything that stands in the way of our relationship.

This year, our Lenten study series will help us consider what the church needs to let go of as it seeks a more faithful relationship with God.

Based on Brian McLaren's book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*, we will consider the church's need to change, specifically how to embrace three powerful shifts in understanding that are reshaping the practice of faith:

- focusing less on a system of beliefs and more on a way of life rooted in love;
- rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing instead a renewing Spirit at work in our world; and
- identifying less with organized religion and more with an organizing religion of Jesus followers dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, and working for the common good of all.

Brian McLaren is a leading voice in contemporary religion today. Diana Butler Bass describes his book as "a beautiful exploration of a hopeful, joyful, mystical, and just faith that invites Christians to move from fear to love."

For four weeks, beginning **Thursday, February 22, at 6:00 pm**, we will join with our friends from Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper, followed by our study. Come and be prepared to fall more deeply in love with God this season!

Blessings for a holy Lent!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolene". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2018 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the 2017 year-end financial statements.
- Approved the year-end 2017 Membership records and the Membership record as of January 17, 2018.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of Session to approve a \$6,317.00 payment to Landis Office Center for a new Toshiba copier.
- Approved the in-home serving of communion by ruling elders Carl and Jane Belt to Charlie and Mae Orlick and John Johnson.
- Approved the 2018 budget as recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee which projected a deficit of revenues over expenses by \$7,147.41.
- Approved and forwarded to the congregation for the January 28, 2018 Annual meeting the recommendation to sell the Southminster property to Bethany House of the Lord for \$40,000.00.
- Approved the dissolution of the Southminster Committee with thanks to its members, Pam Jan, Phil Mills, Janet Hendershot, Gary See, Sharon Squires and Rev. Kelly.
- Approved David Stickler to serve as ruling elder commissioner to attend the Presbytery Gathering on February 8, 2018.
- Approved a contribution in the amount of \$224.00 from non-wills and memorials funds to support the 2020 General Assembly meeting to be hosted by the Baltimore Presbytery.

In addition the Session heard:

- A report from Jane Belt from the Wills and Memorials Committee regarding the church's endowment. Jane informed the Session the funds are currently being managed by Sterling Advisors and the fund balance at fiscal year-end was \$2,409,792.52.
- An announcement from Carolyn Matthews that there will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- A report from the Faith Formation Committee that the Sweetheart luncheon and the summer youth mission trip were canceled because there is not a critical mass of youth for either.
- Rev. Kelly announced that she would be co-leading a four-week Lenten study on Thursday nights from February 22 until March 15 with the pastors of St. Paul and Emmanuel exploring the need for a spiritual migration of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

**WELCOME OUR NEW NURSERY CARE WORKER  
ADDY MALLERY**

We are pleased to announce that Addy Mallery joined our Nursery Care staff this past Sunday, February 4th!

Addy is studying early childhood development at Allegany College of Maryland and will bring the kind of care and nurturing our youngest disciples need. She will join Ginny Reid, who has served in this capacity since November of 2015. Please join us in welcoming Addy to First Presbyterian Church.

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**NEWLY ELECTED RULING ELDERS TO BEGIN SERVICE IN JUNE 2018**



**Laura Fiscus**



**Josh Gilhart**



**Aaron Hendrickson**



**Agnes Yount**

Congratulations to Ruling Elders-elect Laura Fiscus, Josh Gilhart, Aaron Hendrickson and Agnes Yount, who were elected by the congregation on Sunday, January 7, 2018 to begin a three term of service in June. (Agnes currently serves on the session and will begin a second term in June). In the meantime, they (along with Gary Hendrickson, Class of 2019) will be meeting with Caroline for orientation and training for their new roles as spiritual leaders for our congregation.

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## THE SALE OF THE SOUTHMINSTER PROPERTY

First Presbyterian Church will transfer property (previously known as Southminster Presbyterian Church) at [310 Race Street, Cumberland, MD](#), AS IS, to Bethany House of the Lord for \$40,000 in the near future.

This story begins in 2005, when SPC was dissolved and the Presbytery transferred the property to FPC with the understanding that the property would be used to benefit the community. Bethany House of the Lord has been using the property since 2005 and now wishes to buy the property, assuming responsibility for replacing the roof and HVAC system and making desired improvements.

The Presbytery has approved the sale and on January 28 the congregation also approved the sale. The purchase price will be designated for local mission and held for that purpose. A committee will be appointed to recommend its use, which must be determined by Session.

## NURTURE

### THANK YOU LETTERS

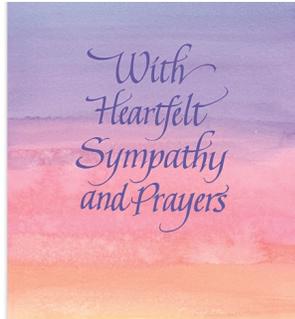
Otto and I would like to thank everyone for all the love and support we received from the congregation in the aftermath of my falling and breaking my leg. To those who sent cards, I appreciated every one of them. To those who brought food, Otto and I enjoyed all the tasty dishes. For all of you who prayed for us, it made such a difference. All the health professionals who have had contact with me have remarked at how well I have been healing. I know that God has been with us the entire time. And through this whole ordeal you have been with us in spirit. I understand more than ever the concept of church family. Indeed, you are our family!

Thank you again!  
Katie and Otto Ross



Katie Ross	2-Feb
Marybelle Light	3-Feb
Brenda Clark, CPA	5-Feb
Abbey Workmeister	5-Feb
Meredith Irons	8-Feb
Debi Mullan	8-Feb
Martha Jane Hochard	11-Feb
Gail Plitnik	13-Feb
Barbara Aber	16-Feb
Tom Chappell	16-Feb
Linda Mellon	16-Feb
Judy Stern	16-Feb
Sterlin Rebuck	17-Feb
Laura Fiscus	18-Feb
Gwyn Chappell	19-Feb
Deb Hendrickson	19-Feb
Phil Mills	21-Feb
Bill Rudd	28-Feb





- † Prayers and sympathy to Shirley Giarritta and family on the death of Shirley's nephew, Bill Miller, on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Pam and Katie Jan and family on the death of Pam's mother-in-law and Katie's grandmother, Shirley Jan, on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Cindy Corley and family on the death of Cindy's sister, Charlotte Warner, on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Bill Shaffer and family on the death of Bill's sister, Hilda May Resh, on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- † Prayers and sympathy to the family of Mary Spangler, on her death on Wednesday, January 3.
- † Prayers and sympathy to Teri See and family, on the death of Teri's mother, Anna Lee "Ann" Vandergrift, on Wednesday, January 3.
- † Prayers and sympathy to the family of former member, Mildred Ranson, on her death on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- † Prayers and sympathy to the family of David Steele, on his death on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.



- ☺ Congratulations to first time grandparents, Jeff and Kathy Getty, on the birth of their granddaughter, Katherine Elise Ritter, on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> to their daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Jesse Ritter.
- ☺ Congratulations to Shirley Giarritta on the birth of her great-grandson, Wesley Alan Masters, on January 3, 2018 to her granddaughter, Lindsay and husband, Ben.

## ADVENT EVENT & HANGING OF THE GREENS



On December 10, the Faith Formation and Congregational Care and Outreach Committees held our third annual Advent Event and Hanging of the Greens.

Church family and friends gathered for lunch before heading to the sanctuary to bless the Christmas Tree and introduced the Christmas Tree Blessing Milestone Moment, and then decorated throughout the sanctuary and education building and baked cookies to take to our in-home members.

## LEARN & GROW

### EGG HUNT/ EASTER BLESSING



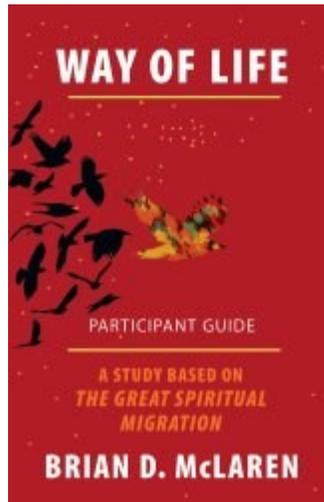
**Date: March 31, 2018**

**Time: 10AM**

**Place:  
First Presbyterian  
Church  
Playground**

**Please join us in a  
Milestone for  
Ministries Moment.**

### WAY OF LIFE: A LENTEN STUDY BASED ON *THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION* BY BRIAN D. McLAREN



To be human is to move. To be human is to change. Today, Christianity is in need of change. More specifically, argues McLaren, Christianity is in need of a migration.

Join friends from Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran on Thursdays at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper, followed by study and conversation.

To order the participant study guide can be purchased. They are recommended by not required for participation in the study. Cost is \$10.

February 22 – A Better Way to Be Christian

March 1 – From a System of Beliefs to a Way of Life

March 8 – Toward a Loving God of Liberation

March 15 – For the Common Good

### MILESTONES MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES



#### Graduation Milestone

Friday, April 27th at 6:00PM  
At Bill & Ann Kellermeier's Home

#### Caregiver Milestone

Sunday, June 11th at 11:15AM  
In the Fellowship Hall

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## LEARN & GROW

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### ANNUAL SWEETHEART SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON AND DESSERT AUCTION

For many years, our congregation has supported youth ministry summer trips by participating in the annual Sweetheart Spaghetti Luncheon and Dessert Auction, held annually on the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day. Traditionally, a generous team of youth and their parents (and others) have organized the luncheon and auction, serving a delicious spaghetti lunch and then auctioning off a dazzling array of decadent desserts made by members of all ages.

In recent years, pies and cakes made by Randy Stroup and Gwyn Chappell and, more recently, Josh Gilhart, have fetched upward of \$150 a piece. The youth have used these funds to underwrite the cost of their participation at Massanetta and Montreat Youth Summer Conferences in Virginia and western North Carolina, as well as Youthworks Mission trips to West Virginia and eastern Virginia.

This year, with half of our youth graduating and aging out of the youth ministry, we are unable to assemble the critical mass necessary to support a summer mission trip or the Sweetheart Spaghetti Luncheon. With only a few weeks left before Valentine's Day this year, we have decided, together with input from the youth and their families, to forgo the luncheon and auction this year and instead, assemble a group to evaluate and re-imagine the event for next year. If you are interested in helping with this, please be in touch with one of us.

Many thanks to all who have made this such a spectacular event in the past. We look forward to seeing what God had planned for its future!

Joe Weaver and Chelsea Boor, Co-Moderators of the Faith Formation Team

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### COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE TRAINING DAY! REGISTER TODAY - SPACE IS LIMITED!

**Join us for Advocacy Training Weekend  
April 20-23 in Washington, DC**

**A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants,  
Refugees, and Displaced People**

**Join us for Compassion Peace  
and Justice Training Day  
on April 20th and  
Ecumenical Advocacy Days April 20th - 23rd.**

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

With the joyful music of the Christmas and Epiphany seasons still fresh in our ears, it is difficult to believe that in about two weeks we will be beginning the season of Lent. The Sanctuary choir has already begun preparations for anthems for Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent, and will soon begin work on music for Holy Week and Easter. As always, special care is given to the selection of choral music sung in worship, so that it may illuminate our understanding of God's word. This year, choral and organ selections will be mixed between repertoire from the existing music library at FPC and new additions to the library, with a focus on contemporary composers.

The choir rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:30 and before church on Sundays at 10:15. The choir is always in need of new voices, regardless of musical experience or the commitment level. Please consider joining us in the music ministry of FPC!

Blessings,

Bryan Lohr

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



On December 24th, worship featured a come-one, come-all, "no practice" Christmas pageant directed by Mikayla Dodge. Special thanks to Mikayla Dodge and all the participants!

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## WORSHIP & MUSIC

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### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

7:00PM IN THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a 40-day spiritual journey with Jesus toward the cross and the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. It is a time to reflect on who we are and whose we are.

As part of the service, we will offer the imposition of ashes as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin and an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th century.

In Scripture, ashes are described as a symbol of

purification and repentance. Communion will also be served and the choir will sing. Our service will be reflective and informal. Join us as we begin the holiest season of the year.

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### COMMUNION SERVICES THIS SEASON

THE DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP indicates that communion may be received in one of three traditional ways: passing the elements to each other around the communion table; coming forward to receive the elements by intinction; or seated in the pews. For most Sundays of the year we practice communion by intinction. However, when the service is of a more somber nature, we receive communion in our seats. The following is our communion schedule for the next few months.

February 14 intinction (seated) (Ash Wednesday)

March 4 - seated (Third Sunday in Lent)

April 1 - intinction (Easter)

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First Presbyterian Church  
Eleven Washington Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

**We Thank God For:**

*February*

Address Service Requested