



## **Blacksburg Presbyterian Church**

**Proclaiming God's Word  
Growing in faith and understanding  
Welcoming all  
Extending comfort and grace  
Working for justice and peace  
Nurturing creation  
Being generous stewards of God's gifts**

### **Elder Class 2018**

Susan Bailey  
Jack Call  
Ami Jo  
Brent Opell

### **Elder Class 2019**

Jama Hayes  
Peggy Kincaid  
Brian Smith  
Melanie Smith

### **Elder Class 2020**

Heather Polikoff  
Jimmy Ritter  
Jen Stewart  
Andrew Warren

## **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 20, 2017**

✠ Please stand in body or in spirit.

### **THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION**

*"In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* – Paul of Tarsus

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*The Prayers of the People are written by the congregation and read aloud as our corporate prayer. If you want to take part, write a one sentence prayer on the cards provided. No signatures, please. The cards will be collected during the second hymn. Together we pray whatever is on our hearts.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Catherine Taylor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.** ... *(All are encouraged to sign the Friendship Pad in the pews. If you are a first-time visitor and leave an address, we can welcome you more fully.)*

### PRELUDE

*Unity: Like Precious Oil*

J. S. Anthony

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Phyllis Albritton-Webb

Come and worship God in joy!

**The house of the Lord will be a house of prayer for all peoples.**

How good it is to live in unity.

**This is the blessing of the Lord: life forevermore.**

### † HYMN No. 317

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

MC KEE

### † PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Hear these words of sacred scripture:

**You shall have no other gods before me;**

**You shall not bow down to them or worship them.**

Let us confess our sins before God and our neighbors.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord our God, we confess that we do not reflect your glory. You invite us to live together in unity; we allow family drama to drive us apart. You welcome all to the table of grace; we turn away strangers asking for crumbs. Forgive us; restore and reorder our lives by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be one as you are one, sharing the blessing of life forevermore, to the glory of your holy name.** ... *(A time of silent confession follows.)* In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayers. Amen.**

### PRAYERFUL RESPONSE No. 250 v. 2 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;**

**There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.**

**From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,**

**Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)*

**HEARING THE WORD**

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

*(Children 1<sup>st</sup> grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Parents may take kindergarten and younger children downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurture and care.)*

LITANY FOR TEACHERS

(Please see insert)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS      Genesis 45:1-5, 8, 13-15; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

ANTHEM

*O God, in a Mysterious Way*  
Summer Choir

WILLIAM COWPER

Text may be found at Hymn No. 30.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:21-28

SERMON

“Who Let *You* in Here?”

Dr. Catherine Taylor

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

† HYMN No. 301

*Let Us Build a House*

TWO OAKS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Congregation

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY

*O Look and Wonder*  
Summer Choir

PABLO SOSA

Text may be found at Hymn No. 397.

† DOXOLOGY

**O Christ, who heals divisions, we lift our song as one  
Before the Holy mystery of Father, Spirit, Son.  
As One who's also many, Lord make of us one voice,  
With varied tones and accents, united to rejoice.**

AURELIA  
text adapted by C. Taylor

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✠ HYMN

*We Thank You, God, for Teachers*

AURELIA

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE

*O Look and Wonder*

PABLO SOSA

\*please recycle your bulletin in the wooden bins on either side of the front doors.

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### LITANY FOR TEACHERS

Jesus' disciples called him rabbi, which means teacher.

**He taught using a variety of methods:**

By bringing a child in to the midst of adults,

**By writing in the sand, sharing parables, asking questions.**

He led by example and told vivid stories:

**Of a man attacked by thieves, of a woman finding a lost coin.**

Jesus taught with examples that were familiar:

**Of lamps, salt, and leaven; sheep and shepherds;  
seeds, vines, bread, and wine.**

Jesus took time away from crowds:

**To pray, to be with friends, to be refreshed and renewed.**

Jesus challenged his hearers to commitment:

**“Don’t judge.” “Give freely.” “Turn the other cheek.” “Follow me.”**

Holy God, help these teachers trust Jesus' example

**To be ourselves, use what we know, rely on you, and tell your story with joy.**

# We Thank You, God, for Teachers

1. We thank you, God, for teach - ers Who help us learn your Way,  
 2. We thank you, God, for child - ren And old - er peo - ple, too,  
 3. We thank you, God, for fam - ilies Of ev - ery kind and size,  
 4. We thank you, God, for church - es That wel - come one and all,

Who show by their ex - am - ple How we can serve and pray,  
 Who val - ue times of learn - ing And want to grow in you,  
 Who keep the vows they spoke when Their child - ren were bap - tized,  
 That nur - ture ev - ery per - son In an - swer to Christ's call.

Who find great joy in wor - ship, Who lis - ten with con - cern;  
 Who seek your pre - cious king - dom And wis - dom from a - bove;  
 Who pray and read the Bi - ble, Who love and serve the poor;  
 So fill us with your Spir - it, And give us life a - new,

For in their lov - ing wit - ness, They help us want to learn.  
 For wise ones of all a - ges Still seek to learn your love.  
 They teach, by what they val - ue, The way of Christ our Lord.  
 That we may help each oth - er Live faith - ful - ly in you.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

AUGUST 20, 2017

**Welcome to all who gather for worship today.** May each of us know something of God's grace and be moved toward deeper faith, sincere love, and service following Christ. No matter who you are, or what you are seeking, you are welcome here. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore all that happens in life and ministry in this church.**

**We are grateful for Phyllis Albritton-Webb, who is our liturgist today, and all the gifts she brings to BPC.**

**THE CELEBRATION FLOWERS are sponsored by Bill Neely in loving memory of Carol P. Neely.**

**A Few Celebration Flower dates are still available: Oct. 8, 15 and Dec. 31.** Please let Sherry know if you would like to sponsor one of these dates by email to [sherry@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:sherry@blacksburgpres.org). Please include the date you'd like to sponsor, color preferences, and what you would like to have printed in the bulletin. You may order an arrangement by Best Wishes, which will cost \$50, or you may wish the Flower Committee to make an arrangement for you, cost \$50, or elect to have the Peace Lilies in worship and donate the cost to a church program or charity of your choice.

**Creation Care thought:** The global average water footprint – or the total amount of water needed – to produce one pound of beef is 1,799 gallons of water; one pound of pork takes 576 gallons of water. As a comparison, the water footprint of soybeans is 216 gallons; corn is 108 gallons.

**Summer Art Exhibit in Westminster Hall: “Photographic Views: Light and Gold”- Hans Stahl, and “Humanity of the Moment”- Davis Mesmer.**

**The B & B group (Bible and Breakfast):** The Summer Tuesday morning Bible Study  Group will have summer school / breakfast meetings at **Panera Bread, 715 University City Blvd, on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m.** through August 22. We will be drinking coffee, eating breakfast, sharing life stories, and discussing our thoughts on the Bible texts as listed in the lectionary. We are quite informal and would love you to join us. For more information contact: Scott or Melanie Smith at Scott- 808-3779/[scottsmith4u@gmail.com](mailto:scottsmith4u@gmail.com); Melanie- 808-8337/[melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com). **Tuesday Morningstars begin at BPC on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 a.m.** All are welcome! Caffeine will be provided!

### Volunteers Needed!

#### Ushers and Coffee Hosts

**Coffee Hosts:** If you can help make coffee on Sunday mornings –our coffee procedure has become simplified! (Coffee Fellowship is from 10:00-10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings) please contact Peggy Kincaid at [fellowship@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:fellowship@blacksburgpres.org) or (540) 808-6154.



We can't do it without

**Ushers** are also needed every Sunday. Four people are required to make this opportunity to serve go smoothly.

It is a great way for your family to be a part of worship at BPC! Single folks too!

Contact Rob Kincaid at [rbk0831@gmail.com](mailto:rbk0831@gmail.com) or the church office at 552-2504.

Please do your part by being involved at church. It's who we are!

### SERVING TODAY

#### Church Opener:

Mike Giles

**Next Week:** Jim Echols

#### Elder of the Week:

**Today:** Fred Piercy

**Mon-Sunday:** Heather Polikoff

#### Ushers:

Marcia Wright, Zach and Heidi Swartzwelder, Jen and Ryan Stewart

#### Counters:

Forrest Thyne and Shalini Perumpral

#### Coffee Hosts:

Elva Miller

**Next Week: Volunteer needed!**

Please see Peggy Kincaid if you can help.

**THIS WEEK AT BPC** - HCR-Hatcher Conference Room, WM-Westminster, FH-Fellowship Hall

- August 20 Rally Day at 9:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall  
Summer Choir meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Choir room-All are welcome!  
Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Session meets at 7:00 p.m. - HCR
- Aug. 22 Bible & Breakfast Group (Summer Tuesday Morningstars Bible Study-last one!)  
at 7:30 a.m. – at Panera Bread, 715 University City Blvd.- All are welcome!  
Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. – FH  
Prayer Group meets at 11:00 a.m. – Prayer Room- All are welcome!  
Staff meets at 1:30 p.m. - HCR
- Aug. 23 Adult Choir begins at 7:00 p.m. – All are welcome!
- Aug. 24 Caring for the Community at 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 26 Making the Shift Event with Mark Tidwell 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. - FH  
Food and childcare will be provided! All are welcome!
- August 27 Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee with Catherine Taylor at 9:00 a.m. – in the Gathering Space  
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.  
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Aug. 28 KnitWits gather at 1:00 p.m.
- Aug. 29 Tuesday Morningstars meet at 7:30 a.m. – HCR  
PWCT meets at 2:30 p.m. – WM
- Aug. 30 Caring for the Community
- Sept. 3 No Sunday School today
- Sept. 4 Labor Day – Church Office Closed
- Sept. 10 Higher Education Sunday  
Rent-A-Techie following worship – HCR  
Youth Group meets at 5:30 p.m., Potluck dinner with parents
- Sept. 11 Lydia Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. – FH-  
Catherine Taylor — Lesson, Winnie Drummond —Hostess



**Sing a New Song Summer Singing:** Our Summer Choir is open to all, young and old(er), who enjoy singing. This includes children. **Today is the last Summer Choir date.**

**Adult Choir Practice begins on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 7:00 p.m.**

For any additional information please email Jeffrey at [jeffrey@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:jeffrey@blacksburgpres.org) with your name and contact information.

**A Call to Action:**  
**Presbyterians Witness in Washington**



**September 12, 2017**

Now more than ever your voice is needed in the nation's capital! As our political leaders move to pass policies that would devastate the most vulnerable – both in our own country and abroad, it is critical that we speak truth to power.

**Come to Washington to demand a  
Faithful Budget!**

*9:00: Briefing*

*11:30: Press Conference*

*12:30 – 3:30: Meetings with Congressional Offices*

*3:30: Closing Worship and Debriefing*

*Live Streaming on OPW Facebook page*

***Save the Date!***

**Advocacy Training Weekend**

**April 20-23, 2018**

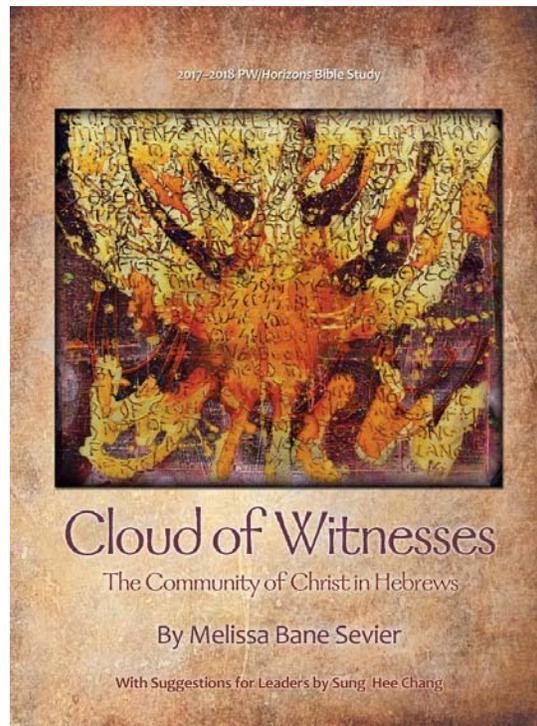
**Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day – April 20**

**Ecumenical Advocacy Days – April 20-23**

Contact Melanie Smith if you'd like to carpool at [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com).

**Hildegard and Lydia Circles, Presbyterian Women: Our new Horizons Bible Study, “Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews”** booklet will be available in the Gathering Space this Sunday. Circles begin this study in September. The price is \$10.00. Checks may be made to BPC-PW. In nine lessons, author Melissa Bane Sevier invites us to explore major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of “community.”

Lydia Circle, co-chairs, Elva Miller and Sylvia Echols, meets at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall, usually on the first Monday of each month. Hildegard, Nancy Furr, chair, meets at the church or in homes. **THIS SEPTEMBER, LYDIA’S MEETING DATE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 11 at 1:30 p.m., BECAUSE OF LABOR DAY.** Catherine Taylor will lead the lesson and Winnie Drummond will be the hostess. All women are invited to join us for fellowship, service, prayer and study.



**Hildegard Circle meets on Monday, Sept. 11 at 6:00 p.m.** for a shared meal and fellowship and a Bible study at 7:00 p.m. at Nancy Furr’s home, 708 Southgate Drive, Blacksburg, VA. Phone: 540-951-8219. All are welcome! For more information contact Nancy Furr, Chair of Hildegard Circle.

**Faith Circle meets on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.** at Katie (Durham) Clark’s home, 195 Huff Heritage Lane, Christiansburg, VA 24073. For more information contact Katie (Durham) Clark at 540-968-6758 or [katie09@vt.edu](mailto:katie09@vt.edu).