



The Presby Record

A Community Beacon of Faith, Love & Hope.

Volume LXII, Issue 1

January 2020

A Note From the Pastor...

Melech – Malach

January is a curious month. It is at the beginning of the year; the top of the calendar, sitting there like a king. It is also usually a month of bleak, dreary weather ... trying send us messages, to tell us things, like:

stay inside!

bundle up!

January IS a curious month.

As both king and messenger, January's duality reminds us of other things; like this is the month we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday. His birthday is both seen as just an excuse for a January day off and/or as a deliberate way to honor King's legacy. I would vote for the latter, let me explain ...

The two words (yes, those are words!) at the beginning of my article are the Hebrew words (phonetically spelled out) for King and Messenger. They look similar, because many Hebrew words which share a relationship are based off of the same root word. In the ancient world, the King would send an announcement not as written, but in the person of a representative who would orally deliver his message. This representative with this task was known as a Messenger. The Messenger, delivering the announcement, was generally treated as if they were the King, as the words they bore came from that source. So, in many ways, the King and Messenger were equal!! I find it a happy coincidence, that the consonants that are the root for these two Hebrew words is this:

מלך

and since the Hebrew was written from right to left, once we turn these around and use our alphabet it becomes:

MLK

Do you see what I've seen? MLK, Martin Luther King, was both a King and a Messenger! King by name, messenger of the Living God! His words challenging us all to live in the hope of a brighter future, where we all see each other with God's eyes, and not the skin-color-fixed people we are.

This is also a month beginning a year in which you will most likely also have a new Messenger in your midst. A new announcer of God's hope and love who will be delivered by the messengers of the Pastor Nominating Committee. We don't know how, when or who, at the moment. But the year is just beginning! Continue in prayer for the PNC's work to that end. Continue in prayer for the one who will answer their invitation to come. Continue in prayer for the Spirit's discernment in the congregation when it comes time to vote. God bless us all!

Jan and Doug Jenkins wish to thank all who joined in offering Christmas gifts and cards (and hugs). They are greatly appreciated, and welcomed as representing the Greatest Gift of Christ to all people! Thank you and enjoy a wonderful New Year!

Rev. Doug



Christmas Basket Update

On December 21, forty families of 113 individuals were provided with two boxes of staples and special items for a Christmas meal including a boneless turkey breast. Thanks to a generous donation from the Dennison family, they also received two bags of fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs. We received donations totally \$3,165 which adequately covered the expenses of \$2,922.42. The average basket cost was roughly \$73.00 with baskets for larger families valued a little higher. Thanks to the donation of produce the actual value of each basket was increased by \$10-\$15. I want to thank Abbie and

Mel Burch, Etta Clark, Connie and Buck Ivy, Pastor Doug Jenkins, Kathleen Jordan, Sarah Kell, Mike Merguc, Andi Pease, Jack Rogers and Debbie Speidel who helped with phone calls, pickup and delivery of the food from Kroger to the Church, packing the boxes, distribution and delivery. It takes many hands to pull this off, and I am grateful for their time and effort.

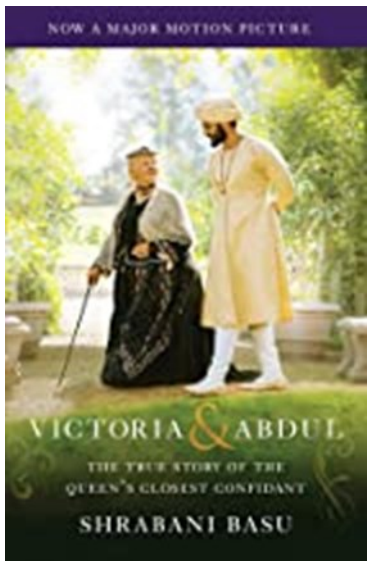
THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN DONATING TOWARD THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM! THIS CONGREGATION HAS A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING IT, AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PROVE THIS TO STILL BE A WORTHY CAUSE.

Gabriel Project

Thank you for your donations of diapers, wipes, and other baby items to the Gabriel Project during the "December Diaper Drive". Donations are needed and greatly appreciated all year round. Please continue to fill up the blue bin outside of the office.

Book Club

We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month



**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2020
7:00 PM**

**Book: Victoria and Abdul
by: Shrabani Basu**

History's most unlikely friendship—this is the astonishing story of Queen Victoria and her dearest companion, the young Indian Munshi Abdul Karim.

In the twilight years of her reign, after the devastating deaths of her two great loves—Prince Albert and John Brown—Queen Victoria meets tall and handsome Abdul Karim, a humble servant from Agra waiting tables at her Golden Jubilee. The two form an unlikely bond and within a year Abdul becomes a powerful figure at court, the Queen's teacher, her counsel on Urdu and Indian affairs, and a friend close to her heart.

Finance Committee

You may have noticed that you have not received your Pledge information in the mail for 2020. Look for it in early January along with your 2019 Contribution Statement. I apologize for the delay. If you are interested in donating stock to the church, I have all the information you need to transfer shares directly to the church. If you have any questions, please call me at 304-727-8531.

Debbie Duvall

THE PRESBY RECORD

Worship Committee

Worship Committee (Etta Clark, Michael Clark, Elly Denzie, Kris Dunlap, Vickie Godbey, Connie Ivey, Pastor Doug Jenkins, Mary Ellen Logsdon, Rev. Kathy Weed).

Liturgists

January

5 – Valerie Wade
12 – Kris Dunlap
19 – Phillip Morrison
26 – Lindsey Duvall

I would like to offer a HUGE thank you to the FPCSA Adult Choir. These special people give unselfishly of their time and talent to serve the Lord through music. Thank you for your time, talent, and dedication!

A New Year With The Lord

At our last committee meeting, we decided that we should ask the congregation what they (YOU) would like to see happen in worship

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

and if there are any special services that they (YOU) would like for "us" to try. Now is the time for you to make suggestions. Please submit any and all ideas that you have for our worship services. You can do this by giving the list to Mary Ellen, dropping it off to the office during the week, or putting the list in the offering plate (the counters will make sure that we receive it). If you would like to be on the Worship Committee, please come to our next meeting which will be January 26, 2020 immediately following the worship service. We welcome additional liturgy volunteers. If you are interested please contact a member of the worship committee or the church office. Thank you for your willingness to serve. To help keep our sacred space clean, please refrain from bringing food and drink (other than water) into the sanctuary.

The adult choir and the hand bell choir will be taking a break for the rest of 2019. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Just a reminder - if school should be cancelled or if students are sent home early in Kanawha County due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, ALL rehearsals are cancelled.



Congregational Happenings

News from the Happenings Committee...Laurie Turley, Kim Gaines, Jennifer Burgess, Doug Jenkins, Ina Armstrong

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 9th at 4PM. At this meeting, we will decide if we will continue on the 2nd or 1st Thursdays.



Sunday, December 29th we will have our last 5th Sunday Brunch of the year!

*Let's celebrate **National Pepper Pot Day!** Having been nicknamed as "the soup that won the war," Pepper Pot has its very own day. The winter of 1777-1778 was brutal. The Continental Army was fighting for the newly formed country of the United States of America during the Revolutionary War. As they were camped at Valley Forge on December 28th, 1777, George Washington asked the army's chef to prepare a meal that would boost their morale and warm them. The chef rounded up some peppercorn, small bits of meat, tripe and other ingredients and called it Pepper Pot Soup, also known as Philadelphia Pepper Pot Soup. The meal was well received, and it was nicknamed "the soup that won the war."*

Want to know what's in this soup in 2019? Come and join us after worship on Sunday, December 29th and find out! We will also have French toast and beverages!

A tip from your Committee....

January is National Oatmeal and National Hot Tea Month so you will probably find these items on sale in the grocery store.

Seasonal Produce on sale is usually Avocado, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Collards, Grapefruit, Kale, Kiwi, Oranges, Pears, Spinach, and Tangerines.

Join us for a

Burns' Night Supper and Poetry Party!

Don't let the poetry part scare you! Do you have a favorite poem or hymn that you could read? Or perhaps you are creative and can write your own! I'm pretty sure our pastor Doug can come up with his own!

When: January 25th 5:00 p.m.

Where: Ina and Wayne Armstrong's

Parking is easy in the church lot and a quick walk over to her house

Please RSVP by signing up on the Happenings Board or calling Ina or Laurie. Hope to see many of you there!!

January Cooking Teams

January 1st

No Wednesday night supper

January 8th

Team 4

Valerie Wade, Kris Dunlap, Sarah Roberts

January 15th

Team 1

Kathy Curtis, Ina Armstrong, Etta Clark, Michael Clark

January 22nd

Team 2

Kathryn Maddy, Teresa Evans, Cathy Holstein, and Vickie Godbey

January 29th

Team 3

Laurie Turley, Pat Dillon, Donna Merguc, Sara Kell, and Julie Hartman



Sharing God's Love

By Ina Armstrong

"Sharing God's Love" are action ideas on relating to children. You will be seeing them here in the Presby Record, in weekly emails, and in the Sunday bulletins. For me, sharing God's love is essential.

January

January 5

In 1 Corinthians 13 we read that patience, kindness, acceptance and respect are some of the qualities we are to have. Is this just for co-workers and business people? Showing patience, kindness, acceptance and respect should not stop when we get home. Maybe you respect your supervisor; do you respect your brothers and sisters? Maybe you are patient with your students; are you patient with your elderly parents?

You will not be respected if you do not respect others, including your own children! Your children will not respect other adults if you are not respectful of your spouse, your parents, and your neighbors. Family members are not made to be argued with, picked on, or to have their faults discussed over and over. Share God's love with your family through respect, patience, and kindness.

January 12

"You are precious in my sight and I love you." This quote from Isaiah 43:4 blew me away. I had not really heard it out loud before! Right in the Bible, God said, "I love you." I learned this a year ago and I am still amazed. Many have heard of God's Grace, but had you heard the three little words before...from God? It is this love shared with us that gives us the ability to share it with everyone else. Go ahead, share God's love with "I love you," often, everywhere, and in abundance.

January 19

"Two of the greatest joys in life are the joy of being different from others and the joy of being the same as others." The first is the joy of being chosen, of achievement and rewards. The second is a little difficult. Henri M. Nouwen, who I quoted above, says in his book Our Greatest Gift that the second kind of joy is "of being a part of that vast variety of people-of all ages, colors, and religions-who together form the human family. This is the immense joy of being part of the human race." Nouwen says that when walking with thousands of people in Alabama in a civil rights march with Martin Luther King Jr. he felt as never before this joy. "In an instant, all differences seemed to melt away as snow in the sun." Check out this book, number 242.42 NOU, from the church library. Notice when you have joy. Which kind is it? Share God's love by embracing the joy of inclusion.

January 26

Sharing God's love sometimes includes sharing that love with yourself. It is hard to be a listener when your own need to speak freely has not been met. God wants you to speak and to be heard. This week pay attention to your need to be heard. Find a time, a place, and a person with whom you can speak. Maybe that person will share God's love with you by listening.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

from the DCE

"And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

~ Matthew 2:10

While secular culture generally celebrates Christmas on a single day, with a bizarre focus on consumer consumption, the church celebrates the birth of Jesus for twelve days beginning on the anniversary of that silent night long ago in the city of David. The season of Christmas continues until January 6 each year when we celebrate the arrival of magi who recognized and worshiped the newborn king.

There was quite a mercantile hubbub then too, but not because the Prince of Peace was to be born. Imagine the vendors along every street, ready to sell you all you may need while waiting your turn to be counted and taxed. But yet there was no room available for weary travelers to rest, and gentle Mary gave birth surrounded by a menagerie, and lay her baby boy in the soft hay of their manger.

Sarah Bentley Allred, previously a children's and youth ministries director from High Point, North Carolina, is an MDiv. student at Virginia Theological Seminary. She writes, "The church celebrates Epiphany on January 6 each year, twelve days after Christmas Day. On Epiphany, we recall the arrival of the wise men to visit the newborn baby Jesus. The season of Epiphany stretches out from January 6 until the beginning of Lent. The season varies in length because the date of Easter changes yearly. Epiphany might be as long as nine weeks or as short as four weeks.

While the season of Epiphany does not get as much hype as the preceding seasons of Advent and Christmas, it is an important time of the church year nonetheless. After all the December celebrations die down, Epiphany reminds us that Christmas is just the beginning of the story."



She expounds on the details of the story that make the magi so remarkable. “First, the wise men are paying attention. They “observed his star at its rising” and realized it was a sign (Matt 2:2). Second, the wise men trust God’s guidance. They leave their country and travel a great distance without knowing exactly where they are going. After finding the Christ child, the three kings are warned in a dream not to return to Herod and they diligently leave “for their own country by another road” (Matt 2:12). Third, the magi humbled themselves at the sight of an infant king in a manger, “they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage” (Matt 2:11). Despite the odd circumstances, a baby born to an unwed, un-wealthy mother in a barn, the magi presented Jesus with gifts fit for a king born under very different circumstances.”

She continues, “This beautiful, odd story foretells the many ways Jesus’ life will reverse worldly expectations. Despite how the Holy Family might appear to the townsfolk of Bethlehem, the magi’s visit identifies Jesus as a king. Furthermore, the magi have crossed international borders. They come from a foreign country to mark Jesus as a king for all people.”

May your advent observances have brought you to a joyous celebration of this Christmas season with loved ones near and far. If you are at home here in St. Albans on December 29, join us after worship for a *Last Hurrah for Christmas* following worship. Bring your favorite star ornament and stories to share with others during brunch.

We all are innkeepers who must decide if we have room for Jesus.

~ Neal A. Maxwell

YOUTH NEWS!

Youth Day of Service is now the Intergenerational Day of Service

THE PRESBY RECORD

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 1

The Intergenerational Day of Service is a day of service on Saturday, Feb. 1, that will be based in different parts of the presbytery: Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston; First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg, and Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington. These are part of the Day of Service of Souper Bowl Sunday.

People ages 10 through adults from across the presbytery are encouraged to join together at the sites to participate in local mission in a variety of forms. You might find yourself at a food pantry, a clothes closet, or helping elderly people in their homes.

While the focus of the event will be the same in each area, with Opening and Closing Gatherings that are the same, the work sites and projects will vary. The day begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. All participants are asked to bring a bag lunch as lunch may be eaten at their work site.

There is no cost to participate, but in order to help those coordinating these events at the various sites, often with local agencies, pre-registration is vital. **Registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 23.** Those under 18 should be accompanied by an adult, who, if other than a parent with a youth participating, will need to complete a background check or have one on file at the Presbytery office. In addition, participants are asked to fill out a medical/emergency form and **bring it with them to the event.**

Time to start thinking about 2020 Montreat Youth Conference

July 11-18, 2020

The 2020 Montreat Youth Conference will provide opportunities for youth in all our churches to connect with hundreds of high school youth from across the country to engage in faith conversations exploring who God is and who we are – those who God connects, calls, shapes, and empowers – through small groups, keynotes, worship and recreation. Rodger Nishioka will be the keynote presenter.

Youth currently in grades 8-12 are encouraged to participate in this high school summer conference. Space is limited, as the Presbytery only has room for 14 people, including adults. The cost per youth is \$350, with \$175

due at the time of registration, which is on a first-come, first-registered basis until either the registration deadline of April 30 or all 14 spaces are filled, whichever is first. This cost includes the conference fee, housing, transportation and most of the food during the week. We are also in need of two adults to attend, for whom Presbytery will cover costs.

Nursery Schedule

January 5

Kim Gaines, Connie Ivey

January 12

Valerie Wade, Abbie Burch, Teresa Evans

January 19

Tara Malcomb, Donna Merguc

January 26

Sarah Roberts, Jackie Jones, Havyn Jones

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our Purpose

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

To support the mission of the church worldwide,

To work for justice and peace, and

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

All activities of Presbyterian Women are offered to all women even though you may not be in a Circle Group. Come try out one or both Circles in the fall!

CIRCLES SCHEDULE

Plan your schedule around the meeting times and grow with us:

Second Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Second Wednesday @ 1:00 pm

Invite your friends. All are welcome!

REPORT FROM

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

We received the new LED lights for the 1st floor and we started installing them.

THE PRESBY RECORD

About Our People

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

Debi Speidel Debbie Parsons George Hartman Jr.
Jim Shepherd Katlyn Morford Mike Clark
Carol Buck Elly & Robert Denzie Peggy Young

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends:

John Homburg, cancer (Lindsey Duvall)
Lon Hardin (Kathryn Maddy's father)
Jason Irwin (Carol Buck's nephew)
Larry Willoughby (Kathy Weed's father)
Virginia Woods Johnson (Elaine Dixon)
Friends & Family of Bob Scott (Mary Ellen Logsdon)
Arlene Melton, broken hip (Alice Shafer)
Janet Walker, back pain (Donna Merguc's sister)
Nancy Burnett Skipper, cancer treatment (Valerie Wade)
Julius Wagner, toddler, spiral fracture of femur (Debbie Duvall)
Lindsay Denison – home
Liza McMillion, colon cancer (Veronica's sister)
Tim Bratton - cancer Mary Ellen friend
stroke victims
Ruth Duvall, (Michael's mother)
Richard Howard, cancer (Gloria Williams)
James Logsdon (Mary Ellen's nephew)
Jon Dunlap, back pain (Kris Dunlap)
Carlene Stillberger (Donna Merguc)
Hollise Griffith (Michael Duvall's uncle) heart condition
Jan Rezek, back injury (Debbie Duvall)
Bert McElDowney, serious illness (Debbie Duvall)
Jane Johnson, fractured pelvic bone (Connie Ivey)
Jack Radell, Leukemia (Jack Rogers' Uncle)
Wilma Burgess, terminal blood disorder (Jennifer Burgess)
Leon Sprain, brain aneurysm (Wendy Harvey's father)
Terry Higgins, cancer (Abbie Burch's cousin)
Anthony Vecchio, cancer (Allowatt's Friend)
Riley Hughes and her family, CHD (Kathy Maddy)

Prayer Concerns - In Care Facilities:

Georgiana Hager, Golden Living Center, 6500 MacCorkle Ave SW, St. Albans 25177

Cornelia May, 255 N. Egret Bay Blvd., apt. 4104, League City, TX 77573

Karen Lamb, Golden Living Center, Room 103, St. Albans, WV 25177

Muriel Frincke, Apt. 318, 3201 Center Pointe Drive, Orlando, FL 32825

Ann McCormick, Apt. 213, Bellaire at Devonshire, 5 Bexley Drive, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Ian Moir, 5512 Carmel Road #104, Charlotte, NC 28226

Wanda Crews, Bellaire at Devonshire, 5 Bexley Drive, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Peggy Young, Encompass Health Rehabilitation, 6900 W Country Club Dr, Huntington, WV 25705

Our sympathy

to

Gene and Sadie Ashworth

on the December 11th death of Gene's sister

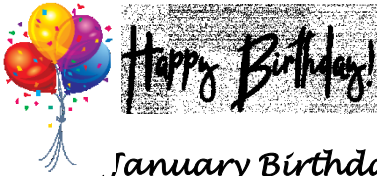
Madeline Louise Hutchison

IN LOVING
Memory

Given in memory of **Mary Helen Hearn** by:

Christie L. Heinrich

Kathryn & Jeff Maddy



January Birthdays

- 2 – Dustin Resler
- 4 – Marion Moir, Felicia Stewart Hoyle
- 8 – Kristi Sutphin
- 9 – Laurie Turley, Pam Ferrell, Ryan Shad
- 10 – Sally Noble
- 12 – Tara Malcomb
- 13 – Laura Cottrill
- 14 – Peggy Young
- 16 – Pat White, Kevin Dixon
- 18 – Hunter Parsons
- 19 – Jack Dixon
- 21 – Ann McCormick, Olivia Hedrick
- 26 – Steve Leftwich, Cassie Dennison
- 28 – Myra Moir, Tyler Walker

WVSU UKirk Ministry Prayer Requests

It is always good to pray for all of the college students at WVSU. Our ministry is in need of students willing to be on paper as our organization. We plan the events, so they will have little, if any, responsibility. If you know of any students to be "president" etc of U Kirk at WVSU, please send their name back to us. Thank you., Ina, Kathryn, Jamie, Connie, and Andi

WVSU UKirk News

Class resumes on January 13, 2020. We are planning some exciting events for winter and spring. Our winter service project is "no sew" fleece scarves. We are collecting fleece fabric remnants if you would care to donate to the project. As always, you are welcome to join the hospitality and prayer ministry on campus, or from behind the scene. Contact Ina or Kathryn for more information.

CONGRATS GRAD!!!



Congratulations to Ian Cox on his graduation with a Bachelor's Degree from West Virginia University! He graduated on Saturday, December 21st, 2019 with a major in Criminology.

THE PRESBY RECORD

2019-2020 College Students

Elizabeth Harvey

West Virginia Wesleyan College
MSC 819
59 College Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

John Harvey

West Virginia Wesleyan College
MSC 903
59 College Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Katelin Evans

West Virginia University 743 Snider Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Tyler Walker (Graduate School)

University of Rochester
746 University Park
Rochester, NY 14620

Cassie Denison

West Virginia State University
9 Lisa Circle
Winfield, WV 25213

Grace Denison

Bridge Valley
9 Lisa Circle
Winfield, WV 25213

Grace Peyton

College of Charleston
28 Woolfe Street Unit 606
Charleston, SC 29403

J.D. Zimmerman

University of Tennessee
Room 704
1038 Twentieth Street
Knoxville, TN 37916

Jillian Smith

West Virginia University
512 McLane Avenue, Apt. 1
Morgantown, WV 26505

In the Military..

Mickey Arthur Swartz

2750 Arnold Drive, Unit 491
Ellsworth AFB SD 57706

(Please let us know of others we have not listed... we want to keep in touch with our students and let them know we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers

The Presby Record of the

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, West Virginia 25177-2825

Address Service Requested



Class of 2019

Michael Clark (1)
Tim Malcomb (1)
Buck Ivey (1)
John Leftwich (1)

Officers

Class of 2020

Mark Curtis (1)
Jack Rogers (2)
Laurie Turley (2)
Susan Allowatt (1)

Class of 2021

Donna Merguc (2)
Vickie Godbey (1)
Debbie Duvall (1)
Holly Greathouse (1)

Trustees:

Class of 2019: Gloria Williams
Class of 2020: Michael Duvall
Class of 2021: John Jones

Church Staff

Ministers Every Member of the Congregation
Kathryn Weed Parish Associate
Mary Ellen Logsdon Music Director
Kathy Maddy DCE
Mike Merguc Custodian
Meghan Beha Secretary
Debbie Duvall Bookkeeper

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