

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

A Message from David

“Figure It Out”

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5 & 6)

My friend Enrie was telling a story about a member of his extended family of several generations ago who was among the first in his family to emigrate from Germany in the very early 1900's into this country, the USA. At the time Ernie's relative was a young teenager, male, and spoke no English, plus, he had made the trip on his own. No older relative was with him to guide or protect him.

And yet Ernie's relative made it in his new country; in fact, he became the quintessential “American dream” success story!

Years later, a grandchild asked the, by then, elderly and wise grandpa about his early years in this country and what philosophy of life had he gained from that experience. “My philosophy of life is this,” said the wise old man: “figure it out!”

That wise old man's philosophy together with the similar wisdom quoted above from Proverbs, can serve any of us well who must

navigate the unexpected twists and turns of life in this world. Generally life is predictable and manageable. But not always. A virus invisible to the naked eye; an amoral and self-serving decision by a high-ranking public official; an act of terrorism from within or from without our country can up-end our lives in shockingly harmful ways.

Of course, on occasion, things can go well for us: a bonus at work; a chance meeting with an old friend; or the birth of a new member of the family, blesses us in ways unforeseen

Through it all, we will be well served to heed the wisdom of Proverbs and the wisdom of Ernie's ancestor:

- 1) “In all your ways acknowledge (the LORD), and he will make straight you paths.” And,
- 2) “Figure it out!”

May God bless you and keep you,

David

July Report from the Worship Committee:

Beginning Sunday July 11, 2021, the **sanctuary will be fully open for worship**. Masks are not required (unless you have not been vaccinated and then you are requested to wear your mask). Hymn books and cushions will be back in the sanctuary and singing no longer requires a mask. Facetime Live-streaming will continue.

Fellowship time after worship is back!!! This Sunday (7/11/21) will be held on the portico outside the sanctuary.

We want to welcome Rose Ann Burgess as our substitute music worship leader. She will be playing the organ but can also play the piano. Thank you Rose Ann for your service. Please greet her and make her feel a part of the FPC family.

The choir will “gear up” beginning in September. There will be more information about practices in August. Stay tuned.



July Report from the Congregational Care Committee:



Special Happy Birthday to Kaki Peaslee, who turned **95** on **July 4**

Connie Miles 7/7

Julia Bailey 7/11

Nancy Pauley 7/15

Cathy Goad 7/23

Bruce Bulmer 7/24

Vickie Littleton 7/28

Prayer Lists:

FPC Members: Peggy Davis, Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Phyllis Tenser, Dianne Poynor, Meg Omer, The family of Evelyn Renshaw, Family of Bob Gengo

Friends and Family: Laura Holt McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Marilyn Koch, Alexis Porter, Molly Rose, Gretchen Greiner, Lisa Curlee, Marc Evans, Betty Miracle, Michael & Sandy Petrucci, Sharon Lane, Dana & Billie Wilson, Abigail Nikle, Geneva Ratliff, Lilly Porter, Marlene Davidow, Anna Burton, Family of Mary Ellen Bolton

Editor's Note:



I asked Bo to write a brief history of Fincastle Presbyterian Church in celebration of July 4th for the July newsletter. Bo is such a wealth of knowledge that part II will appear in the August Newsletter. Please read this and enjoy. Patsy

***History of Fincastle Presbyterian Church
Part I***

The formalities that created the county of Botetourt, and later the town of Fincastle, were rather mundane for their time but the beginnings and fate of the building we now know as Fincastle Presbyterian Church were much more driven by the dramas of their day:

On November 27, 1769, the Virginia House of Burgesses agreed to divide Augusta County to create Botetourt.

On November 28, the Governor's Council agreed to the division to form the new county and parish of Botetourt to be effective January 1770. Pursuant to the bill "... the freeholders and housekeepers ... shall... elect twelve of the most able and discreet persons, ...having ... taken the oath appointed to be taken by law, and subscribed to be comfortable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England, shall ... be deemed and taken to be the vestries of said parishes..."

On February 15, 1770, the Justices for the new county recommended 45 acres of land as a site to locate a courthouse. Its was owned by Is-

rael Christian and located eastward of a spring near Miller's Mill.

On April 11, they ordered the county surveyor to lay off two and half acres for the building of the Court House as well as ten (10) acres for prison bounds.

On June 12, the Justices ordered the sale of such lots to be laid off in the Town of Fincastle, out of the County land, for the advantage of the County and for the improvement of the Town.

On November 15, 1771 the Justices ordered that the trustees of the County Land convey to the Vestry of Botetourt Parish an acre of land for the use of said Parish...

In establishing the Town of Fincastle in February 1772, the colonial government recognized "erecting towns on the frontiers of this colony may be of great benefit to the inhabitants by encouraging many of them to settle together, which will enable them the better to defend their lives and properties on any sudden incursion of the enemy..." In furtherance of these goals, it required that the town's elected officials scribe "to be comfortable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England."



However, most of the European settlers who came to make their homes in the western frontier were not like those who first settled the Tidewater and migrated west toward the Blue Ridge Mountains. The differing topography and environments amplified the differences between those governing from a distance and those being governed. Religious and church relations exemplified distinctions more so than other aspects.

Those first to stake claim in the Valley of Virginia, were Scot Irish (more or less direct from Ireland) through Pennsylvania; Germans, also through Pennsylvania (more or less direct from the parent land); and the Quakers or Friends, of English origin, also from the state of Pennsylvania.

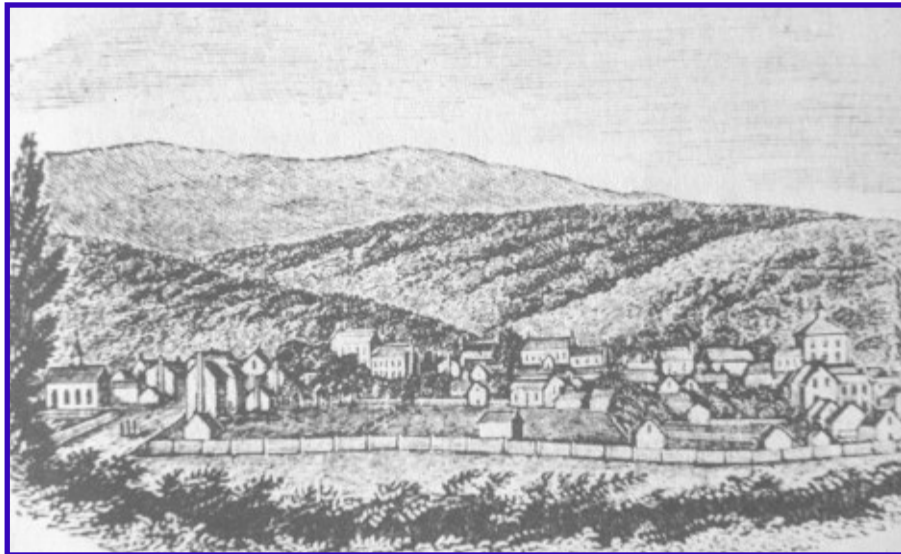
When they arrived in Pennsylvania there arose controversies between the earlier settlers and the Scot Irish latecomers. James Logan, secretary to the Penn family and an Irishman himself, lamented, “the settlement of five families of [Scot-Irishmen] gives me more trouble than fifty of any other people.”

As they continued to pour into the colony, Logan, fearing that the decent Quaker element might be submerged, fumed: “It is strange that they thus crowd where they are not wanted.” Recognizing the tension, the Scot Irish traveled further and a large number of their settlements sprang up in the upper (or southern) Shenandoah Valley.

The tide of emigration over the Great Wagon

Road was rapid. Two large grants of land in Botetourt from which the sale of land was actively pursued, belonged to Benjamin Borden, and a company that in the end was controlled by Col. James Patton, a Scot Irish Presbyterian, who imported settlers from both Pennsylvania and Ireland.

As the number of Dissenters increased, rigid enforcement of Established Church doctrine was impossible. The General Assembly in 1720 provided that wherever as many as twenty



families of Protestant dissenters settled beyond the Blue Ridge in proximity to one another, ... they were to be exempted from parish tithes for a period of ten years. In addition, the county justices sometimes licensed Presbyterian ministers to perform marriages within their denomination. Thus, the establishment of the Anglican Church in Virginia was largely confined to the section east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Stay tuned for Part II in the August Fincastle Presbyterian Church Newsletter.

Recipe of the Month—July Submitted by Betty Painter

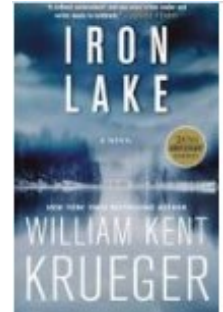
Quick Strawberry Dessert

- 1 small Angel Food cake
- 1 3 oz. box Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 1 cup of Milk
- 1 pint softened Vanilla Ice Cream
- 1 3 oz. box Strawberry Jello
- 1 16 oz. package of frozen strawberries, thawed—or mostly thawed

Break angel food cake into small pieces. Place in bottom of a 9 x 12 dish. Blend pudding with milk then stir in ice cream until blended and pour over cake pieces. Mix Jello with 1 cup of boiling hot water then thoroughly stir in strawberries and juice. Pour this over pudding and cake—do not stir. Refrigerate until Jello is set.



Book review of the Month—July Submitted by Verna Shuey



Mysteries are among my favorite reading, and I have read numerous crime/ mystery writers over the years. I recently started reading this O'Connor series by Krueger. There are currently 18 books in the series. When I like the characters, I enjoy reading a series that follows a core group of characters over a period of years.

Iron Lake is the first of the series. The primary character is Cork O'Connor who had been the sheriff of a small town in Northern Minnesota. He lost the last election but somehow is always in the middle. The land surrounding is isolated with numerous lakes and rugged landscape. There is a large native Indian reservation nearby with a casino. Cork is one quarter Indian and 3/4 Irish. He walks a fine line between the tensions of the town locals and the Indians on the reservation, often too Indian for town people and too white for the Indians on the reservation. His wife is an attorney who represents the reservation, and she also finds herself caught between the two worlds.

He often finds himself and his wife and even their 3 children in dangerous situations while trying to help solve local crimes. I find the relationships between the law enforcement officers and the impact of Indian culture and beliefs interesting. As expected, there are bad players in both populations. I rarely can nail down who the culprit is in the end which makes for a surprise ending.

I strongly recommend this author and in particular this mystery series.

Session Members remember to sign up for **Elder duty for a Sunday** with Sandy. Because we have started back with in person worship, elders are needed as opener, closer, money counter and most importantly *greeter*.

If you would like to provide flowers for worship one Sunday, please contact Lyn Burton 239-3185

Church Directory

PO Box 144, Fincastle VA 24090
(540) 473-2042
www.fincastlepresbyterian.org

The Session

Clerk of Session: John Kilby

2021: Lynne Bolton, Alan Brenner, John Griffith, Becky Downs

2022: Sandy Gates, Lyn Burton

2023: Cathy Goad, Paul Phillippe, Bo Trumbo

Trustees

Bob Omer, Garland Jones, Peggy Davis

The Church Staff

Interim Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min.

Treasurer: Becky Downs

Organist and Choir Director:

Bookkeeper: Beth Clark

Please contact Beth at (540) 473-2042 or fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by Tuesday at 9am with items you want included in the bulletin.

The Church Calendar

Morning Worship.....10:30am

Session..... 4th Thursday of each month

The Presbyterian Church at Fincastle, Virginia, whose congregation dates to 1763, is a continuation of the Sinking Spring and Spreading Spring congregations formed prior to 1760 and the Mt. Union congregation organized in 1832. The original building was erected in 1771 for the established Church of England in Botetourt County. Presbyterians have worshipped here continuously since the Revolutionary War.

Facebook Live for Worship—Every Sunday morning at 10:30 am
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch/> on your computer or phone