

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

A Message from David - "This is my commandment"

On the eve of His arrest, trial, and crucifixion, Jesus said to His disciples: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15: 12 and 13)

There are several texts in the Bible that affirm the value, and therefore, the rights of the individual. The Bible tells us that each of us were made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26). God knew us before we were born (Jer. 1:5). God created and called each of us by name (Isa. 43:1). God know and loves each one of us; and so our individual rights matter.

At the same time several texts in the Bible affirm that we are to live in society, to live in relation to one another as good neighbors. For example, Jesus taught and lived the Great Commandment: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' . . . And a second is like it: "you shall love neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 22: 37-39). Then of course there is Jesus' command to us quoted above: to love one another (John. 15: 12 and 13). By these verses, and more, we learn that we are human only to the extent that we are co-human: part of a larger community.

We live in an age where some people are refusing to mask, or to vaccinate; or to do this, or not do that claiming that that decision is their individual right. Throughout the Bible and our Christian heritage, however, Good continually calls us to weigh such decisions within the context of our responsibility to family, to community, to the world around us. "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."

Peace in Christ, David

August Report from the Worship Committee:

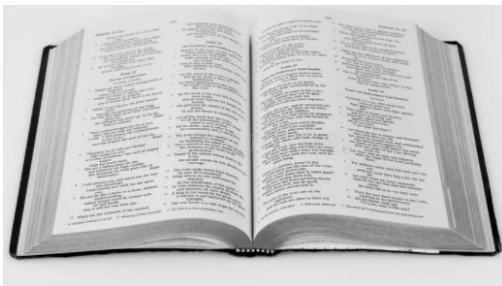
See the insert for **Worship at the Creek** on Sunday, August 22, 2021. Hope to see you there (there may not be live streaming for this service) (Sandy and Patsy are working on it.)

Fellowship time after worship is back!!! It is being held on the portico outside the sanctuary. If you would like to provide cookies one Sunday, please let Lynne Bolton know—please keep it simple.

We want to welcome Rose Ann Burgess as our **regular music worship leader**, choir director and hand bell director. She has spent most of her career as a music teacher in Roanoke City. 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.



The **lectionary readings** for the month of August are listed below:

August 15: 1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11

John 6: 56-69

August 22: Geniuses 1: 1-3, 31

John 1: 1-5

(not lectionary reading but scripture for out-door worship at the creek)

August 29: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

Mark 7: 1-8

September 5: Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9,22-23

Mark 7: 24—37

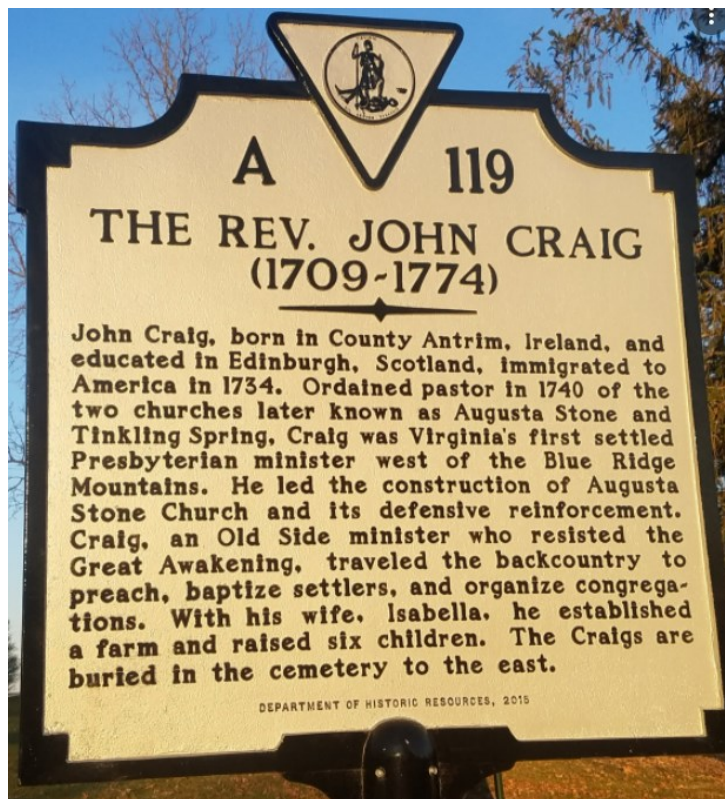
Part II—A Brief History of Fincastle Presbyterian Church by Bo Trumbo- [It opens with the last paragraph of Part I.](#)

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.

Missionaries speedily followed the emigrants. A supplication from the people of Beverly Manor was laid before the Presbytery of Donegal on September 2, 1737 requesting supplies. In 1739, Mr. John Craig was sent by the Presbytery to visit "Opecquon, the High Tract, and other societies of our persuasion in Virginia, at his discretion." The next spring different congregations requested that Presbytery formally call Mr. Craig. In September 1740, Mr. Craig passed his trials for ordination and set apart for the work of the gospel ministry in the south part of Beverly's Manor. He was the first Presbyterian minister regularly settled in the Colony of Virginia. Rev. Craig helped organize the first settled pastorate in Valley of Virginia which became the Tinkling Springs and Augusta Stone Meeting Houses.

In 1745, Augusta County was officially organized. Governor Gooch promised that there would be no interference with the religion of the Presbyterians. As the area west of the Blue

Ridge Mountains became more settled, the colonial government and the Tidewater gentry who had considerable financial interests in western lands were anxious to attract desirable settlers. Western Virginia, in short, was a kind of "new Pennsylvania" set down on the landward side of the proud Chesapeake plantation society.



In April 1768 Rev. Craig was instructed to make a tour of the western settlements to organize congregations. In the minutes of Hanover Presbytery as of April 13, 1769, it is recorded that in the performance of this duty Mr. Craig had organized eight congregations:

- 1) Sinking Spring, on Catawba Creek and James River, which with the Spreading Springs congregation became the Fincastle congregation. 75 families.
- 2) Craig's Creek, from which congregation sprang the Spreading Springs congregation, which, with the Sinking Springs congregation became the

Fincastle congregation. 45 families.

3) Denean, near Amsterdam in Botetourt County. 70 families.

4) New Antrim, in the vicinity of the present Roanoke City. 43 families.

5) New Derry, in the vicinity of Shawsville. 36 families.

6) New Dublin. 45 families.

7) Boiling Spring. 42 families

8) Unity. 45 families.

The first five of these churches were in the James and Roanoke River valleys, the last three in New River valley.

During this time of growth within the Presbyterian congregations of Botetourt, the Anglican Church was suffering setbacks. On May 30, 1777 five remaining vestrymen informed the General Assembly that they lacked a quorum, and were "incapacitated by law to regulate the affairs of the parish." They prayed for "such relief as thought just and reasonable." The legislature observed that "the business of the vestry" had "been for a considerable time unsettled" and ordered the voters to elect a new one. The local authorities declined to honor this directive. On 4 November of the same year William Fleming informed the Assembly that there was not the "least probability" of any vestry qualifying in Botetourt.

William A. Glasgow in *A Partial History of Fincastle Presbyterian Church*, published in 1902, describes the church's transition:

“After the Revolutionary war, owing no doubt to the spirit of religious liberty (soon recognized by statute) and the abolition of tithes, the English Church service was discontinued, and the Episcopal light went out. Thereupon the church was open to dissenters, and the Presbyterian element being prominent, the property passed into their charge; and Chris-

tians of all denominations, including the Episcopalians, resorted there to worship. And soon a regular pastorate, under the Rev. Robert Logan, was established, and a Presbyterian church organized. The Episcopal element, thus left without a shepherd, cast in their lot with their Presbyterian brethren; and all true lovers of Jesus Christ sat in peace together.”

In December 1813 the Presbyterians of Botetourt petitioned the General Assembly “for erecting a church on the grounds formerly occupied by the Establishment”. Whether a new building was erected or the original structure was repaired and reused cannot be determined definitively at present.

The brick building, as it stood in 1832, was square, the roof coming to a point in the centre, and upon which was a belfry with the original bell being said to have been the sister of the Liberty Bell. J. Welbank of Philadelphia cast the present bell in



1829. The entry was located on the right-hand (East) side of the present building with a Session house attached as a west wing. The floor was probably flagstone and the interior simple. Rev. Smyth served the parish during the American Revolution and is said to lie buried beneath the present structure.

In 1849, the congregation totally renovated the then existing Georgian building and made it into a fine example of Greek revival architecture. The entrance was moved from the east to the south side and the large Greek-style columns and the tall stee-

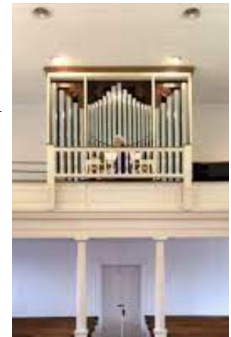
ple were added. At the beginning of the brick walk at the front of the church stands a copy of one of the original town lamps, which was converted from oil to electricity.

In 1943, the Garden Club of Virginia became interested in restoring the churchyard and donated funds for this work. Sunken and broken tombstones were repaired; a stonewall was erected along one side of the yard and a brick terrace was added at the front of the church. Holly, crepe myrtle, boxwood and spring flowering bulbs were planted.

The reredos, pulpit and railing were installed and the design was copied from an early plan, which may have been in the church before its renovation in 1849. A new ceiling was constructed; walls repaired and painted, pews refinished and the floors uncovered and sanded. From the old carpet that was taken up, enough strips were salvaged to be placed in the aisles. The original lamps were replaced in the wrought iron and wired for electricity.

In 1958, the educational building was constructed. The brick came from the old Brick Union Church built about 1842 and located on the Trinity Road between Route 220 and Troutville. After completion of the educational building, the Garden Club of Virginia completed planting the side and back of the churchyard using boxwoods and white pines.

During the past twenty years the music of the church has been vastly improved by the installation of a Zimmer pipe organ in the gallery of the sanctuary.



Much has changed in 250 years. “God’s Acre”, first set out by the founders of Botetourt County, is an example of significant observation post. Through it, we may better understand our limits, the accidents that befall us, and, perhaps, the passage of time.

FPC Endowment Fund Basics

The Endowment Fund was established in 1997 under the leadership of church member Bill Branscom. It consists of two separate funds used for two different goals. One fund is used to provide income to pay for the upkeep of our Church building. The other fund is used for benevolence and occasionally for the educational needs of our staff.

There is an Endowment committee made up of six members of our church and our pastor that meets quarterly to review the performance of investment vehicles utilized to invest Endowment assets. It also reviews endowment fund expenditures, requests from the Session, and reviews/approves funding for the Bill Branscom Presbyterian Church Fund at Botetourt Social Services. This fund is used to help local residents with expenses which Social Services cannot provide. This type of benev-

olence has helped folks with such things as an electric bill, the purchase of a needed medication, and on occasion, funeral expenses.

Income from the Endowment is evaluated annually by the Committee and the Session directs how funds are distributed. Some of that income is used to support our church budget including building repairs and benevolence. Our Church benevolence supports local fire departments, food pantries, and other nonprofits including the Christian Free Clinic in Botetourt, Eastern Appalachian Teen Challenge, and the Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands.

The work of the Fincastle Presbyterian Church Endowment should be a source of joy to all who attend and love this church as it helps those in need and makes our community and world a better place for all.

August Report from the Congregational Care Committee:

Happy Birthday



Patsy Dickerson—August 6

LeighAnne Martin—August 12

Dot Langford—August 17

Fred Coots—August 19

Garner Branscom—August 23

Jane Jones—August 31

Prayer Lists:

FPC Members: Peggy Davis, Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Phyllis Tenser, Dianne Poynor, Meg Omer, Rick Vari, 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, Hiawatha Nicely, Angela Coon (knee replacement on Aug. 13)



Celebrations from the church: (Send in your celebrations to Patsy psdicke@yahoo.com or text to (540)460-4597 each month)

- 1. Congratulations to Great Granny Peggy Davis and Pappaw Alan Brenner on the birth of granddaughter (great granddaughter) Sloan Layla Snyder to Andrew and Val Snyder (Carol's son) on August 6.**
- 2. Sue and Jim Porter became grandparents again. Congratulations to daughter Carrie and her husband Lucas and welcome baby girl Austell Page Moore. She is the Porter's 13 grandchild.**
- 3. The celebration of the life of Bob Gengo will be held at FPC on Monday, September 6 at 3pm. Rev. Neil Dunavant will be the guest officiant.**

FINCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship at the Creek

(1567 CALDWELL MOUNTAIN RD., NEW CASTLE, VA,
THE SIMMONS/DICKERSON CABIN ON CRAIG'S
CREEK)



Sunday, August 22, 2021

Worship: 11 am on the porch at the cabin

Pot Luck Lunch to follow. Hot Dogs , Hamburgers and fixings provided. Also, ice tea and lemonade will be provided.

Fellowship, fishing, swimming and boating will also be available for all to enjoy.



**SPONSORED BY THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE AND
THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

FYI—LIMITED CELL SERVICE

(PROBABLY NO LIVE STREAMING THAT DAY)

CABIN PHONE # - 540-864-7718

A new Recipe and a New Book Review

Review by Lyn Burton



If you like international intrigue, this is for you! The book, Unwitting by Steven Canter is a page-turner. Those of us that have read his self-published book find it to be one you can barely put down!

It is a story of Dave Walsh, a recently retired covert operative, who finds himself ensnared in a plot to destroy the United States. When you come to the end of this book you immediately want to read the next in the series, but this is Steve Canter's only one so far.

Unwitting can be purchased from Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Peach Pound Cake Recipe from the kitchen of Julia Richardson

1 C butter softened
6 eggs
1/4 t salt
1/2 C sour cream
1 t vanilla

3 C sugar
3 C all purpose flour
1/4 t baking soda
2 C peeled and diced fresh peaches
1 t almond extract



Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Grease and flour 10 inch tube pan.

Cream together butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each one. Combine flour, salt, soda.

Mix sour cream and peaches. Fold dry ingredients into creamed mixture alternating with peach mixture, ending with dry ingredients. Stir in extracts.

Bake 75-80 minutes.

Can serve with cool whip or whip cream mixed with Peach Schnapps.

Do you remember visiting Camp Fincastle?

Do you remember when it was Camp Montgomery?

Do you have any pictures of the camp when it belonged to the Presbyterian Church? The current owner is in search of pictures of the camp when it was a church camp. If you have any pictures or memories, please share them with Kip Burton so he can pass them on to the present owners.



Thanks in advance :)

Do you have “stuff” sitting around your house that you have thought to yourself, “I need to have a yard sale or make a trip to Goodwill or donate to a good cause”? Well now is your chance! The BIG SPRING GARDEN CLUB is going to have a “yard sale” during the HFI Festival on Saturday, September 18 (9—4). The proceeds from this sale will go to the beautification of the Big Spring area. If you have anything you would like to donate please let Patsy Dickerson (540-460-4597 psdicke@yahoo.com) or Kay Lowe (540-521-5922 kayerlowe@hotmail.com) know and they will be glad to pick it up for the sale.

