

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Message from David

As I write I am watching the lyrics to the Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter" become a reality in our winter weather of late.

***"In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow on snow..."***

The poet went on in the hymn to her message of hope even in the midst of winter:

***"In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty—
Jesus Christ."***

Her hymn calls us to embrace the hope revealed in the birth of the world's Savior which we celebrated in the very midst of the cold, hard reality of the winter solstice.

The scientists remind us that even the rigors of a winter's season have their role to play in the health of the environment.

Snow insulates the sod and helps protect the soil from heaving and tearing the roots of the plant life. Snow helps to protect the perennials. Snow melt in the spring replenishes rivers and streams.

We may not like the cold and snow of winter, never-the-less winter has its place. We may not like the "winter seasons" of our lives: the hardships; the illnesses and injuries; the hard realities of our mortality. Still, even these hard realities cannot overcome the Good News of our Savior's birth, but must find their place in the service of God's good purpose in Him.

Even in the "bleak mid-winter" we can live in the light and warmth of God's love and grace in Christ.

Peace in Christ

David

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Session—John Kilby, clerk

On Sunday, January 23, 2022 the newest members were installed as elders:

Class of 2022—Hal Bailey

Class of 2024—Lynne Bolton, Jim Porter, and Fred Coots.

Congratulations and thank you to these members who are willing to serve the Lord and the church through this service.

The congregation would also like to thank those elders who rotated off of the session.

Those elders are: Alan Brenner, John Griffith, Becky Downs. Thank you so much for your service and your time during this difficult time of COVID awareness.

At the regular meeting of the Session held by ZOOM on Thursday, January 27, the chairmen of the committees were named:

Worship—Lynne Bolton

Congregational Care—Cathy Goad

Missions—Paul Philippe

Personnel—Bo Trumbo

Fellowship—Jim Porter

Communications—Sandy Gates

Property—Fred Coots

Christian Education—Lyn Burton

Financial - Hal Bailey

If you are interested in working on one of these committees, please contact the chairman (or David) and let him/her know of your willingness to serve.

Class of 2022—Sandy Gates, Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey

Class of 2023—Cathy Goad, Paul Philippe, Bo Trumbo

Class of 2024—Fred Coots, Lynne Bolton, Jim Porter

Clerk of Session—John Kilby



Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Session Approved COVID Protocol for Use of Church

The church session has voted to re-implement some Covid measures for now

- Request full masking when inside the church building
- Ask attendees to socially distance from non-family members during the service
- Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall will be suspended for now
- Masks to be worn when singing hymns
- Gallery Singers (choir) will be suspended until conditions allow unmasked singing



COVID-19

We look forward to the time when this latest Covid variant winds down, and when, hopefully, no other nasty variant replaces it! Stay safe, warm, and come worship with us this Sunday!

Session Policy for Inclement Weather

When the weather conditions warrants that it will not be safe to hold indoor worship service, the congregation will be notified in the following ways:

1. An email will be sent out
2. It will be posted on Channel 7 and Channel 10
3. There will be an announcement of Facebook

The decision will be made by David and selected session members across the neighborhoods. If a “make-shift” live streaming service will be held, it will be noted in the announcement.

As always use your own judgement to be safe.

Session Policy for Collecting Donations and Pledges

1. Can be mailed to : Fincastle Presbyterian Church, PO Box 144, Fincastle, VA 24090
2. Put in the collection plate during the service
3. Put in “door mailbox” on the outside on the west side of the church anytime.

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Worship Committee—

Lynne Bolton, Chairman

February is Black History Month

Each Sunday in the month, the congregation and the choir will sing an African-American selection to mark the occasion.*

February 6

- #2 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
- #502 Amazing Grace!
- #563 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
- #776 *Let Us Break Bread Together

February 13

- #514 Blessed Assurance
- #112 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
- #518 *He's Got the Whole World

February 20

- #62 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- #543 Christ Beside Me
- #611 *There Is a Balm in Gilead

February 27

- #43 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- #72 To God Be the Glory
- (insert) *Lift Every Voice and Sing

SPIRITUALS—sung by the Gallery Singers

- February 6 #66-GG Every Time I Feel the Spirit
- February 13 #638 Precious Lord Take My Hand
(Lori-Sub) Lynne, Solo Choir to lead the Singing
- February 20 \$775-GGI Want Jesus to Walk with me
- February 27 #551 Give Me Jesus

African American Spirituals

By Rose Ann Burgess

The African American spiritual is a type of song with a Christian religious theme. It was sung a cappella, and in unison and was a forerunner of the blues. In contrast to hymn writers, who based their hymn writing on scripture, the slaves composed their songs in the fields and barns with words dealing with daily pain and hope for the future.

The first Africans came to America bound in chains. Their trip on the slave ships was just the beginning of their sorrows. There was the breakup of their families, the whips, the shackles and the loss of their dignity. The slaves were allowed to sing while working. As they sang in the fields or late at night, there were metaphors in their songs for their escape to freedom. For example, *Wade in the Water*, contained explicit instructions to the fugitive slaves on how to avoid capture and the route to take successfully to make their way to freedom. The white man was unaware of codes in their singing. We have no listing of persons who composed the spirituals as they came spontaneously for the occasion.

The spiritual often contained field hollers with call and response chants that included falsetto whoops.

A great interest in spirituals was created with the publication of spirituals in the 1860's. The Fisk Jubilee Singers, a chorus consisting of former slaves, from Fisk University sparked an international interest in this musical form in the 1870's. This chorus still performs today and has appeared in Roanoke on several occasions. Here in Virginia, The Hampton Singers of Hampton Institute was one of the first ensembles to rival the Jubilee Singers.

Spirituals have come a long way from singing in the fields to performances in concert halls. One of the early composers of piano-voice arrangements, Henry T. Burleigh, made the spirituals popular for solo classical singers. Many opera singers include spirituals in their repertoire.

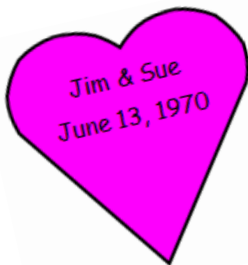
Here at Fincastle Presbyterian Church, may we express the intensity of the text and the strong rhythmic beat of the spirituals as we sing!

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA
FEBRUARY 2022

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Fellowship—Jim Porter, Chairman



Be my
Valentine?



Happy Anniver-
sary to ALL!



**Note: Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no Fellowship
Activities until future notice.**

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Mission Committee—Paul Phillippe, Chairman

If you are looking for an opportunity to donate food, look no further.

- ♦ From February 1 through February 8, the LOA is collecting donations of cans of soup, Ramen noodles, canned meats, canned fruits, canned vegetables and oat-meal packages. Any non-perishable food is acceptable. These donations may be dropped off at any branch of First Bank (formerly know as The Bank of Fincastle). Monetary donations can be made on line at bit.ly/SFSDonations or by calling 540-345-0451. This food drive is also know as **SOUP for SENIORS 2022** (primarily for low-income senior citizens). If you would like to bring your donation to church next Sunday, Feb. 6, we will see that the donation is taken to a collection sight.
- ♦ The Botetourt Food Pantry is always looking for donations and volunteers. The second Saturday volunteers are always welcome. Contact Paul Phillippe for information if interested.



Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Congregational Care Committee—Cathy Goad, chairman

*Please update your mailing address, email, phone numbers or birthday list, if needed,
by email to fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com.*

FPC Members:

Nathalie Givens
Kaki Peaslee
Meg Omer
Rick Vari
Mary Beth Huwe

Friends and Family Members:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Holt McCann | Lisa Curlee |
| Mary Lee Reese | Marlene Davidow |
| Mary Black | “Hi” Nicely |
| Dianne Poynor | Billie Wilson |
| Marilyn Koch | Mary Woodard |
| Molly Rose | Amy Ward |
| | The family of Dee Griffin |



Local, State, and National Concerns:

1. Pray for all of political leaders—local state and nation. Help them gather proper and true information to make the best possible decisions that will keep us safe.
2. Pray for all of the front line workers—hospital staff, nurses, doctors, police, first responders, EMT's, teachers and school staff, social workers, all care givers, etc. Keep them safe and mentally sound to make good decisions and choices.
3. Pray for people who are “hurting” for one reason or another. Help them find peace.
4. Be with our military leaders, help them make good decisions and keep them safe.
5. Pray for peace and kindness throughout the entire world.
6. Pray for the campus family of Bridgewater College and the families of the two officers who were killed.