



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA
MARCH 2022

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Message from David

In the early spring of 1982 (at the end of my first year in seminary!) one of my friends said, half-jokingly, "I'm giving up chocolates for Lent." I did not know what she was talking about! As the child of a small, rural Presbyterian Church (surrounded by Baptist churches) in the hills and "hollers" of southwest Virginia, I had never encountered either the season of Lent, or someone who observed Lent. "So, what is Lent?" , I asked my friend. (I knew what "chocolates" were and saw no reason to give them up, ever!)

So began my introduction to the season of Lent. In brief, Lent is the 40 day period (not counting Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with either Maundy Thursday (or at Sundown on Holy Saturday in some traditions). The purpose of Lent, in part, is to commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting before He began His public ministry, and to prepare for the great day of Easter when we celebrate the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection. Many traditions prepare for Easter during Lent by "giving-up" something: an imitation of the grief and self-denial experienced by Christ in the wilderness.

In our Reformed and Presbyterian tradition we often times will "add-on" something during the season of Lent, as well as "giving-up" something, sort of a "Yes" and "No" response to Lent. For example, fasting, though respected, is strictly optional, not mandatory, Mardi Gras parties, eating only fish on Fridays, setting aside the word "Alleluia" until Easter morning, while not a bad thing to do, are left to the believer's individual conscience. By contrast we should always abstain from sin and always make every effort to be good, every day, all day, all year long, not just during Lent.

So, according to your individual conscience, let's observe Lent together (and, by the way, pass me the chocolates!)

Your friend in Christ,

David

Committee Reports

Worship Committee

Lynne Bolton, Chairman; Committee members— RoseAnn Burgess, Peggy Davis, Patsy Dickerson, Betty Painter

Hymns for March 2022

March 6

- 200 Lord, Who Throughout
379 For the Fruits of All Creation
374 Now Thank We All Our God

March 13

- 60 Great is Thy Faithfulness
209 In the Cross of Christ I Glory
648 O Jesus, I Have Promised

March 20

- 16 Give to Our God Immortal Praise
41 Stand Up and Bless the Lord
447 Seek ye First the Kingdom of God

March 27

- 381 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
549 Jesus Keep me near the Cross
486 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

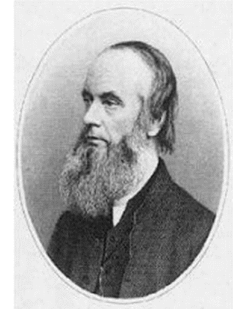
Henry Alford

Born: October 7, 1810; London, England

Died: January 12, 1871

Nationality: English

Occupation: churchman, scholar, poet, artist, writer



The writer of *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, Henry Alford based his text on Psalm 95:2 (NKJV), "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms."

Henry was born in London into the Somerset family, which could boast of five consecutive generations of Anglican church clergymen. He was raised by his widowed father, who was a minister with pastoral responsibility at Steeple Ashton in Wiltshire. From childhood, he was a precocious boy and at the age of six he wrote a biography of the apostle Paul. When he was ten he had written several odes, a history of the Jews and a series of homiletic outlines.

In 1827 he went to Trinity College, Cambridge as a scholar and in 1834 was made fellow of Trinity. Along with being a brilliant scholar, he was a dynamic preacher. In 1835 he began an eighteen year tenure in the vicarage of Wymeswold in Leicestershire. He was the minister of a large London Church in 1853 and in 1857 was appointed Dean of Canterbury. It held this position until his sudden death on January 12, 1871. While serving in the farming village of Wymeswold. He visited every home, loved every person, taught the Bible simply and helped the people to always to be thankful for all that they had.

Alford had written the hymn, *Come Ye Thankful People*, for the English Harvest Festival, comparable to the Thanksgiving celebration in America.



Committee Reports

Mission

Chairman

Paul Phillippe

The Mission Committee is volunteering to help box up and hand out food from the Fincastle Food Pantry every Saturday morning from 9:30 until 11:30 AM. Currently we are averaging 30 families per week all of whom have been approved of need by the Botetourt Social Services Department. If you would like to get involved, such as helping one Saturday morning per week, contact Paul Phillippe at 473-1262.

Also, contact Paul if you would like to serve on this committee.

Property

Chairman

Fred Coots

Members:

Lyn and Kip Burton

Alan Brenner

Bo Trumbo

Jim Porter

Mike and Cathy Goad

Paul Phillippe

Debbie Coots

The Property Committee has been hard at work so far this year. Two of the ongoing projects are the perimeter of the parking lot and the upkeep of the grave yard. Another project that they soon will "tackle" is the dressing up of the lot behind the church. There will be a CLEAN UP DAY scheduled to work on this project soon. Stay tuned to announcements from the church.

Fellowship

Chairman

Jim Porter

Due to Covid restrictions, Fellowship time after church has been suspended. Hopefully we would like to start back greeting each other after worship in the fellowship hall with a cookie and lemonade soon. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Jim.

Committee Reports

Congregational Care

Chairman

Cathy Goad

Prayer List:

PFC Members— Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Dianne Poynor, Meg Omer, Rick Vari, Mary Beth Huwe, The family of Phyllis Tenser



Friends and Families— Laura Holt McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Marilyn Koch, Molly Rose, Lisa Curlee, Marlene Davidow, “Hi” Nicely, Billie Wilson, Mary Woodard, Amy Ward, Paul Langford, The family of George Etzler, The family of Gary Crizer, The family of Julie Morris

Celebrations—Congratulations to Kaye and Alan Lowe on the birth of their newest grandchild, born in the Netherlands; the declining number of Covid cases in the area; the hopeful respite that the first responders and medical personnel are feeling; RoseAnn Burgess’ broken leg continues to heal; Mary Lee Reese (David’s mother) turns 95 on March 9



Congregational Concerns—the state of the world (see the prayer for Ukraine and the World on the following page); pray that our leaders and the leaders of the free world can contain this war and continue to strive for peace

Christian Education

Chairman

Lyn Burton

Did you know that there is an **adult Sunday School Class every Sunday morning** at 9:30 before worship? David is teaching a class on Revelations. If you are interested, all you need to do is show up! The class is held upstairs in the Fellowship Hall in the Robert Logan Classroom. Hope to see you there.

Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7 pm (see Sandy’s email for a Zoom invite)



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A Prayer for Ukraine and the World

O God,

In Christ, you have said: "Blessed are the peacemakers."

*We must confess that we have shattered the peace of our world by our prejudice, our greed,
our hatred toward one another.*

We pray for your peace throughout our world,

But, today, especially between Ukraine and Russia.

We pray that all combatants will cease fire, and sit at the table together.

Call them to talk peace with one another.

Call them to create peace between one another.

*We pray for the families of both sides who have lost a loved one to death upon the battlefield,
or in the school yard, or in their own homes because of war.*

We pray for the survivors, the refugees, and especially we pray for the children.

Call both sides in this conflict to return to their own country, to their own home.

May your peace in Jesus Christ settle upon both countries and

restore all people to life in all of its fullness.

My your peace be the victor.

In Christ we pray.

AMEN



Committee Reports

Financial
Chairman
Hal Bailey

Everyone is reminded that the expenses of church continue. Please bring your donations/contributions/tithes and put them in the offering plate or in the "Mailbox Slot" on the outside door to the back of the church or mail them to **FINCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

P O BOX 144

FINCASTLE, VA 24090

We Pray for Peace

From the PCUSA Webpage, written by Mike Ferguson, Presbytery News Service

LOUISVILLE — The [Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette](#), a Presbyterian hymn-writer who has penned new lyrics to more than 400 hymns, has published her most recent hymn, "[We Pray for Peace](#)" to [Finlandia](#), the tune for the hymn "[Be Still, My Soul](#)" and "This is My Song."

(You can look this song up on You Tube to hear it performed)

FINLANDIA 11.10.11.10.11.10 ("This is My Song")

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.

The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —
to love and build, to nurture and restore.

May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us —
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.



We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power;
be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer —
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.



MARCH

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March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday – St. Mark's Episcopal Church service – 7 pm	3	4 Choir Practice – 3 pm	5
	6 Adult Sunday School – 9:30 Church – 10:30 Handbells after church TEXT: Dt. 26: 1-11 Luke 4: 1-13	7	8 Endowment Committee – 4 pm	9	10	11 Choir Practice – 3 pm
13 Daylight Saving Time begins Adult Sunday School – 9:30 Church – 10:30 Handbells after church TEXT: Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18 Luke 13: 31-35	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Choir Practice – 3 pm	19
20 1 st day of Spring Adult Sunday School – 9:30 Church – 10:30 Handbells after church TEXT: Isaiah 55: 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9	21	22	23	24 SESSION Zoom Meeting – 7 pm	25 Choir Practice – 3 pm	26
27 Adult Sunday School – 9:30 Church – 10:30 Handbells after church TEXT: Joshua 5: 9-12 Luke 15: 11-3,11-32	28	29	30 Lenten Service and lunch at Fincastle UMC – noon David speaking	31		