

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

... from the desk of David

“Why Study the Apostles’ Creed?”

Recently, I began a sermon series which will be a close look, phrase by phrase, at one of the church’s great creeds: “The Apostles’ Creed”..

Some might ask: “Why should modern folks study an ancient creed of the Christian church?” They might ask: “why did the church even develop “creeds” over the centuries of its life?”

For some answers, I will turn to my old, departed professor of theology, Dr. John H. Leith and to his study book written to teach students and officers in the church: “The Church—A Believing Fellowship”.

Leith writes: “God speaking through the Bible is the supreme authority. The authority of the confession or creed is under the authority of the Bible. But the creed or confession is a summary of what the church believes the Bible teaches.” (p. 67)

Dr. Leith later taught us in class that a creed or confession was used, not only to teach us the basics of our faith in a short, memorable statement, but creed/confessions also served the church as the church’s response to some great need in the church, or in the world beyond the church.

For example, “The Apostles’ Creed’ helps the church to retain the basic teachings of the very first apostles of Jesus. Every phrase was used but the church before A.D. 100.

Later creeds wrestled with the question: “what does it mean to confess that God is one, while at the same time confessing that we know this one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?”

A particularly important creed/confession of the early 20th Century is the Barmen Declaration (1934). At that time Adolf Hitler had ascended to the dictatorship of Germany. Many German Christians submitted to his autocratic rule over the church in Germany, even ascending to Hitler's claim that he was “der Fuhrer”, which can be translated to mean: “the Lord”. In the Barmen Declaration, a strong community of German Christians stood over against their brothers and sisters who had capitulated to Hitler’s demands, and rose up against Hitler to say in essence: ‘the church’s one Lord is Jesus Christ alone’. For their courageous stand many of their leaders were arrested and executed.

The creeds are important. For all of us Christians the great creeds of the church help us to understand better what it is that we believe. For some generations of Christians the creeds can become a matter of life or death. By God’s grace may we grow together in faith and wisdom as we study more deeply “The Apostles’ Creed”.

Peace in Christ

David

Creeds of the Christian Church

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of

The Barmen Declaration (1934) contains these 6 theses

1. The source of revelation is only the Word of God — Jesus Christ. Any other possible sources (earthly powers, for example) will not be accepted.
2. Jesus Christ is the only Lord of all aspects of personal life. There should be no other authority.
3. The message and order of the church should not be influenced by the current political convictions.
4. The church should not be ruled by a leader ("Führer"). There is no hierarchy in the church (Mt 20, 25f).
5. The state should not fulfill the task of the church and vice versa. State and church are both limited to their own business.

Therefore, the Barmen Declaration rejects (i) the subordination of the Church to the state (8.22–3) and (ii) the subordination of the Word and Spirit to the Church

What Are the Session's Committees Doing ?
What is happening at the church ?

Property Committee:

Clean up in the yard and parking lot— **THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION!**



Verna and David were working so hard, they couldn't pose for a picture. Obviously, everyone LOVED their job!



Mission Committee : *a note from Paul*

Our committee has been supporting the efforts of the Botetourt Food Pantry during this past year and plan to continue with this effort to help those in need in the Fincastle area which it serves. Presently the food pantry provides assistance to approximately 46 local families which represents 125 people. They are screened and approved by the Botetourt Health Services Department and eligible to pick up food allotments once a month.

We have been helping the second Saturday each month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM to pass out boxes of food. There also are other jobs such as stocking the donated food received and getting it boxed up to pass out on Saturday mornings all of which occur at other times of the week. The food pantry seems to have a good steady supply of donated food items, so the real need is the labor to do the work.

Anyone who can help with this effort would certainly be welcomed and appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved with this mission, please contact me and I can answer questions or help get you started.

Worship Committee: Special Music on *Sunday, August 6 during the worship hour*

This month, the sanctuary of Fincastle Presbyterian Church will be filled with the sounds of flute, clarinet, alto horn and trombone, along with the interwoven melodies of the beautiful parlor grand piano. Hands from FPC and our neighboring church, Fincastle Methodist are joining in a wonderful collaboration of music, fellowship, and worship.

Reach out and invite someone to join us on August 6 at 10:20am.

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Sunday, August 30, 2023 taken
by Sue Porter

Pre service music that starts at 10:20 will include:

How Firm A Foundation

Immortal, Invisible

Thy Word

Additional ensemble worship music will include:

In Christ Alone

Panis Angelicus ("Bread of Angels")

My Jesus I Love Thee

La Rejouissance (Handel's "Fireworks")



Botetourt Ensemble should be considered a Brass and Wind group based out of Fincastle UMC. Members: Mary Rae – Pianist (Lori will be playing her part); Jim Reynolds – Trombone, and leader; Eric Claunch – Alto Horn; Iain Graff – Tuba (won't be there); Heather Mitchell – Flute; Kate Graff – Clarinet

Fellowship Committee:

Sunday AUG. 13—Church Service at the Dickerson/Simmons Camp

Last Last Resort at 11:00 am.

- ⇒ *Pot Luck Lunch to follow (drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, bun and tomatoes will be provided.)*
- ⇒ *Bring your own chair. There are some at the cabin but you might want to bring your own just in case.*
- ⇒ *If the weather permits, the creek will be “open” for swimming, boating and fishing (bring your own tackle and line)*
- ⇒ ***NO SERVICE AT THE FPC SANCTUARY ON AUG. 13***
- ⇒ *Directions: (from Fincastle, according to Map Quest)*
 - *Turn onto Grove Hill Road (Rt. 606) off of “the old Blacksburg Road—Rt. 630”*
 - *Travel 9.8 miles on Rt. 606 over the mountain.*
 - *You will go past a small county church on the right about 9.0 miles, then be looking for our driveway. It will be on the right with a mail box for KESSLER and a sign for 1567. We will have a couple of balloons at the end of the drive way.*
 - *You will need to travel all the way to the end of the driveway (pass a trailer house and then pass a green house and through the woods.*
 - *PHONE NUMBER for the cabin (540) 864-7718 (Cell phone don't work)*

The Fellowship Sign up for August is:

August 6, Ginnie Phillippie; August 13, Service at Cabin at Craigs Creek; August 20, Kincaids; August 27, Danette

FPC Homecoming—Oct. 8, 2023

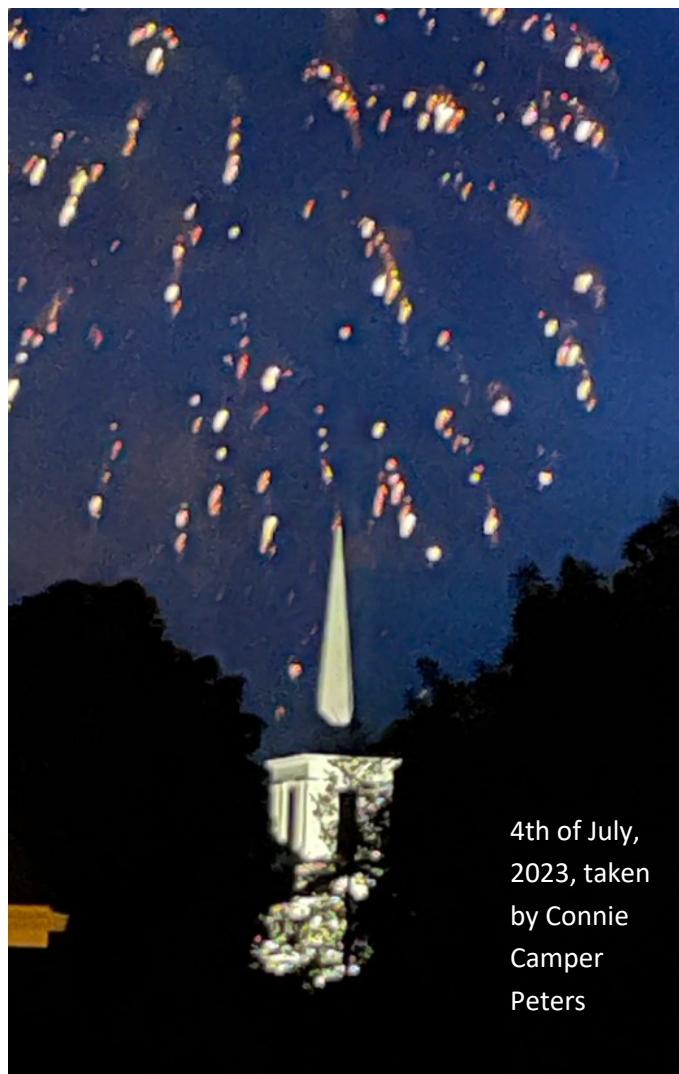
Mark your calendar now for this event. Anyone and everyone who has been a part of Fincastle Presbyterian Church at any time is invited. We are hoping to include your grown children, etc. We are working on a mailing list to send out notices for this event, but we need your help! Please send anyone, family or friend, that you would like to include in the invitation list. Send complete address to fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or call the church (540) 473-2042 or mail to Fincastle Presbyterian Church, PO Box 144, Fincastle, VA 24090

Thank you, Danette and Patsy



Danette, Rena and Sue enjoying a night at the Family and Faith Salem Red Sox baseball game.

*Christian Education
Committee - Bible
Study on Tuesday,
August 8 at 2 pm in
the fellowship hall.
Topic: 12 Extraordi-
nary women from
the Bible.*



4th of July,
2023, taken
by Connie
Camper
Peters

