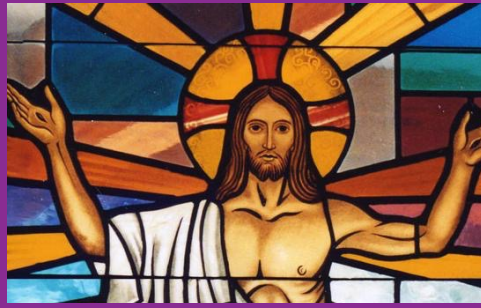


FOREST HILL FAMILY

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
4401 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225
804-233-4371
www.fhpcrichmond.org



MARCH, 2018

Easter Sunday
April 1st

www.fhpcrichmond.org
info@fhpcrichmond.org

Pastor's Reflections

During this season of Lent, many are in the habit of giving up something. It is a way to remind ourselves that God is God and we are not. It is a small way to remember God through-out the day. Sometimes, it can propel us to let go of something we don't think is good for us, for a season.

Growing up in the church, I never resonated with this idea of giving something up. I didn't understand the point of it. In my estimation, we are - at all times - called to let go of bad habits. So letting go of them for a brief period didn't seem effective, as most folks return to these habits promptly on Easter morning. Another rationale I heard for the practice was that we would let something go that was valuable to us – a sacrifice of sorts, a fasting of sorts. So like fasting, the practice is meant to draw us to God in prayer. It invites us to allow God to fill all the spaces in our lives, especially those we usually fill with caffeine or sugar, smoking, or an indulgence of one sort or another.

While all these practices and reasons have a place and a purpose, I found the most meaning not in letting something go but in **taking something on** during Lent. But perhaps these two things – letting something go and taking something on – go best, hand in hand. In scripture Jesus tells a parable of a man possessed by a demon. When the demon is cast out, it wanders looking for another place to go, and if the person does not fill that space in their lives with good, the demon will return, bringing a whole host of others with it to occupy that space in the person that it formerly occupied alone.

I don't know how you feel about demons and the spiritual realm. Sometimes these images are helpful to me, and sometimes I've found them more harmful than helpful. What I have gleaned from this story is that *it is not enough* to simply cast out the bad from our lives. *We need to take in the good* – or else we're more than likely to simply fill that hole in our lives with something else bad, or worse.

One Lenton season, I decided to take on the practice of daily reading and prayer. While I pray through-out the day and meditate on scripture, I had only maintained seasons of routine at reading scripture. This particular Lenton season, I wanted to see what would happen if I spent time in God's presence everyday, without fail.

I must say, I have never experienced greater and more rapid transformation of my life, than I experienced during that Lenton season. I found the practice of daily time in the presence of God to be so life-giving and essential that I continued it for many more months after Easter. And God made Godself more real to me than I'd ever experienced God to be before. God led me to scripture passages I needed, at just the right time. God led me through books and to songs and to journaling my prayers and journaling God's responses and answers... In this season, I began to taste the fullness of life that I'd only read about in scripture prior. God was living and moving in MY LIFE, meeting me just where I needed God, and breathing life back into the dead and dying parts of myself.

During this season of Lent, I invite you to spend intentional and deliberate time with God. Do it in the way that makes the most sense to you. Do it in scripture. Do it in prayer. Do it by candlelight or out in wide open spaces. Open yourself to God, asking God to meet you. Our God knows exactly how you are wired and how you think. Our God knows how to shower YOU with love, redirect your steps, and get a message through. Our God longs to be with us. God awaits only the invitation. That is our job.

Will we make space in our lives – letting something go, in order to open ourselves to God's presence? Fullness of life, quality of life, abundant life awaits! May you and I open the doors of our hearts and invite our God in.

Gratefully sharing the journey with you,

Rev. Katherine Todd

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to **host a Sunday reception** as many of our church families do. The next open dates are May 13 and 27.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Duty Officer ushers and greeters for our Sunday morning worship services. Please call the church office to sign up.

If you would like to be a lay reader for our Worship Service please let Rev. Todd know. She would welcome your help!

See Anna Margaret Price to help prepare **communion** as some of our members do.

- expressed appreciation to the CCC staff and volunteers for their diligence during the transition this past month.
- Nominating Committee: Elected by the Congregation on Jan 28th, Phylliss Moret, Melissa Davis, and Scott Mitchell will meet March 2nd at 11 am to discuss slating two individuals for elders and one for trustee in the Class of 2021 (3-year term).
- Next Session Meetings @ 12 noon on March 25 and April 15. All are invited to participate.

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FROM THE CHILD CARE CENTER COMMITTEE:

Due to medical issues, Jan Clarke retired as Director of the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church Child Care Center. Ms. Emily Hawkins, a former teacher here, assumed the role last Wednesday. We are looking forward to working with Emily to upgrade the Center; she is very familiar with its operations. The Child Care Center Committee has worked hard to implement this change, and we thank those of you who have helped during the transition.

^^

Session Meeting Highlights February 25, 2018 Phylliss Moret, Clerk

- Mission Statement Task Force: Melissa Davis, Jeff Diehl, Kris & Nick Jones, Phylliss Moret, Gay Olsen, and Katherine Todd will meet on March 4th with John Vest serving as moderator.
- Mission & Outreach Committee: Second Mile Endowment Fund grants totaling \$11,500 were recommended by the Committee and distribution was approved by Session as follows:
 - Local: an additional \$2000 for the Good Samaritan Fund (\$1,500 already distributed); \$500 Roses and Wings
 - Regional: \$1500 POJ's Hunger Fund; \$1000 ACTS; \$500 Camp Hanover
 - International: \$2500 Wycliffe Translators' Matthew & Teresa Lee; \$3500 POJ Haiti missionary Cindy Corell
- Worship, Discipleship, & Member Care Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for March 1st and will include preparing the new hymnals with memorial/honorarium labels, work on the new church directory, and planning the church's anniversary in June.
- Stewardship of Property, Administration, & Finance Committee: Regular tenants have affirmed increased fees for building use in 2018; only one small organization discontinued their rental arrangement. A new contract for 2018 was finalized with AberRock for landscaping and snow removal.
- Child Care Center (CCC) Committee: Session approved the hiring of Emily Hawkins as CCC Director effective March 7th following Jan Clarke's retirement and

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Mary Jane Unterzuber**, Morningside of Bellgrade, 2800 Polo Parkway, Midlothian, VA 23113, #254
- Sol Wrenn**, 13500 N. Gayton Road, Rm. 147, Richmond, VA 23233
- Greg Jones**, at home — Envoy of Westover Hills, 4403 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11, 2018 — Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



March 29th @ 7:00 pm

A Maundy Thursday service will be held here with our sister church Eastminster Presbyterian. Plan now to join us for this meaningful and inspiring gathering.

Mission & Outreach Committee

Jim Irving, Katherine Todd, Phylliss Moret, Donna Stafford, Jayne Clement, Gay Olsen, Sydney Gustafson

The mission and outreach work of Forest Hill Church advances two Great Ends of the Church:

- a) serving the local and world community through mission; and
- b) actively seeking others – outreach -- to join us in our worship, fellowship, and service.

Second Mile Fund

Thirty + years ago, church members started the SMF to carry on religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational purposes of the church. With gratitude for their wisdom and generosity, pray that we will continue to follow their example as Jesus's good disciples and stewards of both the SMF and tithes and offerings for the church's budget.

Recommendations were made by the M & O Committee and Session approved the recommendations for disbursement of the 2nd Mile Fund for 2018 from 5% of the reported 2017 earnings, totaling \$17, 300.00:

Local:

- \$3500 FHPC Good Samaritan Fund
- \$500 Roses and Wings

Regional:

- \$1500 Presbytery's Hunger Fund
- \$1000 ACTS
- \$500 Camp Hanover

International:

- \$2500 Matthew and Teresa Lee-Wycliffe Translators
- \$3500 Cindy Corell-Presbytery of James Missionary-Haiti

These disbursements total \$13,000 for the first half of 2018. We will recommend the balance of the funds in September, 2018 to reserve some of the money to have for funding for any disaster relief that may be needed. Other funding that will be considered in September, 2018 will be:

- Crossover Clinic
- Massanetta Springs Conference Center
- Hilliard House
- Habitat for Humanity
- Fisher House

We continue to serve God, not only by monetary gifts, but by "in kind" gifts, as well. Thank you for your January and February donations for supporting

- The Hilliard House for the blankets and comforters. They have been delivered and much appreciated.
- Souper Bowl Sunday. We collected a grocery bag full of various soups that were delivered to the food pantry.

For March, we will collect personal items for ACTS. See below for more information on ACTS and a list of care bag items.

What is ACTS?

ACTS prevents homelessness before it can take hold. ACTS tries to give each client who comes in for an assessment a bag filled with necessary supplies. These supplies are not covered by SNAP benefits and are quite expensive. Your organization or congregation's generous donations of these items bring smiles and tears to many when they are received.

For detailed information about ACTS, please see <http://actsrva.org/what-we-do/>

Personal Care Items

Paper Products

Cleaning Products

Children's Items

Miscellaneous

soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, hand and body lotion, feminine products toilet paper, paper towel, tissues dish detergent, laundry detergent, sponges, household cleaners, dishwasher detergent diapers, wipes, toothpaste, tooth brushes stamps, envelopes, pens

ACTS Care Bags

Reminders:

1. Donating these recycled items to the **Child Care Center** for kids' drawings and activities (now and year round):
 - a. Scraps of fabric, ribbon, yarn
 - b. Used paper
 - c. Used toys and books
 - d. Used CD or cassette player
2. Reuse, reduce, recycle, rethink. Use it up, wear it out, make it last, do without.

Outreach: Serving and sharing God's grace through music...

Patrick will be offering another of his wonderful concerts on **March 18 at 2:00 pm.!!** Stay tuned for details.

Please join us and be a good and better steward of God's beautiful creation in March and year round!

The earth is the Lord's. – Psalms 24:1

Report on the 98th Stated Meeting of Presbytery by Katherine Todd

Saturday, February 17th, Phylliss Moret and I participated in the Presbytery Meeting held at Grace Covenant Pres on Monument Ave.

- We commissioned the 223rd General Assembly Commissioners, along with their alternates. The Presbytery voted to allow the Communication and Coordination Team of Presbytery to hire one or two persons to fill the role/s of Interim General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, since Rev. Carson Rhyne is retiring at the end of this year.
- Presbytery had previously commissioned a 2020 Vision Team to help guide us into the future, but when that report came back two meetings ago, the body did not feel their work provided sufficient guidance or visioning. So the 2020 Team was dismissed with thanks and the Presbytery voted to form a Strategic Planning Team in its place. This team would work heavily around the questions of Presbytery staffing, and they would provide actionable guidance to Presbytery, moving into the future.
- At this past meeting of Presbytery, the body approved a motion from the floor directing the Strategic Planning Team to research and evaluate the advisability of splitting our current singular role of General Presbyter/Stated Clerk into two roles held by two different people. Many, if not most Presbyteries have two people in the role Carson has filled by himself. Splitting the roles would allow folks with different gifts to enter this area of service and it would provide accountability and checks and balances, so that our Presbytery does not rely too heavily on any one personality to provide unchecked guidance in all matters of our church government. The motion was unanimously approved.
- One of our purpose groups, currently headed by John Vest, rebranded as "Cultivating a Culture of Evangelism." The Presbytery approved a process whereby Presbytery can decide to come alongside a New Worshiping Community, providing mentoring, financial support, and accountability. This will enable those trying new forms of outreach to move forward with needed tools, resources, and connection to the larger body of the church.
- Presbytery commissioned the new group of individuals preparing to go to Haiti this summer. We also presented a check to a non-profit group working on the self-development of people in our city.
- Camp Hanover presented their intentions to incorporate the camp. This would not sever or change the relationship the Presbytery of the James has with Camp Hanover, but the hope is that it would protect both camp and the Presbytery from any litigation. It is a preventative measure that many

Presbyteries have already taken with their camps, and we are looking at doing the same.

Working together as a larger body of faith is part of how we live out our faith and our belief in a connected church, where we are not on our own but are accountable to one another. We did a lot of work this meeting that served the greater purposes of justice, peace-making, wisdom, and evangelism.

CAMP HANOVER

Our Mission: to provide a place apart for renewal and growth in an environment of Christian hospitality.

Looking for a Summer Camp?

As the outdoor ministry of the Presbytery of the James, Camp Hanover has offered Christian camps for elementary, middle and high school youth for over 60 years. Camp sessions range in length from short 2-night and 3-night programs for the youngest of campers, to longer 1-week and 2-week programs for older campers.

Camp Hanover is offering \$30 of additional financial support for members of congregations in the Presbytery of the James (that's YOU!), making it more affordable for your kids to attend camp.

Located on 600 wooded acres in Mechanicsville, Virginia, Camp Hanover is about a thirty minute drive from Richmond.

Work at Summer Camp!

Do you have what it takes to make a positive impact on a child's life? Do you love spending time in God's creation? Are you ready to work hard AND have the best time of your life? If so, Camp Hanover may be the place for you this summer!

We are currently accepting applications for:

- **Counselors**
- **Unit Directors**
- **On Site Director — Traveling Day Camp**
- **Trip Leader**
- **Waterfront Coordinator**
- **High Rope Coordinator**
- **Arts & Crafts Coordinator**
- **Media Specialist**
- **Lifeguards and Program Staff**
- **Food Service Staff**

For more information email work@camphanover.org or call (804) 779-2811.

To apply, please visit www.camphanover.org/work-at-camp



Music Ministry

Pat Carlin, Director of Music

I hope this Season of Lent has been a holy time of renewal and reflection for you and your loved ones!

Please mark your calendars for this remaining **FREE Concert**. This information is also found on our FHPC web site. The Complete Concert Program may be viewed on our web site, closer to the concert date.

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 2:00 PM

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

"Songs from Musicals"

Vocal Students of Patrick Carlin from High School through Graduate School & Beyond

Music during our March Worship will include:

March 11, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Organ Prelude "Toccata" (John Lee)

FHPC Women's Ensemble "Kyrie Eleison" (Sonja Poorman)

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Organ Postlude "Ode to Joy" (Beethoven)

March 18, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Organ Prelude "Chorale Prelude in Bb" (Johann Pachelbel)

FHPC Women's Ensemble "Prayer of the Norwegian Child" (Richard Kountz/arr. Carl Deis)

I lay me down upon the ground, and think on my Lord Jesus.
Each flower and tree tells me of Thee, and praises Thee, Lord Jesus.
Lord Jesus, think on me. Make my soul like unto Thee.
I rest my head upon my bed, and think on my Lord Jesus.
Send angels down to kneel around my bed at night, Lord Jesus...

Organ Postlude "Rejoicing, from ROYAL FIREWORKS MUSIC" (G. F. Handel)

March 25, Palm Sunday

Organ Prelude "Variations on O SACRED HEAD SURROUNDED" (Johann Pachelbel)

FHPC Women's Ensemble "Sanctus" (Franz Schubert/arr. by Donald Moore)

Holy, Holy, God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Organ Postlude "Rondeau" (J. J. Mouret)

March 29, Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday with

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Organ Prelude "Fantasia" (John Lee)

Eastminster Presbyterian Church Choir (Music TBA)

FHPC Women's Ensemble "A Clare Benediction" (John Rutter)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you; may the light of his presence be your guide. May he guard you and uphold you; may his spirit be ever by your side. When you sleep, may his angels watch over you; when you wake, may he fill you with his grace. May you love him and serve him all your days. Then, in heaven may you see his face. May the Lord's loving kindness surround you; keep you safe as you journey on your way. May he lead you and inspire you as he grants you the gift of each new day. May he bless all your loved ones and cherish them, ev'ry friend, ev'ry stranger at your door. In the name of his Son, our Savior Christ, may God bless you, now and evermore. (John Rutter)

Organ Postlude "Concerto in C" (J. S. Bach)

April 1, Easter Sunday

Organ Prelude "Te Deum" (Marc-Antoine Charpentier)

FHPC Women's Ensemble

"Hallelujah, Amen," from JUDAS MACCABAEUS (G. F. Handel/
Arranged by Matthew Michaels)

Hallelujah, Amen, O Judah, rejoice in songs divine, with cherubim and seraphim harmonious join!

Organ Postlude "Laudation" (Gilbert Martin)

May the remainder of Lent and Holy Week be filled with many graces, loving challenges, and the deep joy of Our Loving God for you, your loved ones, and our FHPC Faith Community! It remains an honor to grow and serve with you.

God's Peace,
Pat C.