



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

June 2019



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Music Director
Justin Streletz, Accompanist
Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbells Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

The Bible and Children

As we prepare to present a Bible to each of our 4th and 5th graders at FUPCDC this coming Sunday, I have been pondering how we as a congregation can take the next step.

There is little that warms my heart more than when one of my sons brings me his Bible and asks if we can read it together, or when I see a child in a congregation I am serving carrying a Bible with duct tape on the binding, a do-it-yourself repair to wear and tear from frequent reading.

I believe these things have happened to me three times in total.

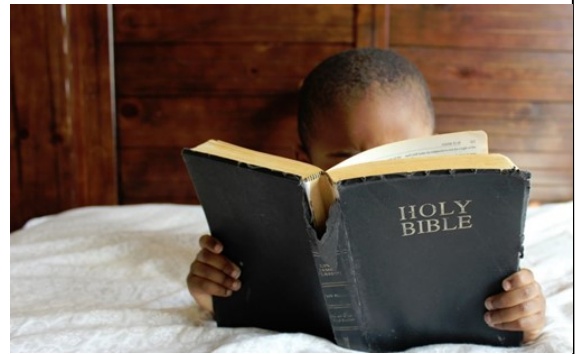
Reading the Bible with children is hard work, just like reading the Bible with (and as) adults is hard work.

Here is just a sample of the issues that we come up against as we attempt to read and explain the Bible to our children:

-We often think that just because there is an animal in a Bible story it must be a good one to teach to children. I shudder each time I see a crib set with a Noah's ark theme, wondering what it means to literally wrap our children in a story about human depravity and divine destruction.

-We also often think that it is a good idea to teach children stories about other children in the Bible. This is a bit like assuming that the movie "Children of the Corn" is appropriate for children based on the title. More often than not, the stories of children and of parent-child relationships in the Bible are too graphic or too steeped in ancient culture to translate easily to a child's personal experiences.

-Many parents themselves are not as biblically literate as their children need them to be. This doesn't mean that parents should have the entire Bible figured out before they talk to their children about it – a growing adult faith never really has everything figured out. It also doesn't mean that you can't tell your child that you don't understand why a character, or God, does or doesn't do something in a biblical story. It does mean that before your child asks you why God destroyed the world with a flood you should have read the story of Noah's Ark for yourself at least once already.



(continued on Page 2)

-When we read the Bible, we often forget to ask a final question of the story: "What does this teach us about our relationship with God?" I fantasize about the day when in a Confirmation class I will have before me such biblically literate children that when I ask the question "What is an example from the Bible of when God shows mercy to human beings?" all hands will go up in the air with answers like the sparing of Nineveh, the Golden Calf, Jesus on the cross, the sign of the rainbow. But that has yet to happen. The Bible is no good to us if it remains for us just a collection of ancient stories. If that was all we were hoping to achieve, then our Bible reading should just be incorporated into our children's reading of the stories of Atlas, Sisyphus, Medusa, or Poseidon.

-Finally, the Bible has in it a lot of stuff that we no longer agree with and that we therefore find problematic or even abhorrent: rape, polygamy, slavery, animal sacrifice, incest, extreme violence. Do we gloss over these things when we teach children the Bible, only to leave them to confront these issues as teenagers or adults? Do we try to teach them an awkward understanding of biblical authority that says that some parts of the Bible are important but others can be ignored? I am still trying to work that one out myself.

Even if we had all started reading the Bible "religiously" as children, we would still be adults who are seeking to understand what all it contains and what it means for our lives. This is a lifelong journey - one on which we can and should take our children along with us, remembering that they will see the scripture through their own eyes and will have the ability even to teach us what God is trying to say to us through the Bible today.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam

Session Report - May

At the May 16 meeting of the Session, they voted to call a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 2 at 9:30 AM (following the 8:30 service) for the purposes of voting on church incorporation and to elect a deacon and an elder to fill unexpired terms. Deacon Bob Thompson and Elder Rena Thompson are moving to Germany on Air Force orders and have resigned. Amy Bean is nominated to fill the Deacon term and Ruth Washburg is nominated to fill the term of Elder for Children's Ministry. Please try to attend this important congregational meeting.

The Session approved an expenditure of \$52,000.00 to repair the parking lot. An additional \$10,000.00 was approved to cover repair of sidewalks, upgrade drainage, and to address residual parking lot issues.

A new schedule of committee meetings, Alpha and Omega Nights and Theta Sunday, was approved. This aligns several committees meeting at the same time so that Pastor Adam can be available when needed and ensures that the committees meet prior to the Session meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Some committees have already changed their meeting times and all will follow the new schedule as of July 1, 2019. (Alpha Night is the first Tuesday, Omega Night is the second Thursday and Theta Sunday is the second Sunday of the month.)

Pastor Adam's installation service was approved for June 30 at 4:00 PM. This is a service of National Capital Presbytery and Moderator Miram Dewhurst will be with us to officially install Pastor Adam as our called pastor. Please save the date for this very important event in the life of our congregation.

As always, if you have questions about this report or any other Session business, please contact an elder, the clerk or the pastor.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session



Stewardship

SUMMER is here at last! With summer comes family vacations, friends heading to the beaches or mountains, Fun, JOY, Laughter, LOVE and making beautiful memories. As you head into the season, remember to keep your family, property and surroundings safe. Go online to local web pages that provide information about keeping your home or place of establishment secure while you are away. Look at health web sites for information on insect bites, sun burn and other summer health related issues.. Most important, keep God's presence close by and be thankful for all He has provided you and loved ones. Have a joyful summer and please keep our church and church families in your thoughts and prayers.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ~ James 1:17



Buildings and Grounds

Building and Grounds is pleased to announce that we will be beginning the parking lot restoration project very soon. We plan to have the project completed by the end of summer. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and patience during this process.



To God be the Glory,
Building and Grounds
Mike Gundel, Elder

Worship

If you are an ordained Deacon or Elder and are willing to help serve communion, whether you are currently serving or not, please send an email to Lois Walker who puts together the servers for each communion. She will even send you email reminders. Lois's email is lojwalker@gmail.com.

Marti Hall, Worship and Music Elder

June 2019 - Deacon Report

Join us on June 9 for our Congregational Birthday Celebration and Talent Show in the church sanctuary at 6 PM. Come out and enjoy dessert for dinner if it's your cup of tea, and our talented flock of performers. Look for signups in the Narthex Welcome Center on June 2. We'll be looking for talent and bakers. Each birth month is represented by a cake that is "themed" for that month. You don't want to miss this fun evening. Mark your calendars.

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Mark 9:35). It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any others who may be in distress. The role of Deacons at FUPCDC is designed to be a ministry of compassion and care manifested by Deacons developing caring relationships with assigned members encouraging those members to be active participants in the life of the congregation. Deacons once ordained or installed serve a three-year rotation with the church. Feel free to reach out to any of the Deacons on the 2019 Board of Deacons with questions or encouragement.

2019 BOARD OF DEACONS A Ministry of Compassion and Service

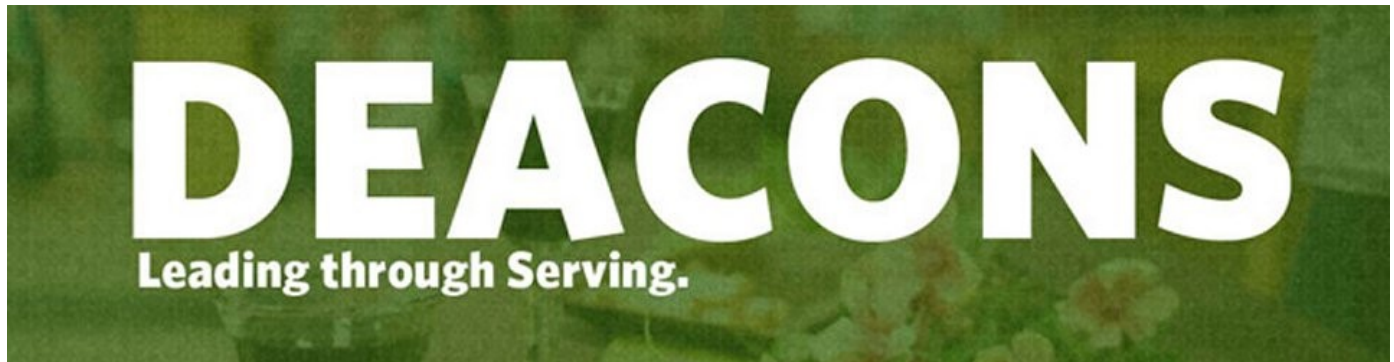
Class of 2019
Gail Cobb
Claudia Cunningham
Mayra Drayer
Betty Matthews
Denise Parris

Class of 2020
Agnes Fokwa
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2021
Liz Goolgasian
Peggy Heins
Therese Same
Patricia Whitman

Denise Parris, Co-Moderator..... 703-730-3920
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator 703-680-7673

**We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Denise Parris or Carol Schwalm by calling the number listed above or the church office.*



Adult Ministry



The opportunities for Adult Christian Education continue at First United. Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter will lead a 6 week exploration of the Origins of the Bible. Did you ever wonder about how the Bible as we know it came to be? How it evolved? Wonder no longer! Join us in the Triple Room between services at 9:45 AM. A seat is saved for you.

June 23 & 30, July 7, 14, 21, & 28 (six straight Sundays) -- mini-course on the Origins of the Bible (OT & NT).

We will resume on September 15, looking at books from the Hebrew scriptures (OT).

Children's Ministry

On Sunday, June 2 at both services, we will be presenting our 4th and 5th graders with bibles. Congratulations to: Andrew, Angelina, Bella, Faith, Jakie, Joey, Maddy, Mike, Ryan, Sarapong and Sarapomnaa! Way to go kids!

Kidz Church will end on Sunday, June 9.

Our Summer schedule begins Sunday, June 16.

9:45 AM: Kidz Church will be open to children age 5 through 10 (Kindergarten through 5th grade)

11:00 AM: SUMMER BREAK!! Fall sessions will resume in August.

As always, the Nursery will be available (8:30 AM, 9:45 AM & 11:00 AM) during the Summer for children infant through four years old.



Little Hands Preschool

Under the suggestion and direction of Pastor Adam, Little Hands Preschool embarked on a new spring fundraiser called the Joyful Noise Walk-a-thon. This spin on a typical walk-a-thon enabled children to shake bells throughout the walk and ring a service bell to signify the completion of a lap. This idea proved to be a big hit with the preschoolers and spectators. The addition of an obstacle course full of hula hoops, and a walk across the balance beam ensured loads of fun! This fundraiser was awesome! I loved how it fostered a community connection by encouraging local businesses to donate in support of the preschool. We are looking forward to this again next fall.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

To GOD be the Glory Always,
Tiffany

Welcome to the Family!

Welcome to our NEW Members!!



Aruna and Emma Turay
and their son, Denzel

Their other son is waiting in France for
Immigration to complete its work!
Prayers, please!!

Mission and Outreach

Vacation Bible Camp Registration is now live!

Shipwrecked!: Rescued by Jesus

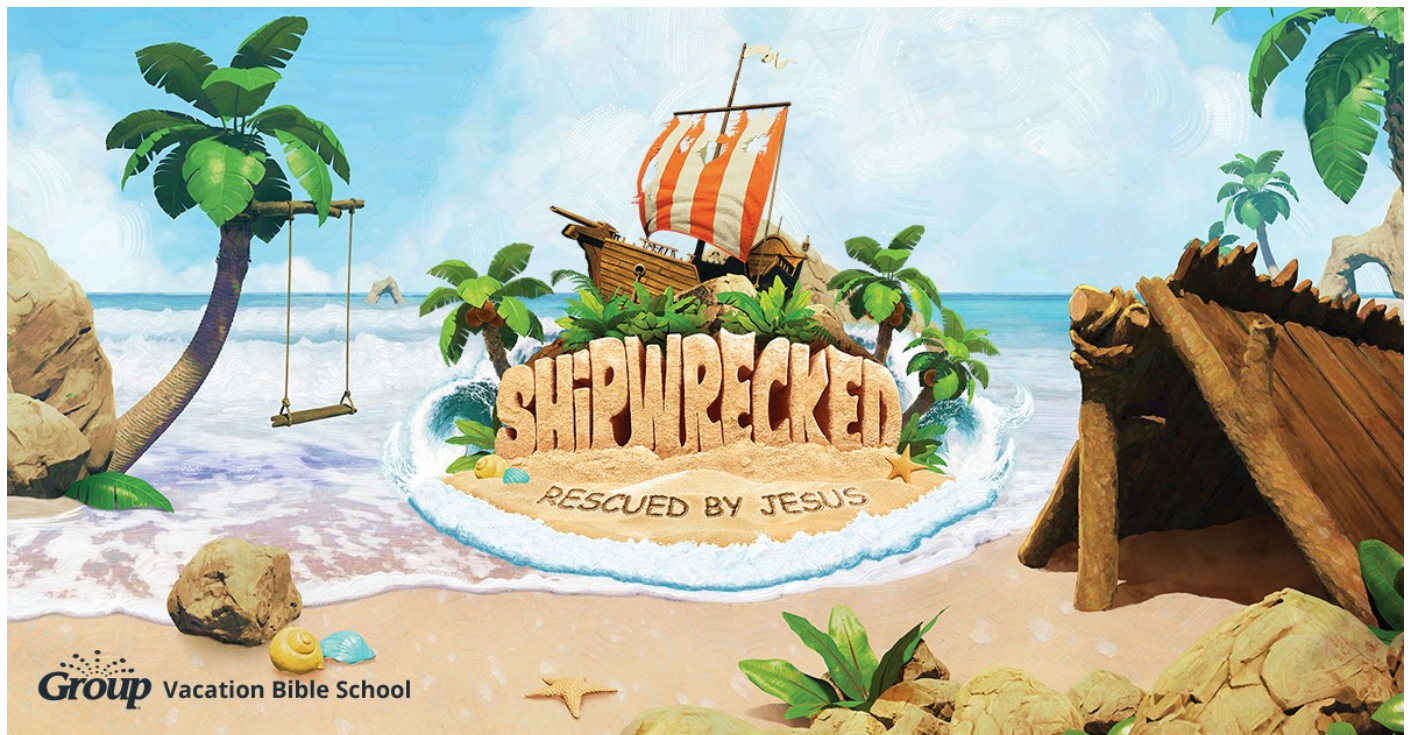
JUNE 17 - 21, 2019

9:00 AM - 3:15 PM (Doors open at 8:30 AM)

For: Rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders!

For more information and registration:

<https://fupcdc.org/vacation-bible-school>



Under the auspices of the Mission and Outreach committee

Lighthouse Drama Camp presents ...

Winnie the Pooh Kids.



Camp News:

July 1 through July 12 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM

Performances:

Friday NightJuly 12, 7:00 PM @ Ferlazzo Building

Saturday Afternoon...July13, 2:00 PM Westminster (Limited Space)

Register Online @FUPCDC.ORG

Mission:

This year our camp will be supporting Rise Malawi, an offshoot of Urban Promise. We will not charge admission, but will take donations to our "Hunny" Pot throughout the week.



Also, we plan to fill a "**Winnie Basket**"Tickets will be \$5 each. Raffle will be drawn at Friday night performance..... we are building the basket as we report this. It will have all sorts of surprises.

- What can you do?
- 1) Register Now... if you have kids ☺
 - 2) Contribute to our Hunny Pot ☺
 - 3) Buy Raffle Tickets ☺
 - 4) Tell your friends ☺
 - 5) Come See our Show@ Ferlazzo Theatre seating...plenty of room!

Mission and Outreach



3733 National Drive
Suite 200
Raleigh NC 27612

(888) 501-8440 · (919) 839-0689
fax: 919-839-8971
riseagainsthunger.org

May 15, 2019

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Rd
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Friends,

We are incredibly grateful for your recent gift of \$3,414.96 to Rise Against Hunger (a 501(c)(3) organization), formerly Stop Hunger Now, received 4/29/2019. Your gift gives us the ability to change lives, create sustainable communities and respond quickly in times of disaster.

There is a strong correlation between school attendance and food availability. If kids can get a warm meal at school, their parents are more likely to send them, recognizing the importance of that nutrition---sometimes their only meal of the day. There used to be major attendance issues at the Hilario Sanchez School in Nicaragua. Students weren't attending school to work in their families' businesses in order to eat. Rise Against Hunger partnered with the North Country Mission of Hope ensure our meals were administered at school to encourage attendance.

Things are changing for those kids in Nicaragua. Attendance rates are nearly 100% and academic performance has increased. These students are learning reading and writing, along with essential skills that will secure their place within society. From surviving to thriving, each student has a chance to be their best selves -- thanks to your support. *One warm meal a day is leading to literacy.*

And that's how we'll end hunger: one child, one day at a time, multiplied by dozens of corporate food donors, hundreds of partner agencies, thousands of communities, tens of thousands of meal packaging volunteers around the world and the generosity of supporters like you.

Thank you for rising up with us as we fight to end world hunger by 2030. It is possible.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy L. Shriver".

Peggy Shriver
Chief Development Officer

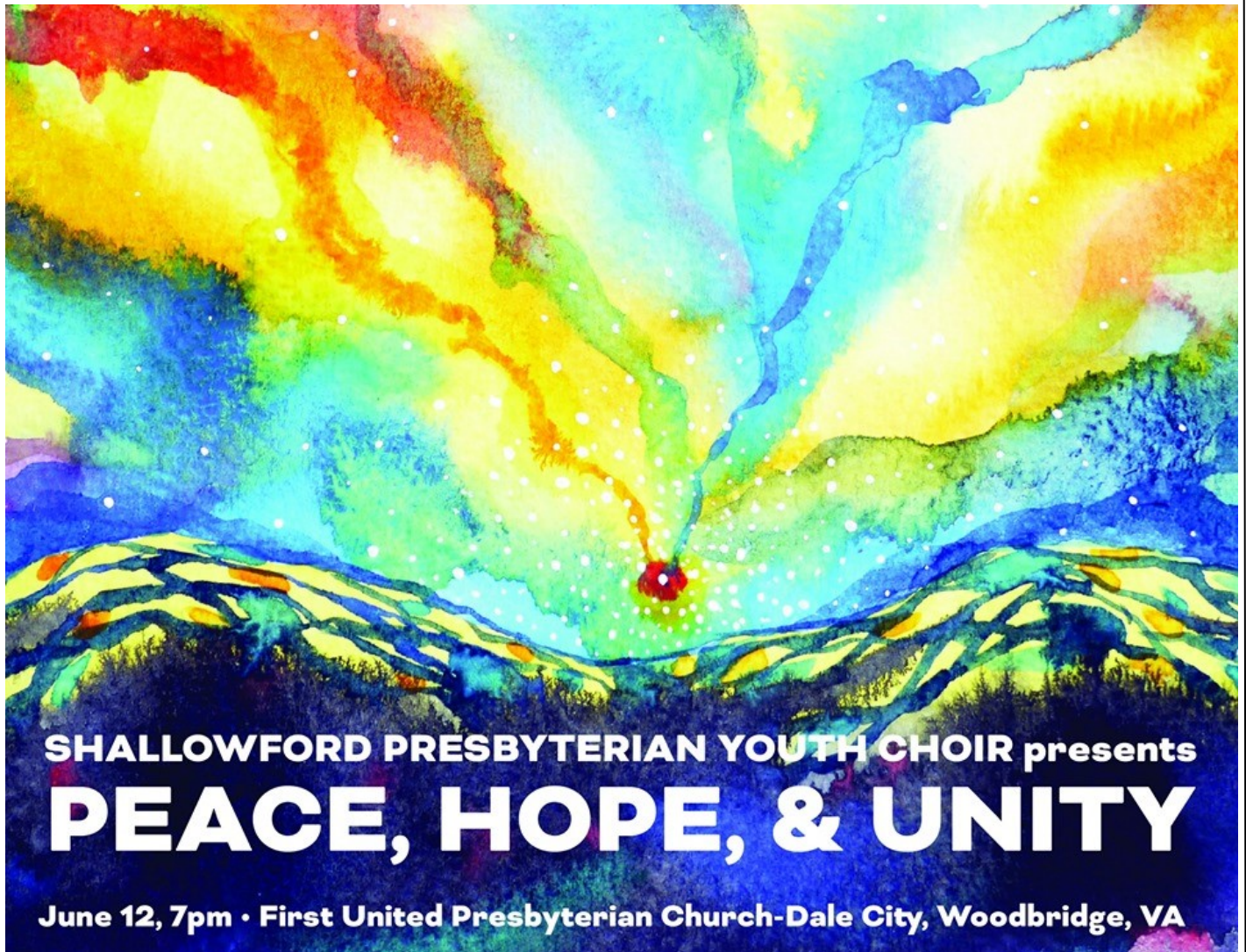
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Day".

Kate Day
Interim Chief Executive Officer

This letter serves as your receipt. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. Please consult your tax advisor about the deductibility of this contribution. Our tax identification number is 16-1541024. Again, thank you!

food · community · sustainability

Upcoming Event



6:00 PM Potluck Dinner before 7 PM performance

Please bring dish to share with all. There will 72 guests to feed.

Thank you so much!

This newsletter covers events from June 1 through June 30. The deadline for article submission that will cover July 1 through July 31 will be June 25.

*Exceptions: Lighthouse Drama Camp (July)

*Passion for Christ—Compassion for Others
Loving God—Loving Others
Connect—Grow—Serve*