



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

July 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

Boxes, Boxes, Everywhere!

As many of you know, our house finally sold in North Carolina, so I moved my family to Virginia this past month. We are so very excited to finally be under one roof and living together, especially since we are expecting our fourth child this July. Thank you for your prayers and support during this busy time for our family!



I now fully understand and appreciate Jesus' instruction to the disciples in Mark 6: 8-9, "**He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.**" If we could have done this, I admit, the move to Virginia would have been a bit easier. However, I'm what you might call a 'defensive packer.' Maybe as you prepare for summer family trips, you can relate? I pack for 'what ifs' – hoping to be prepared for any eventuality in terms of weather or occasion.



One or even two pair of shoes might not be the right ones, so at the last minute I can be found sliding in just one more pair. As I pack for a family trip, I think about the possibility of rain, and so I pack rain coats and umbrellas. What if it rains the entire week we are at the beach? And so, I pack some board games for the family to play. Suddenly, the family minivan is so loaded down we barely have room for the kids!

Now it is true, of course, that you and I live in a much different time than did Jesus and his disciples. It is true that perhaps 'hospitality to the stranger' played a larger role in that place and time, so it was more likely that their needs would have been met regardless of what they hadn't packed for themselves. It is also true that Jesus' first disciples didn't own nearly as much as we do.

Even so, Jesus' words always get me thinking, and for that reason I know they still speak. Indeed, I wonder sometimes just what all of my 'baggage' gets in the way of me experiencing? This could be physical, emotional, or spiritual baggage:

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- As I turn my attention to guard my belongings, how am I less able to reach out with a gesture of kindness to another?
- As I rely on my own careful planning for every eventuality, how am I less open to what God may have waiting for me?
- If I already have everything I need, how am I less able to receive the gifts of those I meet along the way?

So perhaps Jesus' sending the disciples out 'traveling light' makes perfect sense after all. Maybe this is especially true when we are sent with the Good News as the disciples were—so that both those who are sent and those who are receiving would more fully be able to receive the gifts of God.

1. Why do you think Jesus has the disciples 'travel light'?
2. What was absolutely essential for the disciples' journey?
3. What should we 'leave behind' as we are sent on our journeys of sharing the Good News?
4. What is essential for us as we are sent with the Good News of Jesus? For us as individuals? For our congregation?



As Max Lucado explains in his book Traveling Light, “God has a great race for you to run. Under His care, you will go where you’ve never been and serve in ways you’ve never dreamed. But you have to drop some stuff. How can you share grace when you are full of guilt? How can you offer comfort in you are disheartened? How can you lift someone’s load if your arms are full with your own?” So this summer, as you prepare for the journey ahead, I encourage you to set down some of your bags at the feet of Jesus. For Jesus calls to us saying, **“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)**

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam



Session Report - June

At the June Session meeting, we approved the up-dated Little Hands Preschool by-laws and approved Tawnya Soltis for a one-year term as secretary to the LHP Board. A written report from Director Tiffany Ramsey shared end-of-the-year activities and updated current enrollment. There are still openings to be filled in most classes and you are encouraged to spread the word about our wonderful ministry to the little ones.

Session also approved a Task Force representatives from the Adult Education, Congregational Connections, Worship and Youth committees to plan for and host a Seder Dinner on April 9, 2020 (Maundy Thursday).

Under Mission and Outreach, the Lighthouse Drama Camp was authorized to collect funds for the Urban Promise Malawi mission project. The committee also announced plans to support the KAIROS prison ministry in several ways to be presented later.

Tim Camus's letter of resignation as Elder for Finance and Administration was received and Tim was thanked for his many contributions to the ministry at FUPCDC. Jon Guest will be the interim F&A Elder as well as continuing to lead the Safety and Security Committee. Safety and Security's Usher Guidelines were approved; some provisions are already being carried out.

An offering for the National Capital Presbytery's Clergy Crisis Fund to be received during Pastor Adam's installation was approved. This service formally ends the work of the PNC. Both Pastor Adam and the congregation will be charged to be partners in ministry here.

Building and Grounds was authorized to spend an additional \$2,000.00 to fix drainage issues discovered in the process of preparing to repair the parking lot. Taking care of the drainage problems will prevent further damage to the parking lot, sidewalks, and other areas. Thank you for your patience as these projects are bring completed "decently and in order."

Funding was approved for the painting of the outside window trim and door by the pulpit leading out of the sanctuary.

Funding of \$2,000.00 for new classroom chairs for the Triple Room was also approved.

A new small group, FUPCDC Earth Care, with a focus on stewardship of our environment, was approved under the Congregational Connections Committee.

The Stewardship Committee announced that the "I Give Online" cards will be introduced to the congregation on June 30 to allow those giving electronically monthly or yearly, to participate more actively in the offering during worship. Elders were also given information from the Time and Talent forms as to volunteers interested in their ministries.

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



Stewardship

On Sunday, June 30, your Stewardship Committee introduced the “I Give Online” offering cards. Many of you and your families who give online have mentioned that you would like to have a greater level of participation during the Service of Giving. The Stewardship Committee with assistance from the Finance and Administration Committee addressed this request. The “I Give Online” cards may be found on the hooks placed on the metal portion of the backs of three different chairs in the row before you. If sitting in the front row, please ask a fellow worshiper on the second row for an “I Give Online” card. “I Give Online” cards are laminated and will be re-used. Gently lift the card off the hook at anytime prior to the Service of Giving and as the offering plate is passed, place the card in the plate. We ask that only one card per family be placed in the plate. *Since this is a new process for FUPCDC, your feedback to the Stewardship Committee will be greatly appreciated. Please write down your thoughts and drop them in the office marked STEWARDSHIP, or place them in the Stewardship mail box. Blessings and Safety for a wonderful Summer!*

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace
~ 1 Peter 4:10 ESV



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.

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

Summer schedule:

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.

Worship

Hope Haitian Choir at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

“Amazing,” “so inspiring,” “what beautiful children,” “what beautiful voices,” “they sure are energetic!” These are the comments heard after most every concert by Hope Haitian Choir. This non-traditional choir, made up of fifteen young people, ranging in age from 10 – 18, are touring the eastern U.S. this summer, sharing their joy in a variety of venues and churches. The Choir began seven years ago, with a new group of children coming each summer. Their exceptional voices, combined with energetic dancing, effectively communicate a message of hope. Though many of these young people come from very difficult circumstances in their home country of Haiti, they demonstrate a buoyant spirit which finds its source in their genuine faith. Under the direction of Barb House of Boothbay, Maine, the Choir has sung at Christian conventions in Haiti, on radio and television stations, at the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey, and at a variety of both indoor and outside venues.

You are invited to be a part of their special experience as they travel and share in our country, knowing that it will prove to be a blessing to you! Their concert will be held at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, 14391 Minnieville Road, Woodbridge, VA 22193 at **7:00 PM on Sunday, July 28, 2019**. There is no fee, but an offering will be taken to help with the Choir costs as well as to help fund projects in Haiti, CDs and other items will be available, as well. For more information, call 703-670-7834, or check out the Choir and ministry website: www.hopehaitian.com.

We will be providing a **pot luck supper** for the Choir on **Sunday, July 28, 2019 at 5:00 PM**. (Their director wants about 2 hours for their food to settle and for changing clothes, etc., before the concert.) There are 16 children and 9 adults, so this is nothing compared to the size of our last concert/pot luck!

Additionally, we are looking for host families for the choir and chaperones for Sunday and Monday nights. As a former host family, I can tell you it is an awesome experience for all involved. (We do have one child with a cat allergy.) It would be great for the host families to sit and eat with their guests, giving everyone the opportunity to get to know each other. **All adults in the host families will need to be background checked if they haven't already done so for Bible Camp or Drama Camp.**

They will need breakfast and a bag lunch on Monday and Tuesday. If you are willing to help with any of these needs, please call, text or email Marti Hall at 703-626-2269 or martihall@comcast.net. (I know we have some fabulous pancake makers for the Men's Breakfast! Want to share your talents with our guests?)

Please keep your eye on the Sunday morning bulletins for further information.

**Hope Haitian
Choir 2019!!**

In Concert

Lively...Inspirational...
and filled with HOPE!!

Congregational Connections



Earth Care

Why should Christians care about the environment? Why should we be concerned about pollution, resource depletion, climate change, and the burgeoning number of threatened and endangered species?

Many Christians argue that these things are not the Church's concern. They cite Genesis 1:26, in which God created man in His own image and granted him dominion over all the earth. They claim that this means that everything on Earth is mankind's to use and exploit for his own purposes.

A closer look at Genesis and the Bible as a whole, however, reveals the fallacy of this argument. A few examples follow.

1. God created the Earth and everything in it, and He declared that it was "very good" (Gen 1:3-31). God values His creation, and so should we. Furthermore, God is the true lord over His creation, not us (Ps 24:1-2, among many other verses). Therefore, we are His stewards or overseers, responsible to Him for the care of His creation.
2. When God decided to unleash a flood upon the Earth to destroy everything on it because mankind was evil, corrupt and sinful, He instructed Noah to save two of every species of animal so each species would survive (Gen 6:11-21). God cares about all of his creatures, and so should we.
3. Nature bears witness to the glory of God (Ps 19:1-4; Job 12:7-9 and others) and actively praises Him (Psalm 96:11-13). How many of us have seen the hand of God in His creation? How many of us have been brought to tears by the beauty of a sunset, caught our breath at the sight of a soaring bird of prey, marveled at the delicate beauty of a flower or fallen to our knees at the realization that God, who created and cares about each of these things, also created and cares for us? Should not future generations be able to experience these things as well?
4. We have a mandate to care for the poor (Matt 25:34-36; Luke 3:11) and the poor are the ones who suffer most when human activity disrupts their environment. Famine, floods, storms and pollution disproportionately affect the poorest countries, and the poorest people in each country. By engaging in more sustainable practices and opposing unrestricted development and exploitation of natural resources we demonstrate our love not only for God's creation, but for His people as well.

If you believe Christians should be leaders in the environmental movement, proclaiming our concern for God's creation and for His people, please join the FUPCDC Earthcare group on Facebook and check upcoming bulletins and newsletters for suggestions about ways you can help care for the Earth. This can be another form of witness and can enable us to reach people who may not otherwise experience God's love or hear the gospel. The well-being of the Earth should be everyone's concern.

Deacon Report - July 2019

Snacks offer in the Narthex Welcome Center will be on the light side throughout the summer months. We are also using all the current stock of styrofoam coffee cups. Once depleted, we'll work with Homer to order necessary paper products.

Please join us at the church for Pastor Adam Bowling's official installation ceremony and reception on June 30 at 4 PM.

Save the date for the Annual Church Picnic on September 8 following the Combined Worship Service, rain or shine. Be on the lookout for more information in the Sunday bulletins.

Welcome Amy Bean our newest member of the Deacon board. Amy will assume those families from Bob Thompson's group.

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
Amy Bean

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.



DEACONS
Leading through Serving.

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)



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, **Friday, July 12th at 7 PM** —Theatre seating...plenty of room!



This is Chikondi Mbewe. The name Chikondi means LOVE! Chikondi is well named. He exemplifies Christ’s love on this Earth. We met Chikondi as a part of the visiting Urban Promise group about five years ago. Working with Bethany Wolstenholme Gregor, Chikondi supervised 7 boys who camped out in my basement. Chikondi led devotions and prayed with us and for us during his time in this area.

Since that time Chikondi has graduated from college and married. He has returned to his home in Malawi and is working with Urban Promise International. He works with Rise Malawi to help train and sustain the youth of his village.

Drama Camp is supporting his efforts in collecting an offering and raffling baskets. Please help us to help in this cause. If you have questions or would like to read Chikondi’s newsletter... ask Cathy Albrecht.

Thank You!

From Vacation Bible Camp:

Thanks to the help from our amazing and giving volunteers, we had an amazing week at *Shipwrecked! Rescued by Jesus* Vacation Bible Camp. It wouldn't have been the same without the selfless work of our group leaders, station leaders, teen volunteers, lunch ladies, readers, and administrative helpers. Every station left a lasting impression and every leader made sure that their campers were having fun and staying safe. The readers helped the kids sit back and relax, while learning something new about God and the church. Our lunch ladies watched over our campers and gave our station and group leaders a little break for lunch. Without every single one of you we wouldn't have been able to have the wonderful camp we did. Thank you and God bless!

From Barbara Wilson: Thank you for all the prayers and cards. It was so kind of you and it helped me through my time of sickness.



This newsletter covers events from July 1 - 31. The deadline for article submission that will cover August 1 - August 31 will be July 26.

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