

The Opequon Spirit

"Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations to be Christ's Hands, Heart and Feet in the World"



MARCH 2017

WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season in the church year when we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is 40 days long, remembering the 40 days that the Bible says Jesus spent in the wilderness. The word Lent comes from an old word that means to lengthen because the days are getting longer. Like Jesus, during this time we worship, pray, study and remember God's word in the Bible, and rely on God for strength and guidance. We also try to serve others as we focus on our love for God and neighbor.

Sometimes you hear people talking about what they have "given up for Lent." This reminds us of how Jesus emptied himself and sacrificed for us. People often give up something important to them or that they enjoy. Maybe that means video games, television, candy, soda, or another type of food. But, it is also just as important to "take up" something for Lent, like worship, Bible reading, prayer, or helping others. It is a good season to make wonderful changes to our lives as followers of Jesus.

Christians gather together for worship on Ash Wednesday to get Lent started off with the right heart and mind. During the Ash Wednesday service, we give much praise to God. We confess how we have failed through our sin. We pray for God to help us. And, we receive ashes. The ashes remind us that we are human beings, created by God who is the Creator. We are limited in our understanding and we make mistakes. Our life is like dust and ashes. But God . . . God is great, loving, powerful, all-knowing, perfect, and forever. God is with us always. The ashes come from burning dried palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration, the day that begins the last week of Jesus' life. The ashes we receive can be put on our foreheads or on the back of

our hands. The ashes will remind us of our need for God not just during Lent, but every day. Listen carefully to the choir sing a special song, *We Are Dust, You Are God*. Think about what it means as you sing too. Most of all, think about Jesus and his love for you.



Sunday, March 12
Turn clocks ahead one hour!

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, March 7

Dinner—6:00 pm

A marvelous meal prepared by Carole Witt awaits you! It includes Beef Tips on Noodles, Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls & Butter, Cookies and Brownies for dessert.

Suggested donation \$3 per person

Devotions—6:45 pm

Ministry Team Meetings 7:00 pm

COLLECTING FOR CCAP



TUNA

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

“Be Still!”

“Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

“Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.” Mark 4:39

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I was but a boy (I know, a long time ago!) and got restless and rambunctious at home, in church, or in a public place, my mother would often place her hand on my knee or my shoulder and say calmly but firmly, “Be still!” Most of the time (not always mind you), that is all that was needed to restore me to a manageable equilibrium. At last month’s Open Door Worship, I reflected through interactive teaching upon the two scripture verses noted above. As a worshiping community, we thought about these reminders to us from God’s holy word and shared about God’s presence with us at all times, even in the midst of chaos and fear. Indeed, we seem to be living within some chaotic moments in our nation and world. Our anxiety is amplified. Our concerns are heartfelt. Our prayers are widespread. We long for order, for serenity, and for good news. And, just as I needed to have that securing hand and those directing words from my mother guiding me, we need to listen for God’s word, reassurance, and counsel calling us back to a right relationship. “Be still!”

I don’t know about you, but I’m ready for Lent to begin. I’m glad that the 40 days of Lent will start within days, so I can give focus to emptying and filling, giving up and taking up, slowing down my body yet renewing my heart. Our Lenten theme this year is “Be Still and Know: Relate, Restore, Renew.” What a seasonal gift to us, that we can center ourselves on God and how we can work on our relationships with God and others. This will

occur through our own spiritual disciplines, of course. You can pray, fast, confess, meditate, read, sing, offer and give yourselves in both old and new ways. You can also worship and learn and dialogue within the Christ-called community of Opequon. Lenten devotionals are available. Bags for emptying and filling are posted. Small fellowship groups for caring, sharing, and prayer are open with an invitation to join one extended to you. Classes continue with a special emphasis on the season. Giving and serving possibilities abound. And worship each Sunday, with Holy Week services in abundance, afford each of us the opportunity to grow personally and communally as we sense the awesome presence of God through some amazing encounters. So, let this be a holy Lent, a time set apart to relate, restore, and renew, a time to be still and know. I look forward to the time we spend together; but, I wholeheartedly commend to you and pray for great blessings upon the time you will spend with the Lord.

Together in Christ’s Service,

David

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS February 21, 2017 Stated Meeting

- Session met with Rev. Maren Sonstegaard-Spray, representing the Presbytery Committee on Pastoral Transitions, to discuss Opequon’s pastoral transition in 2016.
- Session held its semi-annual meeting with the Trustees. The three funds managed by the Trustees (Rachel Bayliss Scholarship, Endowment, and Reserve) all grew in 2016, both by additions to the funds and investment income.
- Worship Ministry expressed thanks and gratitude for the service of Larry and Judy McKay in preparing communion for over six years.
- Worship reminded everyone that Lent is upon us.

- Worship Ministry is beginning a review of the condition of our organ.
- Session approved the 2017 VBS Planning Team—Rebekah DesMarais, Carrie Rockwell, Cady McCarty, Sara Birchenough, and Carole Witt, and VBS curriculum—Maker Fun Factory.
- The Fellowship Ministry Team is looking for someone to oversee the kitchen. Stella Strickler volunteered to inventory and organize the kitchen. We will create an Ad Hoc Team of those groups that use the kitchen as well.
- Session approved a job description for a part time Director of Youth and Young Adults.
- Building & Grounds reported that repairs to the roof will begin soon.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that it is considering moving to Quick Books. This will make it easier to get assistance with maintaining our financial records.
- Session approved a request from the Shenandoah Valley Chorus to hold a concert at Opequon in October.

OUR NEW PARISH ASSOCIATE

At its February meeting, the session approved calling the Rev. Tracie Martin as Opequon's Parish Associate (Minister for Congregational Care) for a period of one year, beginning Wednesday, March 1st. Tracie will focus on visitation and partnering with pastor David and our Congregational Care Ministry, which she will resource as staff.

Tracie Martin has lived in this area for about three months. She and her husband, Bill moved here in the middle of November. She has recently retired after fourteen years as Pastor from the Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, NY. RMPC is a small, intentional older adult congregation located in the suburbs of Syracuse at the edge of the rural areas.

Tracie attended Colgate Rochester Divinity School and was ordained in 1994, but she began serving congregations as a Commissioned Lay Preacher in 1987.

Before that, she taught French and Spanish in Middle School and then opened and ran a flower shop. Tracie and Bill have one son, Benjamin, who lives in Syracuse.

Please reach out to Tracie, introduce yourself, and welcome her to Opequon Church.

RECYCLING NEED

Our recycling plan with containers scattered throughout the building and pick-up by our trash provider has run aground. If you are willing to gather up the recyclables and take them to the landfill or a convenience center, please let the church office know by emailing office@opequonchurch.org or calling 540-662-1843.

WHAT IS THAT MODEL IN THE GATHERING AREA?

Have you checked out the long, encased model in the Gathering Area? It has been in storage in the manse attic for about 14 years! In preparing to lease the manse, we brought it up to the church and dusted it off, deciding to put it on display for a time. This model was designed and facilitated by our then architects, Balzer and Associates of Roanoke, VA. The model was created as a result of our Master Plan of 2000-2002 (the first one ever at Opequon, presented to a huge crowd of 235 people at a Pilgrims' Feast!) and in moving toward the sanctuary addition of 2003-2005. We invite you to stop and gaze at the model. Look at the shape of the property. Notice the placement of the buildings. Observe how the completed building looks like the model or departed from the model. We will celebrate the 12th anniversary of our sanctuary addition this month; wow, where did that time go?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND LENTEN FELLOWSHIP GROUPS!

People of all ages are invited to be a part of a Lenten Fellowship Group this year during the six weeks of Lent. Adults of all ages and stages, youth, children and whole families will

begin meeting right after Ash Wednesday (March 1st) and continue until Easter in April. Various times and places for gathering are available. These intergenerational groups, focused on the opportunity to share, care, and pray, will help us to embrace our Lenten theme, "Be Still and Know: Relate, Restore, Renew," based upon Psalm 46:10. While we may not always be present to connect with our brothers and sisters of multiple generations on Sundays, these groups present a unique opportunity to be connected at other times. Please take note of these new fellowship groups that will replace the traditional Lenten Bible study this year and will help us build up the body of Opequon Church. Contact the church office today to sign up.

Thursdays, 1:30 pm (beginning March 2nd)
Home of Heidi & Keith McMurdo
200 Crestwood Lane, Winchester
Facilitator: Keith McMurdo

Thursdays, 7:00 pm (beginning March 2nd)
Home of Graham Taylor
220 Canyon Road, Winchester
Facilitator: JoEllen Delamatta

Sundays, 4:00 pm (beginning March 5th)
Home of Becky Myer
418 W Monmouth Street, Winchester
Facilitators Debbie & Bill Bender

Sundays, 6:00 pm (beginning March 5th)
TVOR Residents Only
The Village at Orchard Ridge
400 Clocktower Ridge Drive, Winchester
Facilitator: Dave Richards

Mondays, 6:00 pm (beginning March 6th)
Home of Carole & David Witt
203 Halifax Court, Stephens City
Facilitator: Carole Witt

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

The winds of March may howl outdoors, as we enjoy a flurry of events safely indoors! Hold onto your hat as we continue in ministry together. All older adults are invited to participate.

The Older Adult Ministry Team will be meeting on Monday, March 6, 9:30 am in the

Bageant Room. There is always a great deal of laughter and fun during the planning and discussions that the team shares. Morning goodies are always a treat too! The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to attend.

Happy Days this month occurs on Wednesday, March 8 at Noon. This monthly older adult fellowship group provides a generous dose of joy as we eat together and enjoy a special program each time. The gathering begins with a covered dish lunch which is always an array of your most delicious choices. Following lunch, we will have a brief business meeting, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and hear highlights of church activities coming up. Our guest speaker this month is from The Evans Home. We will be presenting the speaker with a check for the total amount collected in the coin jar from 2016. Come on out and hear what the Evans Home does for children in our community.

One spot remains for the trip to Edinburg Mill on Wednesday, April 19 with lunch at the Garden Café in the Fort Valley Nursery. The cost is \$8 per person plus lunch. The mill tour includes an informative movie called "The Burning". Sign up for this trip by adding your name to the list in the Gathering Area kiosk or by contacting Carole Witt, dce@opequonchurch.org.

Co-sponsored by Opequon Church
and
Mountain-Valley Mission Community:

A Film:
"When God Has Left the Building"

Sunday, March 26, 3:00 p.m.

Film, Discussion, & Light Supper
Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

THE LATEST IN LOGOS

What a terrific LOGOS year this has been and as we begin March, we realize our weeks of LOGOS for this current year are winding down. We often grieve when it ends each Spring. It has been exciting each Wednesday since last September! Recently, we had super fun with “Super Bowl Night”, “B is for Blue Night”, and “Love Your Slippers and Socks Night”. What a relay we had using slippers and socks across the Fellowship Hall floor! It is a blast here each Wednesday!

This month we are celebrating on Wednesdays with “Ugly Tie Night” which will include our annual SPOON HANGING CONTEST, “A Night in the Tropics”, “The Big Hunt”, and our closing night theme “All Wrapped Up”. LOGOS families are invited to come for dinner 6:00 pm on March 29, the final night. Meat, rolls, and beverages will be provided. Families and staff are asked to bring side dishes, vegetable, salad, fruit or dessert to share for the pot luck portion of the meal. Dinner time will include a feature slide presentation with glimpses of the LOGOS year and the honoring of all our LOGOS young people who are graduating or moving on to a new stage in school. We will be making the most of this final month of this LOGOS year.

GO LOGOS!

LOGOS SUNDAY

Our annual LOGOS Sunday is March 26, during 11:00 worship. LOGOS Sunday is when all our LOGOS young people prepare for and lead the worship service. They work hard in their Bible classes to write many parts of the service and they practice music and dramas to share during the worship service as well. The theme for worship on LOGOS Sunday is “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” based on Colossians 1:10. You are invited to come PRAISE GOD together as the LOGOS young people help us worship on March 26. A highlight of this worship time has been the closing circle when our LOGOS staff, children and youth encircle the whole congregation symbolizing the “hug” that LOGOS puts around

a church’s ministry. Let us celebrate the joy we all have in LIVING SO GOD CAN USE US!

WORM

**Workshops for Children each
Sunday Morning**



WORM is the Sunday morning educational time for children with the format of different workshops each week that share lessons in creative and engaging ways with many hands on and active things for the children to be involved in as they explore faith and bible stories. No more just sitting in a chair to listen. Most recently, WORM workshops have offered our children a closer look at how LOVE WINS, How Opequon Church is THEIR church, and that all-time favorite lesson on “Honoring Parents” that featured a special skit by five of our high school youth. Children love the workshop experiences on Sunday morning. This month the workshops will be focusing on “The Tower of Babel”, “Stories of Ruth and Esther”, and a special Lenten Lesson. WORM workshops are held on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Has your child been here to enjoy it? Let the children come!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY



There will be a marriage enrichment session this month on Sunday, **March 12 at 9:45 am** in the church office suite. Each session stands alone and thus you can ‘pop’ in whenever the sessions are convenient for you. This month’s session will focus on “Sharing Responsibility and Working Together”. Sessions have been great fun for the participants as they have gained insight for even healthier relationships with one another. Look forward to what’s in store at each gathering. Come join us. These gatherings are for couples of any age or stage!

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

Confirmation students served at Jubilee Kitchen one Saturday morning last month and, during the next two months, they will be making visits on Ministry Team Night to listen in on discussions and the work of a few ministry teams of their choice. Recent class lessons have covered "Human Sinfulness and Idolatry" and "Tyranny". This month will be "Reconciliation", "The Holy Spirit", and "Prayer". Continue to remember **Paige Clark**, **Cameron Ritter**, and **Reagan Tibbs** in your prayers as these young people participate in the journey of confirmation.

A LENTEN CHALLENGE!

The season of Lent begins on March 1, Ash Wednesday and continues for a period of six weeks/40 days, ending on Easter. Lent offers us the time to sacrifice, reflect, renew, and relate as we examine our relationship with God. It is the perfect time to CLEAN OUT, LET GO, and fill up on God's goodness. **So, here's the challenge:** our goal as a congregation is to FILL 40 BAGS in 40 DAYS! Clean out - a drawer, closet, room, garage, office, vehicle- whatever, and fill up a bag with unneeded things or trash. Donate the bag of items and toss out the trash! AHHH, it feels so good to get rid of unneeded clutter and have more space! The large bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary will help us track our progress in filling 40 bags in 40 days. WHEN YOU FILL UP A BAG, place a sticker (they are provided at the bottom of the bulletin board) on one of the 40 bags on the wall and take the "Prayer Pretzels" off as your reward. Enjoy the snack and the prayer that comes with it. Certainly, as a congregation, we can meet the challenge of cleaning out 40 bags of STUFF in 40 days! Watch the bulletin board to see our progress!

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AIDS

For children: [A Lent List for Kids](#) is available! The pages are full of daily things to do during the days and weeks of Lent. Spend just a few

minutes a day to do ONE task from the Lent List. This list of things to do are perfect for helping children ponder what this season is all about. [A Lent List for Kids](#) is available in the Dell Room and Gathering Area.

For adults: [Living the Gospel Life: Daily Devotions for Christians on a Mission](#) are available for adults. These pages offer self-seeking ways to journey down "God Street" as you are equipped, inspired, and challenged to a faith that is alive and active for the Lord during this holy season. Devotion booklets are available in the Dell Room and Gathering Area.

SAVE THE DATE!
Family Easter Event
Saturday, April 15, 9:00 am
Breakfast Rotation to Stations,
Delightful Egg Hunt & Goodies

CHECK OUT OUR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:45 am) DURING LENT:

"Faith in Families" (Assembly Room) -
"Practicing Discipleship"

"Spiritual Growth" (Bageant Room) -
[Thank God It's Friday](#), by Will Willimon
"Hands, Heart, & Feet" (Memorial Sanctuary) -
Nooma video series



INFO FROM
PATTY KLINEFELTER, OUR
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

BLOOD DRIVE
Saturday, March 25
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



March is Red Cross Month, and as a blood donor, you are a part of an elite group of community heroes that help save lives. Every day the Red Cross must collect nearly 14,000 blood donations for patients in need. Your blood donation can bring help and hope during patient emergencies.

Blood is needed for accident victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. Eligible donors with types O, B negative or A negative blood are encouraged to make a Power Red donation.

Power Red donors give a concentrated dose of red blood cells during a single donation, allowing them to maximize their impact. During this type of donation, red blood cells are separated from other blood components, and the plasma and platelets are safely and comfortably returned to the donor.

Type O negative is the universal blood type and what emergency personnel reach for in trauma situations when there isn't time to determine a patient's blood type.

Type O positive is the most common blood type and can be transfused to Rh positive patients of any blood type.

Types A and B negative can be transfused to Rh positive or negative patients.

You can save time by using RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history online before you come to your appointment. Learn more at redcrossblood.org/RapidPass. For detailed donor eligibility questions, please call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org. With other questions, please contact Patty Klinefelter, 869-6080, pklinefe@gmail.com.

Register now by going online to the Red Cross site and locating our blood drive or choose a time slot on the registration form located on a table in the Gathering Area.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

A member of our Health Ministry Team will be available to check your blood pressure after 8:30 and 11:00 am worship on Sunday, March 26.



MEN OF OPEQUON ARE BLEST TO BE A BLESSING!

We thank the men for the delicious roasted chicken and mashed potato dinner for our February Ministry Team Night meal. Watch out gentlemen: you may get that assignment again this year! We thank Carole Witt and Dottie Edwards for helping round out the meal and for all who assisted with clean-up. We can't wait to sample the men's cooking for Easter Sunrise breakfast once again this year!

The monthly MOO gathering will be held on Monday, March 13th beginning with dinner at the Chick-fil-A (PYR) at 6:00 pm; ladies are invited! Then we'll be meeting at the church at 7:00 pm in the Bageant Room. This month, we'll welcome the well-known Lauren Cummings, an excellent speaker and the Executive Director of the Valley Substance Abuse Coalition. Lauren will give us insight into the substance abuse issues of our community and how they are being addressed. We are very fortunate to have Lauren return to talk with us as she was here for Happy Days several years ago.



God-Loving Opequon Women

Opequon's women's group, known as GLOW, will be back to their monthly gatherings of friendship, support, enjoyment, and spiritual nourishment. GLOW has been on a little break the past 2 months and so we are eager to be back together for an enjoyable time. GLOW will meet on March 14 at 7:00 pm in the **Bageant Room** for a terrific event called "What's in Your Purse?" There will be goodies, drinks, and much laughter! Come on out ladies, you are invited!

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION THIS MONTH

There was lots of variety for our youth gatherings last month. This month promises some of the same. Lots of fun, fellowship, and forward thinking:

Sunday, March 5th - Bowling - 12:30 pm
Meet in the Dell Room

Sunday, March 12th - 5:00-7:00 pm
"A Congglomeration of Surprises"
Brown bag dinner night

Sunday, March 19th - 9:30 a.m. -Fellowship Hall
Annual Youth Prayer Breakfast for Lent
Guest Speaker: Mr. Mike McKiernan, John Handley High School teacher and coach who will share about his faith and doubt in the midst of a major health crisis with improvements and setbacks. Coach McKiernan is a walking testimony!

Sunday, March 26th
Monthly Motel Ministry - 12:30 pm -
Fellowship Hall

REMINDER: All youth and adults planning to go on the Baja Mission Trip are reminded that enrollment forms and a \$100 deposit are due by March 1st.

SAVE THE DATE: Big Youth Gathering with First Pres Youth - Sunday, April 2nd

Remember
OPC
in
Your Will

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Save the date of Saturday, April 22 to participate in **Rise Against Hunger**. Formerly known as Stop Hunger Now, this is the second intergenerational hunger event to be held at OPC. Come as a family from 9:00-11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall and work for the common goal to pack meals that will feed the hungry around the world. A sign-up display will be in the Gathering Area starting in April. If you have questions, contact Graham Taylor at 540-247-

4663, gtaylorgofishing@gmail.com or JoEllen Delamatta at 540-931-2667, jcdelamatta@ymail.com.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For the Lenten season, the fish coin boxes will be brought back for the children to use to collect towards the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. OGHS offering helps the homeless, those who suffer from food insecurity and those who require disaster assistance. There will be a Minute for Mission March 12 to hand the boxes out to families and a mission moment at LOGOS for children to learn how to collect coins. All monies collected should be presented on Easter Sunday. On behalf of the Mission Ministry Team, thank you to everyone who contributes to this very important annual special offering.



HOLD THE DATE!

May 20, 2017
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

"A spring event coming to YOU"

Opequon on the Lawn

This event will be held at the Pitcock Memorial Shelter and surrounding grounds, weather permitting.



Music from three local praise bands

A bouncy house for kids

A silent auction

Crafts to view / purchase

Two Food Trucks

Games for children of all ages

Face painting

Fire and Rescue Truck Staff

Staffed Emergency Medical Station

Proceeds will support local and global mission initiatives

“SOUPER BOWL” RESULTS ARE NOW IN...



Well, the Opequon family was terrible at predicting a winner of the Super Bowl (we looked good for 3 ½ quarters!), but we sure did come through in a big way for the Souper Bowl of Caring:

338 cans of soup for the Atlanta Falcons
102 cans of soup for the New England Patriots
A total of 440 cans of soup & \$65 was collected!

All soup and dollars went to the Highland Food Pantry. We thank you for your generosity and the youth for promoting, collecting, and counting!

OPEQUON SUPPORTS ICARE

Three years ago, following an intensive iCARE campaign, individuals and groups from OPC joined together to establish seventeen new iCARE sponsorships. Seventeen new students were recruited to join the Gore Children’s Home and began the 2014-2015 school year in public school in Gore.

Last year, eighteen students in the Home were supported by OPC members. There is a total of 48 iCARE sponsored students at the Home, thus the OPC family is the largest supporter of students in Shenandoah Presbytery. We can rejoice in the support OPC has shown for the program.

iCARE (Illubabor Children’s Response Effort) was established some years ago, by Shenandoah Presbytery to provide financial support for needy children in the Illubabor Bethel Synod in Ethiopia. Through iCARE’s support, the Synod supplies housing, food, clothing, medical services, and tutoring for students from primary through high school in Gore. After graduation from high school, those students attending college continue to receive iCARE support. Many of the students have lost one or both parents and are otherwise unable to continue schooling without the financial support of two parents. Some students come from very rural areas with no local secondary

school and iCARE gives these children a chance to complete their schooling. They live in a supervised dormitory setting in the Home, with regular meals, supervised study times, and regular recreational activities. Those with families go home for holidays and summer school vacations. A few with no family support live in the Home year-round.

For the coming school year, the iCARE committee is asking sponsors for \$850 per student. The Ethiopian Ministry of Education recommends \$1,100-1,200 for this type of residential care for 2017. The Synod and iCARE are struggling to meet governmental requirements and recommendations. Regardless, potential students in Illubabor need your prayers, and where possible your financial help. Those who can only support a partial sponsorship may be matched with others. Hopefully, all the current sponsoring individuals and groups will be able to continue their gifts for the coming school year and new partial or full sponsors will join in supporting the program. We would love to give the Home the opportunity to find new students!

Please feel free to contact **Pam Bayliss**, baylissfour@comcast.net, 540-662-5745 or **Bill Burslem**, wburslem331@comcast.net or 540-667-0172 for further information and questions.

RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIP

Applications were emailed to graduating seniors and/or parents. Deadline for Submission is Monday, May 1st. If you have questions, please contact George Schember, Scholarship Chairman, at 540-667-2559 or schemjg@verizon.net.

SEARCHING FOR NEW COMMUNION STEWARDS

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

After over six years of faithful and dedicated service, **Larry and Judy McKay** have stepped into retirement from their roles as communion

stewards. The Worship Ministry Team wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Larry and Judy for offering their time and talents to prepare communion for so many years. We are truly blessed.

The Worship Ministry Team is now searching for new communion stewards. This very meaningful role is usually fulfilled by a 2-person team and requires a small amount of time monthly. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month, on Maundy Thursday and on Christmas Eve. Preparation takes about an hour and is done the day before. It also involves time between the 8:30 and 11:00 am services, and cleanup after the last service. Extra time may be needed on Christmas Eve.

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Leslie Tucker, 540-664-0637 lesliehtucker@verizon.net.

A 2017 Flower Chart is on display in the Gathering Area on the CCAP table. There are many Sundays to choose from. Select the special Sundays when you want to honor a loved one with flowers in the Sanctuary.



SEARCHING FOR BUGS!

Have you seen our BUGS? They may be hiding in your home or have already escaped outside during the early spring weather. We know our BUGS are just waiting to come out of hiding and do what they do best: making others feel comfortable and welcome.

BUGS are Beadles, Ushers and Greeters. These servants in ministry fulfill their roles before and during worship services, serving on a rotating schedule. **Beadles** are mature individuals, age 60 and above, who have the honor of carrying in the church Bible at the beginning of the worship service. **Ushers** welcome worshippers into the sanctuary, hand out bulletins, assist visitors and those with

special needs, collect the offering and assist with special moments in the service. **Greeters** welcome members and guests before each worship service at both entrances.

BUGS play a vital role in the growth of our church. Greeters and ushers can help people connect. Most people join and connect where they bond with the people. Greeting people as they enter OPC is more than a handshake and a smile. It is an opportunity to express God's love through Christ and help set the tone of the upcoming worship service.

Our BUG team is eager to add new members and there's plenty of opportunity to serve. Each worship service usually involves one beadle, two greeters and three adult ushers. To sign up or for information, please contact Leslie Tucker at 540-664-0637 or lesliehtucker@verizon.net. Please consider becoming a BUG this spring!

TULIPS FOR EASTER



Help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter by providing potted tulips. You can honor or remember someone special or give glory to God. Orders will be due Sunday, April 2nd. Order forms will be available in Sunday bulletins and the church office.

SUPERHERO 5K & KIDS' RUNS

"Every child needs a hero, but abused children need Superheroes!" Join the ChildSafe Center-CAC and Shenandoah Valley Runners on Sat. April 22th, 9AM at Greenwood Mill Elementary School for our 5th Annual Superhero 5K and Kids Runs. Sign up today and become a Superhero for a child! Register online at: www.childsafecenter.com or call 540-303-7839 for details. P.S. Though not required, we encourage everyone to dress as your favorite Superhero!

The ChildSafe Center-CAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit serving abused & traumatized children. We currently are serving on average 250 children in a year.



We express our Christian love and sympathy to...

Mary McKay upon the death of her sister, Shirley, January 21st

Nancy Budny upon the death of her mother, Kathleen Allen Parkman Lamb, January 22nd

Martha Fulton & family upon the death of her husband, **Arthur**, on February 23

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me shall never die."

John 11:24-25

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

To Our Opequon Church Family,
Thank you to Tuesday Morning Mission for the lunch they provided for Bob and I in January. Also, we appreciate all the visits made to Bob in the hospital by David, Jean and other church members. Thanks for all the prayers and support given to our family during Bob's illness.
Denise & Bob Weidele

Many, many thanks to my dear friends of Opequon for all the beautiful cards I received for my 90th birthday. I enjoy reading them over and over. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Love & Prayers,
Burneice Witt

WE'VE MOVED



Joan Beverly
2250 Sofia Way Apt 8
Winchester VA 22601

Mary Everhart
141 Colonial Dr Apt C
Harrisonburg VA 22801-2739



- 3 Jessica Kraemer, Ty Martin, Sarah Weir
- 4 Erma Conner, Brenda Kain
- 5 Margaret Dearth, Rebekah Witt
- 6 Joan Beverly, Ellie Cammer
- 8 Meredith Butler, Brenda Carbaugh
- 9 Jill Call
- 10 Lisa Reed, Jack Youngblood
- 11 Jay Journell
- 12 Virginia Barr, Alex Odei
- 13 Vicki Schmidt Crites, Edgar Tufts
- 14 Sara Kraemer, Travis Saunders
- 15 Mike Birchenough, Ali Turner, John Hess,
Susan Lee, Ashley McKay,
Jennifer Ralls
- 17 Katherine Jeffries
- 18 Susie Cherry, Taylor Heishman,
Judy Stossel
- 19 Jacob Gaul, John Wright
- 20 Scott Sydnor
- 21 Dave Ervin
- 22 Samuel Edwards
- 25 Dan Broznak, Thelma Cameron
- 26 Abigayle Jenks
- 27 Melissa Ambers, Leigh Headley,
Stuart Williams
- 28 Adalyn Dantro, Allison & Melanie Morgan
- 29 Gary Dove, Brad Kochel
- 30 Brady Cooper, Nadine DeHaven
- 31 Kurtis Knechtel



- 1 Jeff & Cherylynn Shiley
- 6 Philip & Susan Ritter
- 8 John & Jackie Boyd
- 15 David & Carole Witt
- 18 Steve & Michele Wilson
- 19 Thomas & Mandy Keaton,
Philip & Jennifer Ralls
- 26 Jim & Libby Keeler
- 28 Alan & Terry McKay

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Acolytes

8:30
5 Addison Williams
12 Carson Ritter
19 Reagan Tibbs
26 Volunteers Needed

11:00
5 Brady Cooper
12 Lauren Moses
19 Breanna Daggett
26 LOGOS Sunday

Beadles

8:30 Sandy Vess (12 & 19)
11:00 Robyn Ervin

Bell Ringers

8:30 Mo Mohler
11:00 Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper,
AnnMarie Kelly

Greeters

8:30
5 Cathy Plumb
12 Becky Proctor
19 Mike Butler

11:00 Laurel & Jason Hathaway (5 & 19)

Hospitality

8:30
5 Ina & Robert Walker
12 Heide Mohler, Graham Taylor
19 Lisa & Bill Frye
28 Betty Chicklo, June Malone

11:00
5 Betty Ganoë, Debi Hodgson
12 Jack Drumheller, Annemarie Matthews
19 Betty Ganoë, Debi Hodgson
28 Jack Drumheller, Annemarie Matthews

Liturgists

8:30 Tom Tandy
11:00 Heather Burton

Ushers

8:30
5 Emma Abell, Drew Arnoldy,
Vicki Schmidt Crites, Graham Taylor,
Addison Williams
12 Tim Gaul, Pat Heavner, Cameron &
Carson Ritter, Jim Youngblood
19 Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler,
Finnegan McCarty, Taylor Roark,
Reagan Tibbs
26 Youth Volunteers Needed, Mike Butler,
Sherry Schryver, John Winn

11:00
5 Jim Butler, Brady Cooper, Jaxson Hughes,
Annemarie Matthews, Travis Morgan,
Lilly Taylor
12 Caleb Cooper, Jason Hathaway,
Kyle Homan, Lauren Moses,
Chase Pierce, Bill Robinson
19 Jason Brown, Elise Buonocore,
Breanna Daggett, Andy Homan,
Kat Kibler, Joel Witt
26 LOGOS Sunday, Mike Birchenough,
Bill Hopeck

HIKE WITH MIKE!

Spring is around the corner and with it comes hiking season. If you would like to join Mike Butler and other "Opequonites" in the great outdoors meet them at OPC on Saturday, March 25 at 8:30 am. We will car pool to the Shenandoah University Environmental Center. You will need to wear comfortable shoes with good ankle and arch support, bring water and a snack/lunch. Please register by the Thursday before the hike by contacting Mike mbutler57@outlook.com, 540.533.1239. In case of rain, we will decide the day of the hike and let people know by email and phone call. the status of the hike.



SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
January 2017

EXPENSES	2017 Budget	Net Expenses Current Month	Net Expenses Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Administrative Ministry	391,344	32,234	32,234	359,110
Christian Education Ministry	13,850	-1,098	-1,098	14,948
Congregational Care Ministry	1,400	103	103	1,297
Evangelism Ministry	2,600	80	80	2,520
Fellowship Ministry	3,000	194	194	2,806
Mission Ministry	47,000	2,167	2,167	44,833
Worship Ministry	5,800	79	79	5,721
Capital Expenses	115,025	9,584	9,584	105,441
Total Budget	580,019	43,342	43,342	536,678
INCOME	Current Month	Year to Date		
General Fund Pledges	37,539	37,539		
Loose	309	309		
Total Operating Income from Offerings	37,848	37,848		
Adjustments to Income (YTD)				
Checking Account Interest			20	
Transfer from Building Fund			0	
Room/Facility Usage			300	
Wedding Fees			0	
Operating Income After Adjustments			38,168	
Expenses (YTD)			43,342	
2017 Operating Balance as of January 31			-5,174	

**Annual
Potato Bake
Luncheon**



Sunday, March 12
(following the 11 a.m. service)

Fellowship Hall

Please bring a Side Dish or Salad
to share

The Fellowship Ministry Team
will provide:
Potatoes and all the Toppings,
Chili, Rolls, Drinks,
and Dessert!



MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3	4
			9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Ashes to Go 4:30pm LOGOS 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	12 noon MVMC Pastors 1:30pm LFG-McMurdo 7pm LFG-Taylor 7pm Scout Pack 1 7pm Scout Troop 1		8am Men's Lectio Divina 8am Women's Lectio Divina 9:30am Shenandoah Presbytery
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 & 11am Worship, Communion, CCAP Offering 9:45am Sunday School 12:30pm PYC 3pm Youth Council 3:30pm PS 150 Rehearsal 4pm LFG-Myer 6pm LFG-TVOR	9:30am Older Adult Team 3pm Covenant Study Group 6pm LFG-Witt	1:30 pm LOGOS Leadership 5:15pm Technology & Communications Team 6pm Ministry/Team Night	12pm Happy Days 4:30pm LOGOS 7:30pm Choir Practice	1:30pm LFG-McMurdo 7pm LFG-Taylor 7pm Read 'em & Reap 7pm Scout Pack 1 7pm Scout Troop 1		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45am Marriage Enrichment 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm Potato Bake 3:30pm PS 150 Rehearsal 4pm LFG-Myer 5pm PYC 6pm LFG-TVOR	3pm Covenant Study Group 6pm LFG-Witt 6pm MOO @ Chick-fil-A 6pm Adult ESL Class 7pm MOO @ OPC	9:30am Tuesday Morning Mission 7pm GLOW	9:30am Staff Meeting 10am Winchester Newcomers 4:30pm LOGOS 7:30pm Choir Practice	1:30pm LFG-McMurdo 7pm LFG-Taylor 7pm Scout Pack 1 7pm Scout Troop 1		8am Men's Lectio Divina
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 & 11am Worship 9:30am Youth Prayer Breakfast 9:45am Sunday School 3:30pm PS 150 Rehearsal 4pm LFG-Myer 6pm LFG-TVOR	3pm Covenant Study Group 6pm LFG-Witt 7pm WATTS Board Meeting	7pm Session Meeting	Newsletter Deadline 11:30 TVOR Lunch 4:30pm LOGOS 7:30pm Choir Practice	1:30pm LFG-McMurdo 7pm LFG-Taylor 7pm Scout Pack 1 7pm Scout Troop 1	9am Memory Lane	8am Blood Drive
26 Blood Pressure Screenings	27	28				
8:30 Worship 11am LOGOS Sunday Worship 9:45am Sunday School 12:30pm Motel Ministry 3:00pm MVMC 3:30pm PS 150 Rehearsal 4pm LFG-Myer 6pm LFG-TVOR	3pm Covenant Study Group 6pm LFG-Witt 6pm Adult ESL	10:30am Hands & Hearts 6pm HHF @Highland Food Pantry 6:30pm WATTS Operations				

Opequon Presbyterian Church
 217 Opequon Church Lane
 Winchester, VA 22602-2421

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“The Opequon Spirit” is the monthly newsletter of:
 Opequon Presbyterian Church
 217 Opequon Church Lane
 Winchester, VA 22602-2421
 Phone: 540-662-1843
www.opequonchurch.org
 Newsletter deadline is the Wednesday after the Stated Session Meeting.
 Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.



David Witt ----- Pastor
 Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education
 Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator
 Susan Homan ----- Director of Music
 William Heavner ----- Organist
 Robert Sydnor ----- Sexton
 Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse
 Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor

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 Opportunities in the enclosed Lenten
 Brochure

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SAVE THESE APPEALING APRIL DATES:

- Sunday, April 9th - Palm/Passion Sunday
- Sunday, April 9th - Open Door Worship
- Thursday, April 13th - Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 14th - Good Friday Service
- Saturday, April 15th - Family Easter Event
- Sunday, April 16th - Easter, the Day of Resurrection
- Saturday, April 22nd - Rise Against Hunger at Opequon
- Sunday, April 23rd - Blue Ridge Singers Concert