



Reflections from a Rocking Chair

Many of you know that when I was about 14 years old, I attended with my family the Montreat Mission Conference where I was challenged as a young person to find the thing that God was calling me to do. While at that conference, I learned about the Nestle Boycott of the 1970s, and helped Central to be a part of that effort to change a major corporation's policy in caring for the neediest people in the world: particularly women with newborns. That then led me to connect with a homeless shelter in Atlanta while in college, and a soup kitchen as well. As I moved to other churches and communities, I was involved with agencies and organizations that responded to the hunger issue of the local area as well as working on the Souper Bowl of Caring project which is a national effort addressing hunger here in America. All of these have been an expression of my calling to be active in dealing with issues of hunger.

Recently, I had a conversation with members of the Backpack project at Central, and they expressed concern that several churches dropped out of the program and were not willing to supply food for children on the weekends. This meant that there were about 35 additional children who would be without food options from Friday afternoon through Monday morning. The team members said that they felt we needed to step up and meet that need. I agreed and encouraged them to say yes. This was a way for our program to be stretched to meet more needs in our local community. On the first Wednesday evening after dinner, we had a large group of people pack over 200 bags in preparation for the coming weeks as school was starting.

Then about a week ago, Laurel Broadfoot came and told me that one school in our neighborhood had not been included in receiving weekend food for kids and that they had 35 or so who really needed help. We had a conversation about what to do and how to respond to this request to pick up yet another 35+ kids as a part of our weekly program. We both felt it was a challenge from God to invite us to truly care for the least among us. So currently our backpack team now packs 105+ bags each week and delivers them to three schools.

I know this is a huge increase and it seems overwhelming. I have had people tell me that we should let other churches and organizations pick up the slack. I have had people express their doubts that we can do this. But I see this as an opportunity to truly put into action our faith and trust in God, and to believe in God's promises of provision. I see this 200% increase in our backpack supply need as a strong blowing of the wind of the Spirit. Not a gentle breeze, but a forceful, powerful wind that can knock us down. But by having faith and being willing to say "Yes" to this challenge, we have the chance to truly make a significant difference in our community.

We signed on as a Matthew 25 Church which means we are taking seriously the call and challenge to meet the needs of those who are the least among us in our local, national, and global communities. This is our identity as we seek to serve Christ in this world. We won't get much recognition, and we won't get awards. But we will be responding to the need that is in our backyard, and in our neighborhood.

So, you are invited to help meet this need. The backpack program needs more plastic grocery bags as they double the bags each week. You can drop these off in the bin outside the office. They also are going to need more financial support as they will be needing to purchase more and more food for these children. When you are thinking about Christmas gifts this year, one way to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world is by giving to the Backpack program here at Central. What a great way to show your children and grandchildren what it means to care about hungry kids. You can make financial gifts at any time and just mark it clearly for the Backpack program. Thank you for being a part of caring for the least among us.

October Happenings!!

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be on **Saturday, October 7** at Glade Spring Presbyterian in the fellowship hall. Breakfast will be ready by 9:15, and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, the Presbytery leader, will speak about her trip to Kenya and offer updates about presbytery life. Other interesting aspects of the meeting will include "Expressing Joy through Liturgical Dance", and "Relaxing with Labyrinths and an Introduction to T'ai Chi". Everyone is asked to dress comfortably for this gathering. The Presbyterian Women Thank Offering will be explained and then collected. The meeting will end around noon, with lunch to follow provided by the Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. If you are interested in carpooling or going on the church bus, please talk to Thais Sikora.

Abingdon Presbytery Mountaintop Leadership Event

This annual event will be held at Royal Oak Presbyterian Church in Marion, VA on **Saturday, October 14, from 8:30-12 noon**. Everyone is invited to be a part of this leadership event. We will worship, learn, and share ideas about new ways to be God's church in the 21st century. Our special guest is Cindy Corell, PCUSA mission partner for Haiti. Opening music will be provided by Valley Grass. If you would like to carpool, please contact Ann Aichinger.

**Russian Missionary Conversation: Saturday, October 28**

Wytheville Presbyterian Church is hosting a luncheon and A Conversation with Sasha Tutserov, who is the Moscow Seminary president on Saturday, October 28, at 12 noon. This is sponsored by the Abingdon Presbytery Mission Ministries and Partnerships committee. We will hear Sasha's amazing testimony, from a former KGB agent to a Christian minister. We'll take a free-will offering for his ministry. If you plan to attend, please contact April DiYorio at the Presbytery Office (276-378-7688) or email April@abingdonpresbytery.com to RSVP for the catered lunch.

Sermon: October 8:

What Really Matters

Philippians 3:4b-21

Congratulations to Will & Savannah Diebold! They were married on September 30 in a beautiful service and are living at:

304 Rosemary Lane
Piney Flats, TN 37686-4224



THANK YOU to Nancy Arnold, and Tim & Ann Landis who donated to Backpack Ministries in honor of Mary Moffatt!

Please join us Wednesday, October 4th for Wednesday night dinner! The activity will be packing more bags for Backpack Ministries. We had so much fun last time, and have even more bags to pack. The menu will be enchiladas, refried beans, rice, and dessert.



October 21 Bristol Faith in Action is having a 3K Walk -a-thon. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Fees: age 13+ \$20, Under 13 y/o \$10. Proceeds dedicated 100% to families in need of rental assistance. Wear your family friendly costumes to Sugar Hollow Park, Bristol



On Wednesday, November 1, we will welcome as our special guest speakers **Dan and Elizabeth Turk**, who serve as PCUSA Mission Co-Workers to Madagascar.

The Turks serve with the PC(USA)'s partner church, FJKM, as it ministers to the population in the areas of health, environment, agriculture, and safe drinking water. FJKM believes that Christian witness should include ministry both to the physical and spiritual needs of God's people and care for all of God's creation. Dan and Elizabeth work as advisors to FJKM in the fields of environment

and health, respectively.

Dan works with the FJKM's Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) program. With a per capita income of less than \$250 per year, many Malagasy people have difficulty feeding their families. Due to ongoing deforestation, many of Madagascar's endemic plants and animals are threatened with extinction. FJKM is responding to these needs by helping people grow fruits and vegetables to improve their nutrition and get out of poverty. The FVEE promotes environmental awareness by planting native trees at FJKM churches, seminaries, and schools. Dan helps pastoral students learn to grow fruits and vegetables. The new pastors use these skills to help their communities and families achieve improved food security and nutrition. The FVEE has established a fruit center to help promote fruit growing on a national scale, focusing on many of the world's best varieties of grafted mangos.

Elizabeth's main focus with the FJKM is in the area of community health and HIV/AIDS, especially in training, program design and implementation. The FJKM's health professionals at rural dispensaries work to prevent and treat the major illnesses that threaten health: malaria, measles, diarrhea, and pneumonia. The dispensaries also provide access to important services like family planning. When funds permit, Elizabeth assists the FJKM's efforts to help communities gain access to safe drinking water. Elizabeth also serves on the FJKM National AIDS Committee. FJKM trains pastoral students in AIDS prevention and has a youth peer education program designed to help youth live positively according to biblical principles. In 2020, the FJKM began addressing the COVID-19 epidemic as well.

You can read more about them and their ministry on their website and read their updates:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/dr-daniell-and-elizabeth-turk/>

Calendar

October 5 - October 19

Thursday, October 5	Central Life delivered	
	9:00 a.m.	BackPack packing
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Ed meeting - Zoom
Saturday, October 7	9:30 a.m.	Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering in Glade Spring
Sunday, October 8	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group meet in sm. dining room
Tuesday, October 10	11:00 a.m.	Presbyterian Women Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	CL Gamers - meet at Caldwell home
Wednesday, October 11	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Wednesday night dinner & program
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday, October 12	APPLE Closed	
	4:00 p.m.	Care & Concerns meeting - sm. dining
Friday, October 13	APPLE Closed	
Saturday, October 14	9:30 a.m.	Leadership Development at Mountain Top
Sunday, October 15	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group - sm. dining room
Tuesday, October 17	12:00 noon	Committee Budget Requests due to Kim
	12:00 noon	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, October 18	1:30 p.m.	Widow's Grief meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Wednesday night dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday, October 19	Central Life delivered	
Saturday, October 21	10:00 a.m.	Bristol Faith in Action 3K Walk-a-Thon
Sunday, October 22	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group
	11:30 a.m.	Let's go to Lunch! at Bloom
Wednesday, October 25	5:30 p.m.	Wednesday night dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Saturday, October 28	2:00 p.m.	Coleen Wheeler funeral - Sanctuary
Sunday, October 29	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group - sm. dining room
	11:10 a.m.	Healing Service
	3:30 p.m.	Trunk or Treat (parking lot)
Tuesday, October 31	4:30 p.m.	Halloween Give-away on Euclid



Have you connected your Food City and Kroger grocery cards to help Central? You must do this annually. Connect Food City to APPLE Academy and Kroger to Central's Backpack Program.

To: All Presbyterian Women

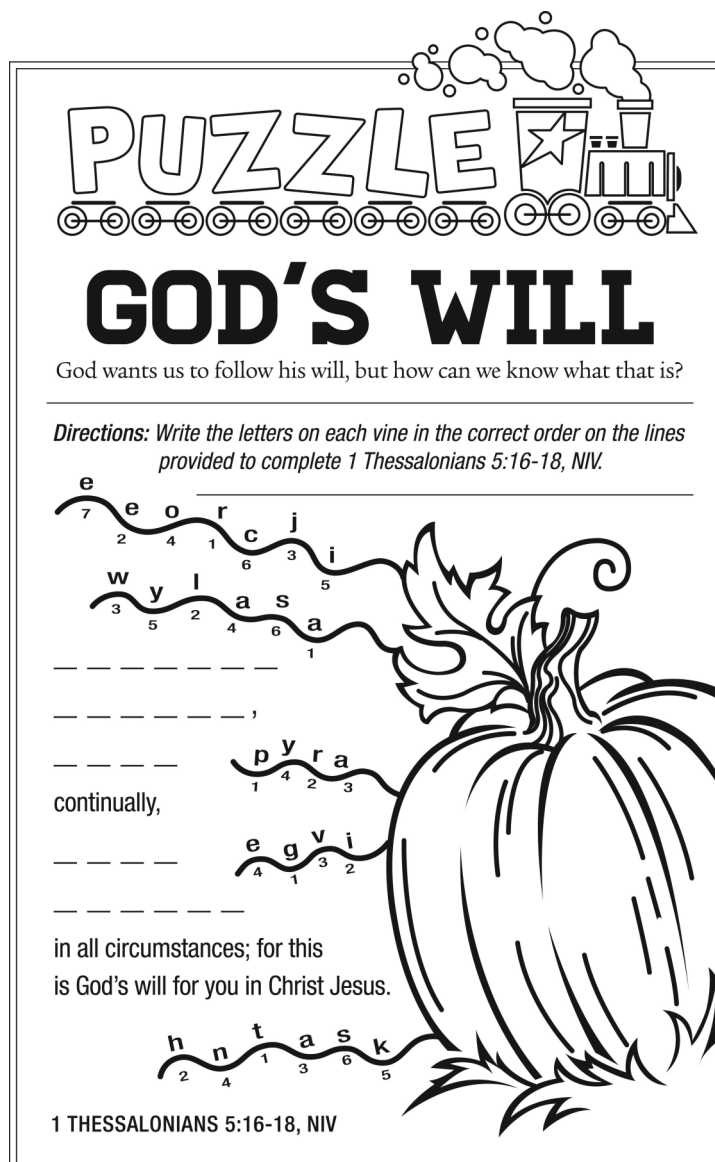
Monthly Meeting Tuesday October 10 at 11:00 a.m. in small dining room.
We will be celebrating our Annual Thank Offering Report led by Mary Ann Blevins.

We will receive a report of our Annual Fall Gathering held in Glade Spring on Saturday, October 7th with updates for our coming year.

Our Bible Study will be from Luke 8:26-39 Jesus' Presence and Human Vulnerability can result in a personal and communal transformation. You won't want to miss this one!

New study books are available in the church Office and at the meeting.

Your co-moderators: Mary Ann Blevins, Thais Sikora



Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

Youth Activities

Sunday, October 8th

Youth Group following worship 11:00 a.m. - noon

Wednesday, October 11th

Dinner and activities at church 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15th

Youth Group Following Worship 11:00 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, October 18th

Dinner and activities at church 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 29, 3:30 - 5 p.m.



This year, the Christian Education Committee is hosting a Truck or Treat for our church family and friends, Apple children, and neighborhood kids. You are invited to set up and decorate your vehicle (pick a theme if you want) and come in costume as we have an afternoon of Halloween fun. This is a great opportunity if you do not have trick or treaters come to your neighborhood. There will be a costume parade and a photo booth to capture all the fun! There will be refreshments -- and maybe even a hotdog cook-out. So get your decorations ready, your basket of goodies in place, and come be a part of a fun-filled evening!

Candy & Goodies for Halloween

On Tuesday, October 31, we will be handing out candy and goodies to Trick-or-Treaters (and their parents) who are out on Euclid Avenue and in the neighborhood. But we need your help. We are needing lots of things to hand out, such as individually wrapped candy, popcorn packets, chips, packs of crackers, school supplies, juice boxes and bottled water (for the parents). There is a big, green box outside of Room 118 (Ann Aichinger's office) where you can drop off items.



If you would like to help staff the Central Presbyterian table (on Euclid Ave), and meet our neighbors, then make plans to come and help out. Dress up if you want. We will be handing out goodies from 4:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31 at the end of the alley driveway on Euclid. You may stay as long as you wish.

Pastoral Concerns:

Jack Wagner III is in rehab at NHC;
Merrie McInnis is recovering from knee surgery;
Linda Barker is recovering from her broken leg;
Doris Hall is awaiting heart valve surgery in mid-October;
Frances Van Dyke is undergoing chemotherapy;
Heather Kiser;
Woody McGlothlin is having tests to get on the lung transplant list;
Josie Russell's cousin, Carey Jo Davis, and her friend, Kayla Chinn;
Laurel Broadfoot's brother, Jim.



Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Mary Kay English, Maxine Howell, Bob and Becky Ingram, Missy McCord, Niki McGrew, Alice Owenby, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Christy Blevins' father, Roger McGhee; Peggy Callison's son, Orion;
Sandy Wilson's aunt, Connie Perry, and her uncle, Junior; Doris Hall's aunt, Mildred Rutherford; Diana White's brother-in-law, Ed Fortner, and her sister; Mary Moffatt's cousin, Joni Cambron; Nancy Kiser's brother-in-law, Will Frazier; Vicki Myers's mother, Jane Coulherd; Joy Briggs' friend, Ginger Alverado, and Joy's great-grandson, Drake.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to friends and family of Coleen Wheeler, who died on September 3 and whose funeral service is October 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. If you wish to send a card, the family's address is:

Coleen Wheeler - Jennifer Makin
940 Hummingbird
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Please call the church office (276-669-3157) with any pastoral concerns., and please feel free to contact Ann Aichinger or any of the Elders through email, Facebook, or by phone.

On Sunday mornings, Vickie Salyer is available in the nursery for children at the 9 a.m. time for Adult Sunday School. If you would like to be a part of either Adult class and have children or grandchildren with you, feel free to let them be with Vickie, who plans a lesson for the children.

The Butterfly Garden is growing and we have lots of caterpillars that hopefully will become butterflies soon. Go check out the end of the alley and see what you can find. Also if you like to dig in the dirt, you are welcome to go pull weeds and deadhead the flowers. This is our garden and it is one way we can offer a lovely place for tending God's good creation and reflection.



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How to Keep in Touch:

www.facebook.com/CPCBristol: You do not have to sign-in or log on. Just click “not now” and the site will pop up. Scroll down to find the latest message.

www.CentralPresBristol.org: Click on “View Sermons” then scroll down to see Pastor Ann’s videos for each day.

Options for giving to the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian:

- * You can give in a check, or cash, in the offering plate, dropped by the office, or mailed to:

Central Presbyterian Church
331 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013



- * You can give through your online banking to Central.
- * You can set up an automatic deposit from your account; please talk with the Finance Director on how to do this.
- * You can TEXT to **CentralPres** (no spaces and Capital C and P) to **73256**. You will be directed to make your donation through Realm.
- * Use the QR Code to connect to the website and the “Give Online” link.
- * You can give one time, or regularly, through your **Realm Connect** profile.



How to contact us:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor	ann.cpc@bvu.net
Robert Campbelle, Music Director	robertcampbelle@gmail.com
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Jeremy Kline, Kitchen Coordinator	
Michelle Blankenship, Dir. of APPLE Academy	applepreschool@yahoo.com

Office Hours:

The current office hours are:

9:00 to 3:00 Monday—Friday

Please call 276-669-3157 for office hour changes and updates.



Serve the Lord with Gladness