



Reflections from a Rocking Chair:

This week, I attended a Committee on Preparation for Ministry meeting and preparing to welcome Scott Sikes as a new inquirer who is sensing a call into the ministry. As we were talking about the process and what he needed to be doing in this first year, Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks said, “you will need to take the Bible Content Exam.” This led us into a conversation about Biblical Literacy in the Church.

So to give you some background, the Bible Content Exam is one of five exams that those who are seeking ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Teaching Elders in the PCUSA must take before they are eligible for ordination. The Bible Content Exam is also termed Baby Bible Test. For some it is easy and not a big deal. But for many it is hard because it covers the entirety of the Bible, its history, the overarching themes of books and messages of the prophets as well as understanding Jesus’ ministry and the work of the early church. When I took this exam, I was well prepared as I had majored in Biblical Studies at Agnes Scott College. And I had read the Bible twice: once for my year-long Introduction to the Bible class and once for myself. Though I was well versed in the Bible before taking this exam, I still reviewed and did the practice tests that were available. You can try out some of these practice exams as well at <https://www.whitneyhq.com/biblecontent/>

According to the American Bible Society in 2024, fewer Americans than ever are engaging with the Bible, but there's reason for hope. We see a growing interest God’s Word among our youngest generation and curiosity in the Movable Middle. This is true in our youth group here at Central. Josie Russell is leading our youth through the book of Luke. They are reading it together and slowly, asking questions and considering its message for our lives. Out of the generosity of Marguerite Buckley, they were given a small book all about the Bible as a reference for their inquiry about the Bible. Our Youth and children want to know more about the Bible, but we as adults also need to be engaging in Bible reading more and learning more about the history, culture and who’s who of the Bible.

On Wednesday, May 8, I will be doing a program that I call The Bible in 45 (or so) minutes, where I will start at the very beginning, and tell the entire story of the Bible using flash cards/posters. But it is important to see the whole as well as the individual books of the Bible. This is one of those things I do with the Confirmation class to help them to see the Bible as a whole and not just a bunch of little stories put together, but that there is a reason for them.

Another option is to look at the Bible Project online. The two guys who host these videos provide illustrative telling of the Bible, its themes, word studies, and overviews of each book of the Bible. You can look at these as a part of our Right Now Media subscription (www.rightnowmedia.com) or just google The Bible Project (www.bibleproject.com).

So I want to encourage you to start reading your Bible on a daily basis. You can find online guides as well as simply just start by reading one of the Gospels (personally, I think Luke is the easiest to understand and offers many familiar stories). Make plans now to come and join us on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and then let’s see if I can actually tell the story of the Bible in 45 (or so) minutes. And maybe we will all learn a little more about the book that is central to our lives and our faith.

Grace and peace,
Ann Aichinger

Wednesday Night Supper Menus:

- April 17 - Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes
- April 24 - Beef Stew
- May 1 - Baked Chicken & Stuffing
- May 8 - Baked Potato Bar
- May 15 - Baked Spaghetti



- The History of Central
- Packing Backpacks
- Game Night
- The Bible in 45 Minutes
- Central Talent Show



The Lunch Bunch invites you to join us on **April 21, 11:30 a.m. at El 123 Mex.** We've enjoyed eating there before. The buffet is very good, and the fellowship is even better! April 21st- El 123 Mex located in Linden Square off Bonham Rd, between exits 5 & 7

Church Yard Gardening Days...

Thank you to everyone who helped with Gardening Days! The hill down the alley has been sown with a low-growing grass and covered with straw...hopefully we'll receive some soft showers and the seed will germinate soon. The butterfly garden has been spruced up and weeds pulled, as have the front gardens. Leaves have been blown out from under shrubbery and the church is wearing its lovely Spring finery. There is constantly gardening to do, and your help is always appreciated. We'll be planting some of the hydrangeas in the butterfly garden soon. Watch for more gardening days in the future!



Sad News From Madagascar...

Dan and Elizabeth Turk have returned to Madagascar after being in the U.S. for more than five months.

Unfortunately, their return was filled with sorrow. Bandits had attacked the tangerine village of Antanetibe in Ankazobe District. Dan had trained two people in 2010 to grow tangerines. These two people set up a nursery and gave away tangerine trees to others in the area. The bandits attacked one of the orchards and the owner tried to defend his trees and home. He was shot and killed, and his wife and another person were wounded. Three people were kidnapped and subsequently released.




We extend our heart-felt sympathy to the people of Madagascar for their losses, and will continue to hold them in our prayers.

Sunday, April 14 Attendance: 86



<p><u>Wednesday, April 17th</u> Dinner & activities at church History and future of CPC 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 21st</u> Lunch Bunch at El 123 Tex Mex 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><u>Wednesday, April 24th</u> Dinner & activities at church Backpacks 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 28^h</u> Meeting after worship to continue our study of Luke 11:00 a.m.-noon</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, May 1</u> Dinner & activities at church - game night 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 5</u> Meeting after worship to continue our study of Luke 11:00 a.m. - noon</p> <p><u>Wednesday, May 8</u> Dinner & activities at church - The Bible in 45 Minutes 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 12</u> No Youth Group - Happy Mother's Day!</p>
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 Sermon Series	April 21	Peter Moments	John 21:15-19
	April 28	Did I Laugh? Guest preacher, Dr. Laura Ong	Genesis 18:1-5
	May 5	Bearing Witness to the Truth	1 John 5:6-13, Acts 1:1-11
	May 12	From Generation to Generation	Exodus 1:15-2:10; 2 Tim 1:1-7

If you have eclipse glasses, drop them by the church office and we'll send them to a group that donates them to children in South America for the Fall eclipse. Deadline for donating: Sunday, May 5th.

BackPack Ministries Schedule:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

On Wednesday April 24th - we pack with the Wednesday night attendees. Please arrive around 5 to help set up. We will NOT pack on the following day (Thursday 4/25).

Purchasing team: Please make sure we have 3 -4 weeks worth of food on hand.





Saturday, April 20, 2024 : Registration and Continental Breakfast begins 9:15 a.m. Program begins 10:00 a.m. Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church, 136 E. Main St., Abingdon, VA 24210 Keynote speaker: Linda Austin, Executive Director, Appalachian Substance Abuse Coalition for Prevention, Treatment and Recovery; and Hands and Feet Ministries. Linda will bring Narcan kits and do a 5-minute training for the kit for those interested.

Necrology service for 2023

PCHH Foster's Closet update from Billy Rice, Director

Offering: Mended Women Lifestyle Recovery toiletries and feminine products are also needed for MWLR. For more information, contact: Carol Propst, 423-534-1849

Stillness Night: Ladies, age 16 & up, you are invited to Stillness Night on Saturday, May 4 from 7 - 9:30 p.m. at Smyth Chapel located at 30119 Smyth Chapel Road, Meadowview, VA 24361. It is a quiet and intimate evening to take a deep breath, leave the busy outside and step into a place of STILLNESS with our SAVIOR. There is no charge to attend but please RSVP for planning purposes. Bring your Bible & reading glasses. Food will **not** be provided. Sign up sheet found on Ann Aichinger's door. Karen Klumpp (901) 504-0854 Kim Stewart (276) 706-1100 for more information.

Session Notes:

The Session met on Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting. David White opened the meeting with a devotional and opening prayer. We expressed our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Alice Owenby who died March 22 and to the family and friends of Bessie Kitts who died on March 24, and Vicki and Glenn Myers in the death of Vicki's mom, Jane Coulthard, who was a member of Glad Springs Presbyterian Church. We will have a time of remembrance for them and Mary Kay English as part of our worship on May 26.

Abingdon Presbytery will meet on Thursday, May 9, at Rich Valley Presbyterian Church, Saltville, and John Dodge will be going as our commissioner to that meeting, Barbara Mann will be alternate. John Barker is serving as the Moderator of Presbytery, and Ann Aichinger will go as a minister commissioner.

Ann Aichinger gave her pastoral report and updated everyone on calendar events and plans for the summer. Linda Waldron reported on communications she had received. The Session accepted, with sadness and thanksgiving, the resignation of David White (as of June 30) and Marguerite Buckley (as of April 16) from Session. John Barker gave an update on the Ukrainian situation and the potential of having another Ukrainian family come to Bristol in the summer (watch for more information on this.)

The committees made reports about their work. Fellowship and Dining gave the schedule for Let's Go to Lunch through July and asked that there not be Lemonade in the Shade on those Sundays. Lemonade in the Shade will begin June 2.

Finance Committee recommended two action items: to add John Dodge, retain Paige Thompson and Glen Myers as signers on the accounts; to move a large portion of the Columbarium Fund into an interest bearing instrument. Both were approved. The Nominating Committee will be meeting on Thursday night to begin their work on nominating a slate of elders to be elected by the congregation in June.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. After sharing pastoral concerns, John Barker closed the meeting with prayer. All were adjourned.

Pastoral Concerns:

Maxine Howell has been in the hospital in North Carolina;
Robert and Susan Campbell are still dealing with Covid
Donnie Spurell is doing well - he's recovering from hip surgery;
Tyler Franklin is having heart issues;
Dick Gordon has had another fall;
Dave Wilson is at home recovering;
Andrew Clark is dealing with health issues;
Larry Surber who needs to gain energy and strength;
Vicki Myers is dealing with health issues.



Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim and Joan Keith, Heather Kiser, Missy McCord, Woody McGlothlin, Niki McGrew, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, Frances Van Dyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Mark Mugavin (David Pattishall-Baker's nephew-in-law) has brain cancer; Eric Martin, friend of Paige Thompson, has brain cancer; Mike Ellis' cousin's son who had very serious surgery; 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; Josie Russell's cousin, Carey Jo Davis, is recovering from chemo and getting ready for the next step.

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.



We express our deepest Christian Sympathy to the families and friends of:
Vickie Myers' mother, Jane Coulthard.
Diane Abbey and Thais Sikora in the death of their brother, Emeril.

Memory Gifts:

Thank you to Jean Thomason in memory of Bessie Kitts and Alice Owenby.

Thank you to Ann Aichinger in memory of Jane Coulthard, Bessie Kitts, and Alice Owenby.



Sharing Good News

In Scripture, we are called to rejoice with one another. So we invite you to share your good news with the church family. Maybe you have had a promotion or gotten a new job? Maybe there's a new baby in your family, or your child was given an award or had an accomplishment? This is not about boasting, but about sharing so that we can rejoice with one another and celebrate life together. So if you have something to share, send it in to the church office (office.cpc@bvu.net or call **276-669-3157**) so we can include it in upcoming newsletters.

Calendar

April 17 - May 8

Wednesday, April 17

Central Life delivered

A.M. APPLE Spring Pictures
 1:30 p.m. Widows' Grief Group
 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Study - Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes
 History & Future of Central Piedmont Church
 7:00 p.m. Choir practice CANCELLED

Thursday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Backpack delivery
 6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee meeting

Saturday, April 20

9:15 a.m. Presbytery Women Spring Gathering at Sinking Spring Church, Abingdon

Sunday, April 21

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Central Hall
 11:00 a.m. Healing Service - Chapel
 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch - El 123 Tex Mex (Lindon Square)

Ann Aichinger leaves for vacation, returns May 3

Monday, April 22

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Perkins, exit 7

Wednesday, April 24

5:30 p.m. Dinner & Study - Beef Stew
 6:00 p.m. Backpack packing
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, April 26

9:30 a.m. Gamers - at Caldwell house

Sunday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary - Laura Ong, Guest Preacher
 11:00 a.m. Youth Meeting

Monday, April 29

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Breakfast at church

Wednesday, May 1

1:30 p.m. Widows' Grief Group
 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Study - Baked chicken & stuffing
 Game Night
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, May 2

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
 7:00 p.m. Christian Education meeting

Saturday, May 4

7:00 p.m. Night of Stillness - women- Smyth Chapel

Sunday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Central Hall - Communion
 11:00 a.m. Youth Meeting

Monday, May 6

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Perkins, Exit 7
 4:00 p.m. Care & Concern meeting

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee meeting

Wednesday, May 8

Central Life Delivered

4:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting
 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Study - Baked potato bar
 The Bible in 45 Minutes
 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Bible Word Search

Name: _____



Love Thy Neighbor

T	P	Q	R	U	D	O	W	X	P	S	B	R	Z	I
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	E	O	H
E	C	W	W	T	T	E	F	I	H	E	C	B	Q	V
O	L	K	H	A	M	N	O	D	E	L	I	T	I	E
V	Y	W	E	S	H	Y	R	D	L	B	B	U	V	N
E	P	R	Y	R	D	B	G	W	P	M	R	O	I	C
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R	D	A	R	I	I	D	T	E	Y	I	P	A	A	I
A	B	H	E	E	U	N	Q	D	A	W	N	W	Y	P
G	S	S	W	N	B	I	A	D	S	R	Q	D	F	B
E	E	Q	I	I	J	K	R	U	U	N	T	P	U	X
D	Q	K	G	D	W	B	L	O	H	O	F	I	C	V

Word list:

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| BUILD | HUMBLE |
| CARE | KIND |
| COMPASSIONATE | LOVE |
| ENCOURAGE | MIND |
| FORGIVE | NEIGHBOR |
| GOD | PRAY |
| HEART | SHARE |
| HELP | TREAT |



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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@bvuvu.net
Robert Campbelle, Music Director	robertcampbelle@gmail.com
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Kim Profitt, Finance Director	finance.cpc@bvuvu.net
Jeremy Kline, Kitchen Coordinator	
Michelle Blankenship, Dir. of APPLE Academy	applepreschool@yahoo.com
Kyndall Bradley, Nursery Staff	

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