

Shenandoah Press

Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2018

Special points of interest:

- Re:RE
- Easter Message from Doug Dicks
- PW Spring Gathering
- Things to Know
- Much more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

I am so looking forward to spring here in the valley. It arrives earlier than where I have most recently lived and I believe that it will last longer as well. My allergies may kick in but that will not take away from the beauty that is already emerging after the snow and cold. Flowers are waiting to bloom and the trees are on the verge of blossoming. I see growth beginning in fields as I drive up and down 81!

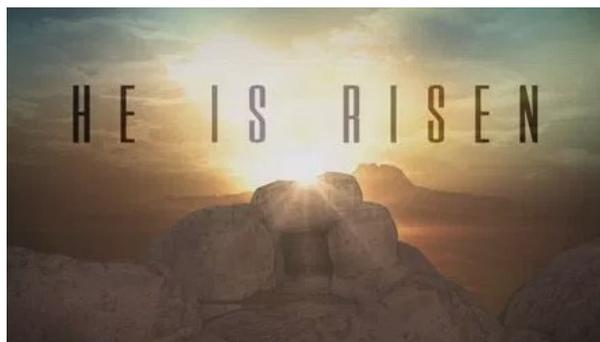
Yes I have been doing a lot of driving, as has Nancy. My first month it was about 700 miles visiting churches, sessions, pastors and mission communities – last month it was over 900 miles and this month looks to be heading over 1000! It's time for an oil change!

Though that may seem like a lot of driving - and on certain days it does feel that way - in reality, it is not that much for the opportunity to build relationships. Relationships are the foundation on which we do our work. Our relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Our relationships as communities of faith sharing who we are and what we believe with those around us and relationships as congregations, pastor and people.

I thank you for welcoming me into your communities as we grow into greater relationship and look forward to further invitations to be together. I hope that you all enjoy the change of season as Spring comes into being (I know I will) giving thanks to God for the beauty of the earth and for one another!

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

Bronwen



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This year, Easter was April 1st. Hallelujah! Happy April Fools. Death does not have the last word. Newness of life is given to us in Christ's resurrection.

Now what are you going to do?

In an article on March 13, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Herbert J. Nelson II, wrote about his experiences in leading change in local congregations and in the denomination: "In each of my ministry calls over the past thirty-two years, contextual change was at the core of my work. In every circumstance, letting go of the old model was the most difficult aspect of engaging transformative change." (pcusa.org/news).

Transformative change is an act of imagination. It is a willing suspension of what we know and have experienced...and a willing move towards newness of life. It is risk and challenge and living in the Spirit. It is taking a hard look at what actually is, in ourselves and in our church and in the context our churches serve.

Every year, Beloit College puts out a "mind set list", a list of cultural touchstones that have shaped the world of young adults entering college. The class of 2018 (graduating this May) has always known Bill Gates as the richest man on earth, always been able to watch tv on the web, they think "Harry Potter" instead of "John Lennon" when they see wire rim

glasses, and female referees have always officiated NBA games.

This shift in culture shows up in our churches as well. Young adults in the church tell us that they have not ever experienced "the glory days" of church. That is, that they have always attended church with empty pews, a small youth group, only one Sunday School class.

They have no nostalgia for the building of the Sunday School wing...because they never experienced enough kids to need one.

Let go of your nostalgia and your grief, they tell us. That world is gone. The world the church exists in now is different.

Dr. Nelson says it this way: "It is my view that we are challenged to respond to a new contextual reality. Simply put, the world is not the same."

The world that most of us grew up in is not the same. But then, Easter Sunday is not Friday...or even Saturday.

If we are people of the resurrection, (we are), if we believe the Risen Christ is the head of the church (and we do), if we trust in God's faithful promises (and they are), then we are called to new life.

Easter is not just a day, but a whole season.

This Easter season, begin, as individuals, as churches, as Sessions and congregations, about what new thing God is calling us to do. Happy Easter. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



Ruling elders are elected by congregations as "persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit" (G-2.0301). This series will include devotional pieces, descriptions of spiritual practices, and other resources for growing as spiritual leaders and seeks to nurture the spiritual life of those serving in this role. Read more about this series [here](#).

The Office of the General Assembly puts out a monthly series for Ruling Elders. You may sign up for by clicking on the left or at:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/>

Brief History of Front Royal Presbyterian Church

(Abridged from Front Royal's 175th Anniversary Brochure)

The area of present day Warren County was settled mostly by English, Scotch, and Scotch-Irish people, many of them Presbyterian. In 1719, the Synod of Philadelphia of the Presbyterian Church was petitioned by the people of "Potomake in Virginia" to provide them "an able Gospel minister to settle among them." Over the next 75 years, circuit-riding preachers, traveling by horseback, were sent to the scattered settlements. They served large territories, holding services in homes of the settlers and later in log meeting houses erected in suitable places removed from a settlement, because in Colonial days, churches of worship other than the Church of England were forbidden within town limits.

One of these meetings places was South River Church shared by the Baptists and Presbyterians. It was a log building about two miles south of Front Royal, on a bluff overlooking the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. In 1792, the Rev. William Williamson of Edinburgh, Scotland came to serve the South River Church. FRPC was formally organized on November 30, 1794. Around 1796, the place of worship was changed from South River to Front Royal. A long, two-story log meeting house was built where St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church now stands at Main and Lee Streets.

The Front Royal Presbyterian Church was organized by Winchester Presbytery on February 23, 1839 with the Rev. J. W. Simpson, pastor at Charlestown, WV (then VA) presiding. There were seven members and the first pastor was the Rev. Robert T. Berry.

A lot for a new church building was donated on July 22, 1840 by John Stephenson, at the corner of present-day Peyton and Chester Streets. Construction took about ten years on a rectangular, red brick building with white wood trim and a four-foot high belfry. The Chester Street church building was extensively repaired after the Civil War.

When the Rev. Carson W. Hollis was pastor (1875-1893), he helped organize the Nineveh Church. In 1882 White Post and Front Royal agreed that their members north of the Shenandoah River should unite and fix a central place of worship at Nineveh. Pastor Hollis became pastor to both churches, and over twenty Front Royal members went to Nineveh, leaving thirty-seven at Front Royal.

On July 4, 1884 during Rev. Hollis' pastorate, "it was resolved unanimously to secure a new and more eligible site and erect a new building." Land located at the corner of South Royal Avenue and Jackson Street was purchased from the town in 1885. The cost of construction was \$3,500. The dedication of the new church building took place on June 20, 1886.

In 1901, a manse (parsonage) was built on the northeast side of Second Street and North Royal Avenue. In 1912, the Women's Auxiliary was formed and is now known as the Presbyterian Women.

A Sunday School annex was erected in 1925; the church auditorium was also extensively repaired and redecorated.

The congregation of the South Royal Street Church grew and eventually outgrew the facility. During the ministry of the Rev. Owen Moore, Jr., ground was broken on April 20, 1958 for the present church on Luray Avenue. The new building was dedicated on May 8, 1960.

The Educational Building was begun as a "Venture of Faith" in 1964 during the pastorate of the Rev. J. Layton Mauze, III. A service of consecration was held on July 2, 1968 after the Rev. Richard E. Bethune became pastor.

In 1965 a new manse (parsonage) was built on the slope behind the Educational Building. In 2010 this manse was sold and passed out of the hands of the congregation.

On May 23, 1982 a Service of Celebration was held on the occasion of the burning of the mortgage for the Educational Building and the Sanctuary.



Front Royal Presbyterian Church Welcomes Pastor Carrie Evans

Pastor Carrie Evans was raised in First Presbyterian Church of Winchester. She currently resides in Warrenton with her husband Paul and two teenaged children, Jacob and Isabelle. She is enthusiastic with fresh ideas that will challenge and inspire us. Pastor Evans has extensive professional and pastoral experience.



- Pastor Carrie Evans received her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (2000)
- She served three years as Associate Pastor for Youth and Families in a Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC
- She served twelve years as Associate Pastor of the Warrenton Presbyterian Church
- Recently she has been supply pastor in Winchester, Virginia, preaching once a month at Presbyterian Church of Winchester (PCW)

In the last two years she has been Executive Director of a faith-based, non-profit community service organization—Stafford Junction – which she helped strengthen not only in donor support but also in outreach

Pastor Evans has built a reputation as a strong and effective speaker from the pulpit. As the pastor in Winchester recently stated, “Carrie is an exceptional preacher... She is bright, insightful and energetic in the pulpit. Our folks ... find her inspirational.” She has an ability to render a message to all ages. Some people said that most adults enjoyed her children’s sermons as much as her general service sermons. She clearly knows how to communicate. We experienced this ourselves when she led worship in our church several times in early 2016. Her recent time outside the ministry as a parishioner has given her a fresh perspective on worship.

Pastor Evans is committed to all ages of learning and spiritual development, with a particular passion for working with youth and young people. As one of her references wrote: “I think what she loves most is leading young people to serve.” She is able to write curriculum, making Sunday school meaningful, not playtime. By all accounts she is an effective communicator of what the Bible teaches and how it is relevant to daily living.

She is informed and insightful with regard to what attracts and involves young adults in the church. She recognizes that this is a generation that seeks relationships, both with Christ and His Church. Pastor Evans believes that the best way to attract young adults is to give them the opportunity to serve.

She has a strong commitment to, and experience in, outreach and service—taking the Gospel beyond the church and into communities through word and action. This is evident in her leadership at Stafford Junction serving low income families and at-risk youth, as well in mission projects in Haiti. She believes that “the church is the one institution in the world that can affect great change.”

Pastor Evans has the management experience necessary to lead our congregation. She was chief of staff for an interim period in Warrenton. While Executive Director, Stafford Junction saw a 125% financial increase in her second year. She has an ability to work harmoniously with people of vastly different circumstances. Most importantly, she has the personal qualities we seek in our next pastor. In terms of pastoral care she is approachable, caring and a good listener. According to another reference, “Carrie is a devoted pastor, wife, mother and friend. Her Christian faith is evident in each of these roles.”

We are truly blessed to have her as our pastor and look forward to doing God’s work with her for many years to come.

OUR Hearts Ministry Begins

It is a great pleasure to send this email to you with an update for CCR. This past weekend OUR Hearts (the Craigsville Presbyterian Church mission opportunity partnering with other congregations and organizations) opened its doors to the first visiting group. The group came from Tinkling Spring with 9 middle school students led by Harriet Thomson and Roy Groah. The weekend started on Friday evening with introductions and tour. I hear that there was hide and seek and a movie with popcorn after I left. Harriet also used the time during the weekend for the youth to engage in the Appreciative Inquiry process that the congregation is using to prepare for a new pastor. After sharing a bit about our history, I encouraged the youth to let the weekend help them imagine/dream of ways that God could be calling them and using them in their community.

On Saturday morning they shared breakfast together before heading out to work in the Craigsville Area Food Pantry. They bagged dog and cat food, put eggs in cartons and sorted a carton of cans and boxed food that was so big the middle schoolers needed to climb inside of it to get the food products out. Lunch of chili and sandwiches provided a nice break in the middle of the day before finishing up our morning work to "shop", box and deliver three of the shut in boxes in the community.

Since our showers are not ready, the group made their way to the Craigsville Fire Department for showers before heading to Loch Willow to share a delicious covered dish meal, worship and communion with their congregation. This was a spirit filled evening and it was especially fun when we worked in groups to act out a Bible story for the others. We learned blessings in Hebrew and prayed them together when we received the bread and cup. As we parted ways for the evening I encouraged the youth to think about all the times that they had heard about or experienced Christians working in partnership that day. I challenged them to consider and begin to pray about the ways other Christians could join with them to make God's call (that they imagined the night before) become a reality.

After a good night's sleep we gathered for worship with the Craigsville Presbyterian Church congregation. Each of the youth participated in leading worship - several offered our scripture reading through readers theater, they led the call to worship, prelude, Lord's prayer, benediction, the offering, and participated in our act of confession. One of my congregants came to me and said, "when the young man began to play the prelude, I nearly cried. Its been so long since we've had young people in the church." I can tell you that they led worship beautifully!!! It was fun to fill in the little gaps between them

and then step back and follow along under their very capable leadership. I am quite sure that the word proclaimed was important but the worship service that morning was healing and brought hope in so many ways for a group of elderly worshipers who had poured their energy, prayers and hearts into getting ready for this young group.

My favorite part was when I asked for what the congregation would like to pray for during our joys and concerns time of worship. Harriet had encouraged the congregation by sharing that what the young people had witnessed and experienced and learned from them was perseverance. The members of the congregation offered prayers of thanksgiving for my leadership, the congregation's willingness to embrace God's call, the help of the young people with jobs that would have taken Justine many more hours to do on her own, thankfulness for the encouragement we have received from so many others - presbytery, other congregations, etc. And prayers were offered up for Tinkling Spring as they embark on electing their PNC, for its work and for the future they are looking forward to as well. It was a beautiful prayer time filled with praise for God's goodness in all of our lives.

Our histories and our lives are now woven together within God's amazing story of the Church. It was sad to see them drive off but our hearts were filled with glory to God for God's goodness and grace. We will continue to pray for these young people as they grow in their faith and answer God's call in their lives. This was an amazing weekend and the group was absolutely the very best group ever for our first visit.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support as we begin this new chapter in the life of our church and in service to God. May all that we do bring God glory!

Blessings,
Gwen

PS. Upcoming events - OUR Hearts has reached out to Little River Church of the Brethren to make sure that the Kairos group serving the prison this weekend will be served a meal. We have been contacted by Massanutten about bringing a group on or about the 21st of April for a day; a group of children and youth may be coming June 9, 10 or 11 for a day to experience the food pantry work. And during the week of July 13th we are looking forward to hosting Falling Waters. In addition calls are starting to come in with needs from the community.

Submitted by Rev. Gwen Carr to CCR

Houses of Worship Safety and Security Resources Overview and Resources Available

This is a follow-up from the presentation during the Educational Hour at the February 24 Presbytery Meeting.

Common terminology used in emergency preparedness and response:

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)-Assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency, for example a local fire department or rescue squad. This document includes its legal basis and sets forth lines of authority and organizational relationship for all types of hazards that may impact the community or educational institution. Local agencies, institutions of higher education, as well as hospital and health care organizations are required to develop and maintain these plans.

Evacuation Plan-Detailed document including maps as necessary providing a plan for the safe and efficient evacuation of individuals from a facility or facilities.

Traffic Management Plan-Detailed document including maps as necessary defining routes and resources required for the safe and effective management of traffic before, during or after a large scale event or emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Drill or Exercise-An event held to practice developed plans. Any type of plan or tactile operation can be exercised. The goal is to practice the skill, operation or plan to identify where more practice may be needed or in some cases the result is the need for changes in plans.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management-State level agency responsible for coordinating or providing resources and other support to local jurisdictions when requested by local officials as they determine necessary.

Run Hide Fight Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

Online Resources: <https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>
<https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives>
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/33007>
<https://www.hsd1.org/?view&did=790107>

For more information or additional training, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

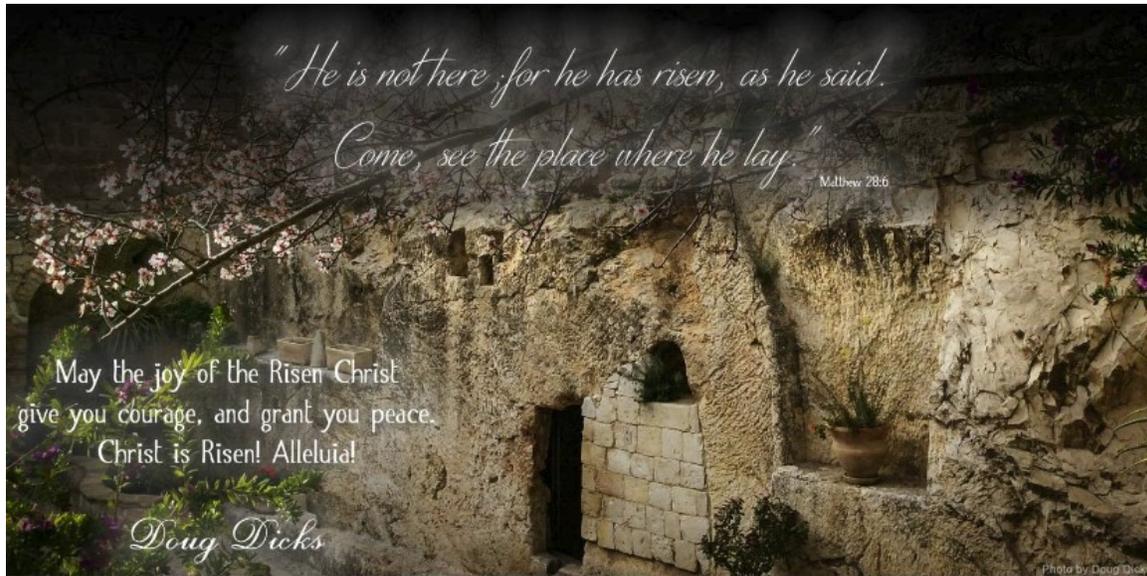
These include:

- Link to online repository of active shooter products and resources including outreach materials
- References for online independent study course by FEMA IS 907
- Link to established best practices developed for use by facilities where large groups may be present
- Instructions for accessing an active shooter preparedness video
- Helpful hints for what individuals need to be ready to do until help arrives
- Recommendations for development of Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for Houses of Worship
- Resource guide developed and published by Colorado's State's Attorney's Office for Protecting Houses of Worship

Key Concepts for preparing for any type of incident:

- **CONNECT:** Reach out and develop relationships in your community, including local law enforcement. Having these relationships established before an incident occurs can help speed up the response when something happens.
- **PLAN:** Take the time now to plan on how you will handle a security event should one occur. Learn from other events to inform your plans.
- **TRAIN:** Provide your employees with training resources and exercise your plans often. The best laid plans must be exercised in order to be effective.
- **REPORT:** "If You See Something, Say Something™" is more than just a slogan. Call local law enforcement.

Easter Message from Doug Dicks, PCUSA Mission Co-Worker



To read more about Doug Dicks and his mission in Israel and Palestine, click on the card above.

Inaugural Lindsay Lectures at Warrenton Presbyterian Church

Join us **Sunday April 15** for worship at 8:45 and 11:00am and for Sunday School at 9:45am for our first ever Lindsay Lectures Series in honor of our recently retired Director of Christian Education, Lucy Lindsay. Our lecturer is The Rev. Dr. Samuel Adams who is Professor of Old Testament at Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The focus of Dr. Adams' lecture will be: "Poverty and Wealth in the Bible." Dr. Adams will be preaching at both services and leading the lecture during the Sunday School hour.

Dr. Adams received his PhD from Yale University and his M. Div from University of Chicago Divinity School. He has written 2 books on Old Testament culture and he is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post. To see more information about Rev. Dr. Adams click here for more information. <https://www.upsem.edu/about/faculty/samuel-l-adams/>

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Summer Kingdom Healing Course All These Things

A video course with Mike Endicott from the Order of Jacob's Well.

This is an introductory course on the grace and goodness of God that Jesus brought to us as he proclaimed the Kingdom and continues to offer to us today.

This course has 5 Key areas 'All These things' series

Part 1: The Kingdom Idea

Part 2: Jesus the man, Jesus the God

Part 3 Proclaiming the Good News

Part 4 The Message of the Cross

Part 5 The Place of Trust

There are six or seven short videos under each heading with a few questions for discussion after each. It is my prayer that this course will be done both independently but with times of discussion as we make posts sharing what we heard, think and learned.

The course will open June 1 and close August 31. It is open to anyone who has a desire to grow in grace in the Kingdom.

My name is Rev. Karen Greenawalt. I am currently pastor at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church and an Associate member of Jacob's Well UK. I have studied with the Rev. Mike Endicott on several occasions beginning in 2011. I continue to learn and grow in the grace of the Kingdom in Jesus. I invite you to join me as together we open our hearts and lives to our Lord Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

If you are interested please email me at gerrardstpc@gmail.com or join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/958585947641502/>

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Thanks to John Nunn & Mikel (See John 20:1-18) 04-07-1999

Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery
Presents

The Annual Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 14, 2018



“A Spring Cleaning of the Heart and Soul”

Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA

Registration fee:

Adults _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

Joining us for lunch?

Adult or youth 13+ _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Youth Ages 3 to 12 _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Under age 3 is free – how many? _____

Need Childcare (list # of children and ages)

Number _____ Ages _____

Please send form and money no later than April 6th, to:

Shenandoah Presbytery PW

Treasurer

Gladys Wonderley

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Questions call:

Call Mary Lou Cox

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Karen Stevens

540-430-1626

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Connie Wood

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farmwood@hardynet.com

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Seeks Pianist/Organist

Bethesda Presbyterian Church in rural Rockbridge Baths, VA (Rockbridge County near Lexington) is seeking a part-time Pianist (organ also, if possible) for Choir rehearsals (Thursday nights) and Sunday morning worship services. Requirements include: ability to read music well (including sight-reading), accompany for anthems and hymns, and work harmoniously with the worship team of Pastor and Director of Music. Please call Peter Del Vecchio, Director of Music, to arrange a preliminary musical interview. Phone: [540-460-2440](tel:540-460-2440) or Email: PeterMusicBethesda@gmail.com

Lexington Presbyterian Church Hosts Festival of Faith

Lexington Presbyterian Church will be hosting a thought-provoking and timely *Festival of Faith* the weekend of April 21-22, 2018. The Rev. Dr. Roger Gench, senior pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. will be the guest lecturer. Dr. Gench will focus on the ministry and theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. in relation to today's cultural ethos.

In preparation for this weekend, we will be offering book discussions on similar issues. Join us as we meet the third Wednesday of March and April to discuss two important books - Charles Dew's *The Making of a Racist: A Southerner Reflects on Family, History, and the Slave Trade* (on March 21), and Eric Dyson's *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White Americans* (on April 18). Please come and participate in this difficult, life-giving conversation.

For both March 21st and April 18th the group will meet in the Brady Chapel of Lexington Presbyterian Church (120 South Main St., Lexington, VA 24450) from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Books can be purchased on amazon.com.

All are welcome, so please invite friends and share with any other group! Call the church office if you have any questions – 540-463-3873.

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Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

April 2018

- 2 - Presbytery Office Closed
- 3 - CPT 10:00 am
- 3 - CPM Exam 10:30 am
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 9 - CCR 1:30 pm
- 12 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - Ethiopian Partnership 10:00 am
- 15 - Thomas Carrico Ordination
at Finley Memorial Church 3:00 pm
- 16 - CRE Oversight 4:15 pm
- 17 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am
- 17 - EPMC 7:00 pm at Tabler Church
- 18 - CPM 9:30 am
- 18 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 19 - CER 10 am
- 19 - CPA 1:00 pm
- 19 - ShenPress Deadline
- 24 - CPC 10:00 am
- 28 - CMO 9:30 am

Other Dates

- April 6-7, 20-21 - Paddy Run Work Days
- April 14 - P W Spring Gathering
at Massanetta Springs
- April 14 - Ethiopian Partnership 10:00 am
- April 21 - GA 223 Commissioner Training
at Timber Ridge Church
- May 1 - Sessional Records 1:00 pm
- May 3 - DPRT 12:00—2:00 pm
- May 5 - CRE Event
- May 17 - Retired Pastors' Luncheon
at Sunnyside 12:00 pm
- May 22 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery
at Lexington Church 9:30 am

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.