



SUNRISE

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah

Darlene Mason, Moderator

<http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>

November 2018

Pat Armstrong, Editor

The Moderators View

Darlene Mason

We are fast approaching the Holidays. Where in the world has this year gone? I love the changing of the trees but it seems we are going from summer right into winter.

Our country has suffered another devastating Hurricane. It is hard to imagine how the people in these states are surviving. So many have only the clothes on their backs. After working years only to lose everything. Our PDA has been in the thick of the destruction. Let us do what we can, because the need is great.

Our Ct are collecting Hygiene kits and if anyone needs a way to get them to us if you would call me Darlene Mason 540-885-3660 I will see that they are picked up.

We wonder why good people suffer, but God never said we would have a life of ease He says **I will be with you. Judges 6:16**

In Christ's service

NEWS FROM MOSSY CREEK

You may recall from a previous Sunrise that Mossy Creek is celebrating 250 years this year and the celebrating continues. Recently we had a day of celebrating when friends and former pastors were invited. Last Saturday we had the 53rd Annual Auction when the apple butter and lots of wonderful items were sold. PW made oyster sandwiches, soup, barbeques and of course, lots of pies and cakes. It was a beautiful day. The next celebration will be the history of music. We continue to support the Bridgewater Food Pantry, Stokesville Food Pantry, Mt. Solon Fire and Rescue, Bridgewater Fire Department, Bridgewater Rescue Squad, the Challenger Program, the Haiti Education Foundation and the Thank Offering. We will be decorating our Chrismon Tree soon with all handmade ornaments. Our Circles started our study of GOD'S PROMISE I am with you and will be doing an Advent study about Joseph in Sunday School. The Women of Mossy Creek

SHARED BY RUTH WILLIAMS



THANKSGIVING DINNER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

-Mary Fairchild

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Shared by Pam Snyder

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

“Thanksgiving was always a festive time for our family, complete with a table of plenty! Each year I think of those wonderful times when we gathered as a large family and shared the food, fun, family fellowship and love. However, I always remember the “guests” that were at our Thanksgiving table each year. As a child I often wondered my parents always invited strangers to our family Thanksgiving. As I matured, I recognized that my parents opened our home and our Thanksgiving celebration to anyone they met that did not have a family to enjoy the holiday with. Our guests represented a variety of

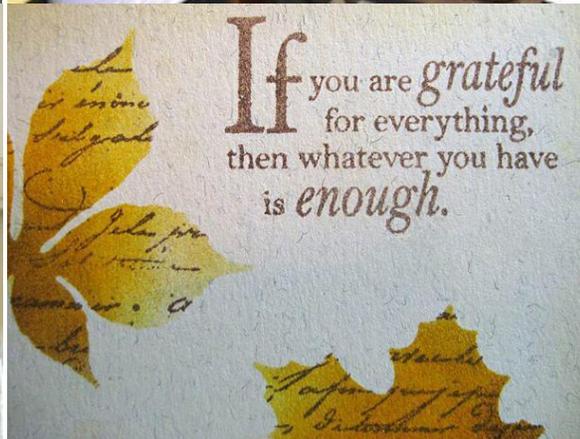
ages, abilities, cultures, ethnicities, and they were all welcomed at our table and a part of our family. My parents taught us at an early age to not just be thankful, but to share our blessings with those in need. I'm very thankful for my wonderful, caring parents; the loving home they provided, and the valuable lessons they taught us!"

Pam Snyder

BEULAH/MONTEREY PW HOST SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, October 20, the Beulah/Monterey PW hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent auction at the Beulah Church to raise money for missions and outreach. Good cooks, generous folks, and the music of Rick Hill, Neal Mohlmann, and Michael Bedwell made for a wonderful evening of fellowship for the Mill Gap and Monterey community and beyond. It takes a village! We are blessed. Pictures below.

SHARED BY MARY LOU COX



Thanksgiving Quote

FIND US FAITHFUL BAHA, MEXICO MISSION TRIP

The Gearings sat down with me to share their thoughts and feelings about their 2018 mission trip to the Baja peninsula with the intent not to simply bring honor to the participants, but to show what life-long commitment to the service of our Lord looks like. Furthermore, written with the hope and conviction that we each might step out in faith for just such an adventure and bring help to a needy world. To that end, the Gearings have volunteered to talk with any group in the Presbytery wishing more information on the Baja Mission. Ellen Blose

What does one do in ones life to serve God's people when you have filled the Presbytery's Disaster buckets, stuffed Church World Service School kits with supplies, bought goats, and bee colonies for Heifer International, and helped commission your church's mission teams year after year? But you still feel that there is a little something missing. Perhaps the time isn't right, or commitments in other areas of your life preclude you looking for that fleeting thought of something more.

Jean Gearing and her husband, Frank had that gnawing awareness in their own lives, waiting for a moment in time that they could address this desire. With Frank's retirement from a long and rewarding Pediatric practice, and Jean's rotation from PW Council of Massanutten Church as moderator, time and commitment finally were in sync.

After hearing of and attending information meetings about the Baja Mission project, Jean said that she and Frank looked at each other and said, "We can do this!" For years, Shenandoah Presbytery, along with other faith communities have had a mission project on the Baja peninsula working with a world-wide organization YWAM or Youth With a Mission. This project had a very workable plan to build housing for families, and Frank said, "There's something about working with your hands, getting dirty, tired, and emotionally connected with all the other laborers that gave us great satisfaction."

Receiving meaningful instructions before arriving at the site, the work crew, in less than a week, completed four units—one being a cafeteria—and in each individual house a kitchen with cabinets and a sink. Such simple things that we take for granted, brought untold joy to the occupants. Jean said, "You can't imagine how we felt watching a young mother see her kitchen sink." When was the last time you got excited over a kitchen sink??

I asked Jean and Frank what impressed them most about this mission, and their reply was, first of all, that a diverse group of 43 people, young, old, professional, non-professional, toiled side by side, not only in harmony, but with enthusiasm. Secondly, the people they met in the community were happy and positive with little of the world's goods. Jean said they were touched when, with the completion of this small house for the young mother, she provided a feast for them, complete with a "Mucho Gracias" cake. Someone said the cost of which was several week's wages.

It is amazing what Christians can do with no thought of self to show our Lord's love and concern for all people. We hope that this short story will encourage you, who read this, to answer whatever call God puts upon your heart. The world awaits

“ And the king said, “When you have done it to the least of these.....
Matthew 25: 40

WRITTEN AND SHARED BY ELLEN BLOSE

HAPPENINGS AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN STAUNTON

Second Pres. of Staunton had the Doggie Church as I reported last time and it is good to tell you that there were 7 Pets and I am told their owners behaved well!!!!

We held a joint service with 1st and Third Presbyterians at Third Church, due to the influx of visitors for the Mischief and Magic Festival held in the city, which took up most of the parking spaces available. Each Pastor had a part and as Evan said they teamed the service. Jacob Singleton, of Third, Karen Allamon of First, and Evan Smith of Second shared all aspects of the service. It went so well, they are in meetings to again do a joint service.

Our members enjoyed a soup and sandwich luncheon on Oct. 7 to recognize World Food Day. A variety of soups and many deserts were offered. No one went away hungry and maybe had a little something for next day.

Darlene Mason

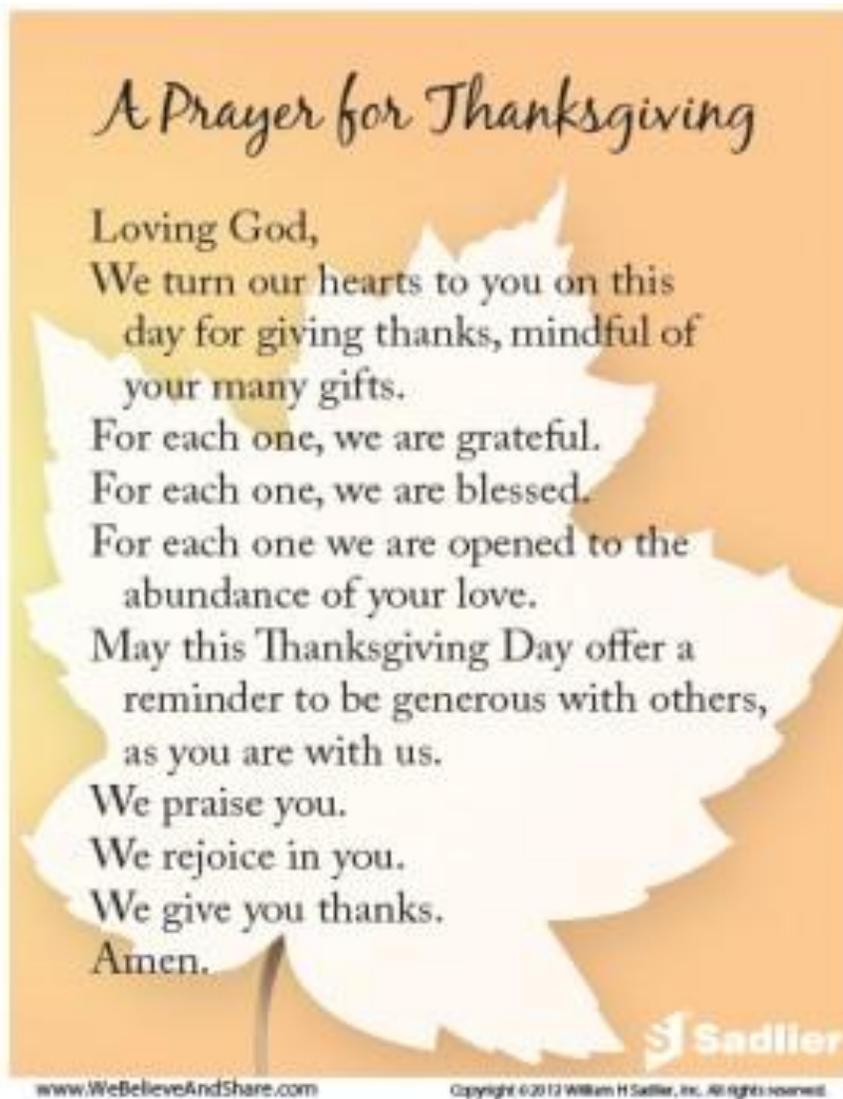
THE THANKSGIVING TREE

Earlier in the week I cut a forked branch from a forsythias bush in the yard and stuck it in a block of foam for a decoration on the "kids" table for Thanksgiving dinner. With lots of colored paper leaves, I gave our youngest grandchildren the chore of getting everyone to write something they were thankful for and hang in on the tree.

No one got in the spirit of "thankfulness" more than little John Sekula, for on the tree among lofty adult phrasing of blessings were some block printed, uneven thankfulness notes. John refused to group his thanks in any way, choosing to list one by one his brother, his Mom, his Dad, and although he had to ask me the "third" letter in Jane's name, his sister went on the tree along with two bunnies names Chrunchy and Blizzard, Jr. (now the Blizzard saga is another whole story) but I think John has the right idea about all this thankfulness stuff.

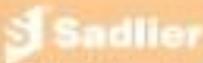
It's easy to just group blessings, like health, relationships, etc. so that we don't have to think too deeply about all the people who have touched our lives, or the many gifts of joy and peace that we just take for granted. So here's to all the Johns in the world who think every blessing deserves its own leaf. I trust your Thanksgiving tree was weighed down with leaves of every sort.

WRITTEN AND SHARED BY ELLEN BLOSE MASSANUTTEN PRESBYTERIAN

The graphic features a large, stylized white leaf with a brown stem, set against a warm orange-to-yellow gradient background. The text of the prayer is centered within the leaf's shape.

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this
day for giving thanks, mindful of
your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the
abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a
reminder to be generous with others,
as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.

 Sadlier

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