

Shenandoah Press

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Stated Presbytery Meeting Feb 27

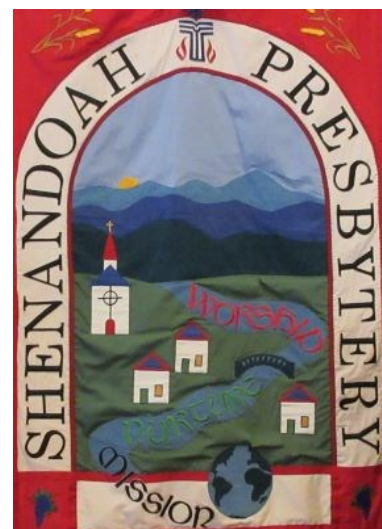
The 200th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Please mark your calendars. More information will be sent out shortly, along with the Handbook for the Meeting.

[Click Here](#) to register for the Stated Meeting.

Practice Session Feb 20

We will also be holding a practice Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm. This is for those new to Zoom or who need a refreshment of the instructions. [Click Here](#) to register for this Practice Meeting.



Elkton Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Service 2023
Photo by CRE Judy Hensley's daughter, Jaimie Hensley

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John 3: 16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines Day.

A real mis-match, you might think. When contemplating the 40 days leading to the cross, cards and hearts and chocolates (something we might give up for Lent) seem garish and wrong.

But if we focus on love, the amazing love of God, the abundant, astounding love shown in Christ, the uniting, unifying love we experience in the Holy Spirit, it seems appropriate.

One of my favorite hymns is "What Wondrous Love." (#215 in the Glory to God hymnal). Coming out of the Southern Harmony song book, there is no author or composer known to us. But this song lifts up the amazing love of God. Its last stanza, in out hymnbooks, says "and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on..."

Which leads me to another favorite hymn, "How can I keep from singing?" Also known as "My Life Flows On," (#821) and is attributed to "Pauline T.," but our hymnal gives credit to Robert Lowry for both text and music.

This song also speaks to that wondrous love, that above all strife and turmoil, the Easter promise still continues: that Christ has conquered death and sin, and is Lord of heaven and earth, and Lord of all our lives.

That, friends, is reason for singing about the wondrous love given to us.

May you have a blessed Lent, and through these 40 days, may you sing God's goodness.

Nancy

Lent Lectionary Discussion Recording

On Tuesday evening, January 23, Nancy Meehan Yao led a discussion on the lectionary readings for this Lenten Season. Some folks who registered were not able to join that night, so we recorded the session and now we make it available to you!

Click on the link below to go to the recording. It is approximately one hour long. If you have any questions or comments, you may contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/bKbmjavNtik>.



Communion Training for Ruling Elders

February 24, 2024, 9:30am—3:30pm
Collierstown Presbyterian Church
31 Church Drive, Lexington, VA 24450



On **Saturday, February 24**, Shenandoah Presbytery will host a Training for Ruling Elders to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Collierstown Presbyterian Church in Lexington. Churches in the Lexington area are welcome to send Ruling Elders for the training. Each Session is invited to endorse one or two Ruling Elders to receive this training (they do not need to be currently serving) but is especially helpful for those congregations without pastoral leadership.

Ruling Elders should fill out the registration form at <https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/elder-communion-Feb2024> and will, in turn, receive study materials and work to do prior to our training.

NOTES:

- ◆ Maximum of 15 participants
- ◆ This training is a one day training from 9:30am-3:30pm. It will include discussions about the theology and polity of the Lord's Supper, and also a practicum time (pouring/praying/presiding).
- ◆ Lunch will be supplied by the Collierstown Church PW. If you have any dietary concerns, please contact the church at 540-463-5918 or cpcsecretary5918@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, contact the Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao at assocgp@shenpres.org, or call (904) 806-5795.

Mandatory Boundary Training

To serve our Lord faithfully, and to guard the welfare of our congregations, Shenandoah Presbytery requires that all congregational leaders (Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and those At-Large) take part in a Mandatory Boundary Training, given through Shenandoah Presbytery, every three years. Others are invited and welcome to attend these trainings: Ruling Elders and Deacons from congregations, staff, and members of congregations as well.

Many of you have already attended these trainings. If you are due for renewal in 2024, Nancy Meehan Yao has sent an email to you stating that you are due. If you have questions about when you last completed your Mandatory Training, please contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org and not the office staff.

Registration Links:

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 pm—9:30 pm [Click Here](#)

Saturday, March 16, 9:30 am—12:30 pm [Click Here](#)

Mt. Olive Church News

Our church Christmas Play was held on Sunday December 17th, 2023 during our worship service. The name of the Play: "The Christmas Story....Prophesied". The play was put on by the Youth Leaders, the Youth, and the Children. The youth and a few of the leaders had most of the reading, except for a few of the smaller children had reading parts. All of the smaller children performed the play along with several pieces of music and songs. The play was a hit with the congregation and a thank you to everyone that put this together.



Kingsway Prison Ministry collecting toothpaste for the inmates as part of their Christmas.



Samaritan Purse Christmas shoeboxes for children all over the world were collected for a month.

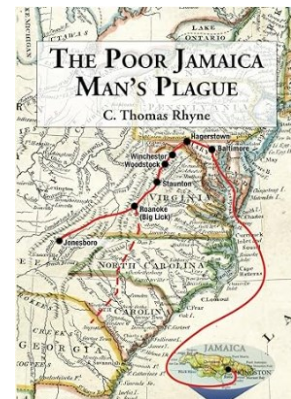
Submitted by: Lois Howe, Ruling Elder, Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church

Thomas Rhyne, Former Front Royal Church Pastor, Publishes Book

Dr. C. Thomas Rhyne, Hon. Ret., of Strasburg, Virginia has recently published a history of two colonial families in the Lower Shenandoah Valley.

Titled *The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague: Mary Butler and John Tipton, Colonials in Transition, 1747-1783*, the book chronicles the major social, economic, and political events that touched the lives of the Butler and Tipton families from the French and Indian War through the Revolutionary War and beyond when the Butler family moved to the Ohio Country and the Tipton family moved to western North Carolina. The experiences of the Butlers and Tiptons mirror those of many a colonial during this time of great upheaval and change.

Marketed by [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), this non-fiction book has 628 pages of text and more than 3,100 notes. To preview the initial pages, go to Amazon and select books. Then enter "C. Thomas Rhyne" and hit search.



Attention Treasurers:

Be sure your church has returned the 2024 asking forms, these are a very important part of the presbytery planning, and we are grateful to our churches for your support of your presbytery. If your church has not received the 2024 asking letter and acceptance form, or if you have any questions, please contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org.

IRS Mileage Rates

IRS issues standard mileage rates for 2024; mileage rate increases to 67 cents a mile, up 1.5 cents from 2023

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2024 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2024, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 67 cents per mile driven for business use, up 1.5 cents from 2023.
- 21 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, a decrease of 1 cent from 2023.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2023.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

For more information, visit the IRS site: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2024-mileage-rate-increases-to-67-cents-a-mile-up-1-point-5-cents-from-2023>.



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ShenPres.org



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!

February 2024

- 3 - CMO 9:30 am
- 5 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 8 - CPT 9:30 am
- 8 - CRM 9:30 am
- 8 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 14 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
at Presbytery Office
- 15 - CER 10:00 am
- 15 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 20 - CNCD 3:00 pm
- 21 - CPM 10:00 am
- 21 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline

Other Dates

- 1 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 15 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 20 - Practice Session for Presbytery Meeting 7:00 pm
- 27 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings
will be held via Zoom.