

The Messenger

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

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Mechanicsville, VA 23111



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January 2010

"A NEW YEAR"

Change. We live in a world of constant changes. News events and personal circumstances can change in an instant—and can be reported almost instantaneously. The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus declared that *"you can never step into the same river twice."* Indeed, every day brings its own challenges and opportunities before us.

Change can be welcomed or resisted—but change is difficult to ignore. Some people find change difficult because the status quo implies stability. We count on Virginia Power delivering electricity to our doors 24/7, day after day. When the snow or ice storm knocks out the power the resultant change interrupts our routines, our schedules and our expectations. Responding to various changes can cause us anxiety. But it also can lead us to greater faith in our God—whose mercies are new every morning and whose compassion fails not.

God's faithfulness quiets my soul and bids my sorrows cease when I read about war and terrorist threats. The uncertainty we feel as a nation about homeland security or the economic downturn ought to lead us to call upon the Lord—again and again, more and more. And if God is faithful in times of great national and global challenges, He also cares about His church and His people during times of changing leadership.

In early 2010 Fairfield will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee who then will lead us in

the search for a new Pastor, Head of Staff. Meanwhile you have a new interim pastor and six new elders joining the leadership team. Together we will march into this New Year looking to the Lord to guide us and to provide for us. I never look at a so-called "interim ministry" as a time to tread water or to stand still. I believe God has new challenges and new opportunities in every New Year. We must be alert to what assignments He has in store for us.

Ultimately you and I trust the future and well being of Fairfield to the hands of Jesus Christ who is Lord of the Church. He will continue to bless and build this wonderful congregation. But, yes, I pray about the details. I pray for God's selected individual to serve as the next pastor of Fairfield. And I pray for a smooth process. Please join me as we work together as prayer partners.

Change. Changing leadership. Changing how we do what we do. Growing in grace is all about change. It is about our faith journey selves being changed by the Spirit into the likeness of Jesus. May we all be changed for the better and for His glory! Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Inside this Issue:	Page
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Church Calendar	11
Committee News	6-9
Member News	2
Nursery Volunteers	9-10
Thank You Notes	2
Youth Group News	12

Member News

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Jo Wagner** who died on December 10th and to **Jack Briel** on the death of his brother Larry who died on December 3rd.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Rock Campagna, Hazel Christian, Hattie Davis, Virginia Fraysse, Beverly Fulwider** and her mother Doris Duncanson, **Mildred & Nevin Funk , Ray Gammon, Alyce Haller, Bill & Dot Harding, Durward Harding, Stan & Virginia Hiner , Ida Horne, Bryant Lowery, Christine Lowery** and her daughter Cindy, **Mildred Miller, Wendy Palmer's** aunt Doris, **Kathryn Parks, Denise Payne, Gerry Peed , Odell Scruggs, Mary Simpson** and her friend, Cherry, **Bootsie Stevens, Buford Wade, Elizabeth Wagner** and daughter Martha, **Ardy Winkle** and her brother Randy, **Greg Woodfin, Sr., Minnie Worley, Trent Chelette, Charles Keese** and all the men and women who serve our nation. Also remember those who have lost jobs in the current economy.

(Please update Pastor Richard or Pastor Dixie as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)

If you would like to be visited by our pastor, please call the church office to make arrangements.

Thank You

Dear Fairfield Friends,
Jake, Liz and I thank you for the many kindnesses you've shown upon us during our recent loss. We have felt your love and support every day. And thanks to Dixie, my small group, Dwight, Amy, the choir members and all who assisted with the memorial service and beautiful reception afterward. It lifted us up during a very, very difficult time.

Sally Mills

We are always grateful for the service given to the church by so many members, and especially

elders. We want to thank those retiring elders Gene Rosen (also as Clerk of Session), Wendy Palmer, Cathy Guertler, Chris Sorensen, and Allison Letourneau. They have each chaired committees that oversee the workings of so many behind-the-scenes tasks to make sure that Fairfield is a place of welcome, of encounter with God, and of growth and nurture. Thank you to these leaders among us, whom we appreciate.

The Pastoral Staff

"Thank you for the Thanksgiving basket. God bless you at Christmas and always!"

Mary Harker

Jack and Lori Briel wish to thank the Fairfield church family for their faithful prayers and support throughout Larry Briel's illness and recent passing. Your ongoing encouragement helped us through and was a blessing to all of us.

Jack & Lori

Dear Members of Fairfield,

FPC's monetary support and nonperishable food contributions enable needy Mechanicsville residents to receive a "hand up" when assistance from other community resources have been exhausted. We are honored by your commitment to collaborate with MCEF to further God's work in our community.

On behalf of the Mechanicsville Churches Emergency function's Food Pantry, thank you for your gracious, very faithful, and extremely generous deliveries of food throughout 2009! You've made a huge difference in our ability to assist needy Mechanicsville neighbors and keep the Food Pantry's shelves well stocked.

Nancy Gallihugh currently serves as MCEF's Recording Secretary and also continues as Fairfield's MCEF representative. We appreciate Nancy's enthusiasm, leadership, and faithful service in the name of FPC, in supporting our mission of Mechanicsville churches working together.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to the people of FPC. Thank you for being such an active participant in MCEF!

Theresa Wilson

A huge "thank you" to all who participated in the Angel Tree project. Once again, Fairfield has shown their generosity to 28 children. This wonderful ministry is such a Blessing to our congregation!

Janet Chelette



Voncile Baughman	January 3
Kelly Wolfgang	January 5
Cheryl Formosa	January 6
Rachel White	January 9
Dale Woodfin	January 10
Eva Ladd	January 11
Ryan Westphal	January 12
Richard Wood	January 12
Mary Love Schumaker	January 13
Janie Harrington	January 14
Jo Mitchell	January 14
Thomas Smith	January 14
Jack Briel	January 15
Ashley Moore	January 16
Frances Laining	January 18
Nancy Hart	January 19
Diane Brown	January 20
Chris Palmer	January 20
Anna Barrowclough	January 21
Griffin Herring	January 22
Katrina Gauntt	January 23
Louise Setchel	January 23
Elizabeth Davis	January 24
Kurt Gardiner	January 24
Troy Horn	January 24
Will Hughes	January 24
Charles Walsh	January 24
Rock Campagna	January 25
William Dunn	January 25
Billy Elmore	January 25
Mike Hohman	January 26
Margaret Courtney	January 27
Leigh Simpson	January 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Jay & Beth Nolte	January 4
Stan & Virginia Hiner	January 19
Earl & Helen Rigsby	January 24
Tracy & Beth Young	January 31

Coming Weeks in Worship

Jan. 3	“Sign of the Star”
Jan. 10	“The Transplanted Tree”
Jan. 17	Psalm 23
Jan. 24	“O Come Let Us Adore Him”
Jan. 31	Psalm 42

Directory Changes

Stuart & Hattie Davis
8202 Horsham Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Wendy Palmer (Matthew & Madeline)
4576 Jasmine Drive
Center Valley, PA 18034

Mike & Terri Joyce
2307 Cavalry Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
779-3718

Meet our
newest
member!



Dana Mason is a hometown girl who was born and raised here in Mechanicsville. Between being Mom to daughter Abigail (Abi), who is almost five years old, and employed as a nurse by a local Mechanicsville physician, Dana has little time for anything else! Dana found Fairfield through friend Katie Underdown. Katie invited Dana to the twin's baptism and it was from there that Dana became interested in the fellowship of Fairfield. Dana enjoys the 9 A.M. contemporary Sunday service. Welcome to Fairfield Dana and Abi!

Pam Gigliotti

Committee Reports

Adult Discipleship

Winter Seminar for January, 2009

Discover Who God Made You to Be, Why You're Here, and What You Do Best

This seminar will be led by Dixie Brachlow and we will be exploring our personality types and gifts through the Myers Briggs inventory. In addition we will discover our spiritual gifts and our passion for service in the kingdom. The seminar will meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., January 19 – February 23. Also, please plan to attend one of the initial meetings—either January 5 at 7:00pm or January 10 at 5:00pm so that you can have the opportunity to take the Myers Briggs inventory. Please fill out the sign-up sheet (bulletin insert), and drop it off in the offering plate if you plan to participate in the seminar.

Attention Fairfield's Super Singles!

Please plan to join us for lunch on Sunday, January 10, at 12:30 p.m. We will be going to Lucille's (Southern cuisine), located in the shopping center at the intersection of Creighton and Laburnum Roads. If you are single—widowed, divorced, or never married—we would love for you to join us! We hope to see you there!



Library News

"Brothers and sisters work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen."

2 Peter 1:10

In a recent Sunday School lesson, in the Union Class, we were reminded of the seven virtues of a faithful Christian and how the Apostle Peter wanted us to be a faithful people.

In the library we have many titles that will help us along in our journey as a faithful people. Look for

The Jesus I Never Knew, God's Story and Facing Your Giants. New to the children's area you will find Little Ways To Praise, My Bible Stories-The Promised Land and Rise and Shine.

In this new year of 2010 and as Christians in today's world we must always work at being a faithful people living in the manner that Christ and followers like Peter showed us many years ago.

Happy New Year. Elizabeth Covington

Evangelism and Community Outreach

Evangelism can take many different forms. This new year, as you're setting resolutions, take some time to think about the ways you can share the message of Christ with those around you. It may be through helping a neighbor, cheering up a friend, serving someone in need, sharing your experience or resources, or inviting someone to worship or to an event at Fairfield.

In fact, many of our new members from 2009 started attending Fairfield **because someone they knew simply invited them**. Who else may become part of our body of Christ, just by you extending an invitation to someone you know? Who else may be inspired to share their gifts when you provide an example or encouragement?

By using our unique gifts of being ourselves, in the places that we already are, we can indeed be a messenger of Christ. All we need to do is try. Keep your eyes open for these opportunities in 2010. You may even find it easier to act on than going to the gym!

Stacie Herring

Member Assimilation

Hopefully you had a wonderful Christmas. We even had snow to add to the excitement!

Two of the Member Assimilation Committee's goals are to give members from both services a chance to visit with each other, and to encourage members to find some new ways to participate in Worship Plus 2. To help reach these goals the committee has been hard at work planning the following events for the New Year.

Our next **All Church Dinner** will be on **Wednesday, January 13**. The menu will be spaghetti with meat or tomato sauce, salad, bread, and dessert. Reservation forms will be in the friendship pads in the sanctuary. This meal is a great time to meet with other members to renew friendships and to make some new ones.

As a Fifth Sunday event, on **Sunday, January 31**, at 10:00, we will be having a **Time and Talent Fair** in the Family Center. Various groups at Fairfield will have booths set up so you can explore the many opportunities our church provides. Sunday School classes will have a chance to check in at their booth to have their attendance counted and give their offering. Coffee, tea, and goodies will be provided.

On **Saturday, February 13**, Fairfield will be having a **Sweetheart Dinner**. Food will be prepared by our local chef, Dwight Clark, and music will be provided by Rick Houchins. This event is for the whole congregation. More details will be in the February newsletter, but save this date on your calendar.

We hope to see many of you at these upcoming events.

Beth Young

Member Care

Flower Donations

Just a note to thank the many people who donate flowers for our Sunday worship services. It seems it is custom for families to share those flowers with someone they know, or to let the church deliver them. We are glad to be able to pass on to members who are healing or bereaved. Those bouquets grace their rooms with their beauty and show both friendship and care.

Here are this month's featured Shepherd Groups. Please continue to pray for those in your group and reach out if you hear they are on the prayer list. We are still looking for a few more Shepherds. Please contact Sandra Brewster if you would be willing to serve as a Shepherd or if you need a new list of your group. Thank you very much.

Shepherds- Billy & Nancy Walls

Voncile Baughman
Ollie & Nancy Courtney
Odell Scruggs

Shepherds-Jack & Beverly Ward

Jake & Sharon Eshler
Nevin & Mildred Funk
Bettina Horn
Bruce Jenkins
Richard & Deborah Wood

Shepherds- Charles & Bonnie Warren

Margaret Coutney
Stacy Moore
Murrell & Joyce Nuckols
Melanie Rubeck
Bill & Judie Thompson

Men of the Church

Fairfield Men of the Church were happy to have our new interim pastor Richard Haney join us all the way from the Midlothian area for our December breakfast. Pastor Haney started our morning with a prayer and blessing. We reflected on the opportunities the men had to share and give to the community and fellow church members. We finalized details for the staff gifts and also elected to give monetary help during this Christmas season to a family in need.

What a busy month November was with the delivery of food baskets to 7 families as well as providing a wonderful church-wide Thanksgiving breakfast. Because of the love and generosity of the Fairfield congregation, donations exceeded over \$600 to be used in future projects.

We look forward to starting off the New Year with the next Men's fellowship breakfast on January 8th from 6 to 8am. We will discuss more opportunities to serve in the upcoming New Year. Everyone's input is valuable and all men are

welcome and encouraged to attend the fellowship at The Cold Harbor Restaurant.

Please call Bill Dobson to reserve a spot at the breakfast table. A Thursday night breakfast reminder will also be an option for anyone who needs it. We look forward to seeing you.

Service in Christ,
Bill Dobson & Billy Putze

Missions

Richmond Friends of the Homeless

Our next time to serve lunch is **Friday, January 8th**. This month we need food contributions as well as volunteers to meet at the church at 11am and travel downtown together to provide this wonderful service. Please sign up to serve in the Narthex. Please take this opportunity to serve with us!

MCEF News

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions
www.mcefva.org

Happy New Year!

The new year couldn't start without a huge thank you for all the holiday contributions to MCEF. Fairfield Presbyterian Church was very thoughtful as 2009 closed and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the choir for designating their honorarium from a December performance at The Polegreen Historic Church to MCEF; and to Girl Scout Troops 793 and 3137 for collecting new socks for men, women and children as well as food for the Food Pantry; and to Charles Warren for delivering the December church contributions to the Food Pantry while we were on vacation.

2009 brought many changes to our lives in many different ways. But our church family never failed to remember those in our community who need our help. We are blessed.

The next collection of food and personal items for the Food Pantry is Sunday, January 3, 2010.

God Bless, Nancy and Ivy Gallihugh

Sunday School

God's Treehouse Adventures moves from Christmas to an important beginning of Jesus' ministry, with the Baptism of Jesus, through January. The kids in Preschool and K-1 will be able to better know both Jesus as God's Beloved Son and to understand the meaning of their own baptism, too. Pam Gigliotti leads this for K-5, and Donna Horn leads the Preschoolers.



Vision Committee

The Vision Committee has started its last two sections of work! Now that we have gathered the congregational feedback with the recent survey and interviews, we have started looking into needs/aspirations of our community, and have requested information from each session committee. We are using resources like census data, as well as community trends from the Presbytery and others, to help us understand dynamics that may impact the future direction for Fairfield. We appreciate your continued prayers as we synthesize the information, to help discern God's plan for our church in the community. Thanks, as always, to the devoted committee members who have spent months on this effort to date. We're making great progress, and look forward to sharing the results in 2010.

It's Up to You

Have you made someone happy or made someone sad,
What have you done with the day that you had?

God gave it to you to do just as you would,

Did you do what was wicked or do what was good?

Did you hand out a smile or just give them a frown,

Did you lift someone up or push someone down?

Did you lighten some load or some progress impede,

Did you look for a rose or just gather a weed?

What did you do with your beautiful day,

God gave it to you, did you throw it away?

Nursery Schedules

Preschool Sunday School

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

Jan. 3	Janet Chelette & Karen Couch
Jan. 10	Courtney Fisher & Nancy Gallihugh
Jan. 17	Mitzi Marker & Becky Settle
Jan. 24	Linda Daugherty & Rachel Gaston
Jan. 31	Rachel White & Jamie Fisher

9:00am Preschool

Jan. 3	Bob Gaston & Ashley Young
Jan. 10	Amy Atkinson & Brenda Blue
Jan. 17	Amy Atkinson & Stuart Settle
Jan. 24	Shannon Beasley & Beverly Burts
Jan. 31	Bob Gaston & Brittany Young

9:00 Kid's Worship

Jan. 3	Laura Gauntt & Kevin Beasley
Jan. 10	Sorensen & Julie Gee
Jan. 17	Crystal Bessette & Tom Lake
Jan. 24	Ginny Patterson & Sharon Gaston
Jan. 31	Jenny Lake & Keith Franklin

10:00am Sunday School

Jan. 3	Linda Gruenhagen & Eva Ladd
Jan. 10	Dorothy Bowen & Billy Walls
Jan. 17	Nancy Walls & Beverly Ward
Jan. 24	Gen Stevens & Linda Gruenhagen
Jan. 31	Stephen Brachlow & Beverly Ward

11:00am Infant/Preschool Schedule

Jan. 3	Cathy Guertler & Susan Ciejek
Jan. 10	Michelle Gardiner & Anne Young
Jan. 17	Alison Dunn & Elizabeth Covington
Jan. 24	Cindy Holloman & Katrina Gauntt
Jan. 31	Erin Reasor & Ben Hohman

11:00am Kid's Worship

Jan. 3	Angela Schwartz
Jan. 10	Dixie Brachlow
Jan. 17	Pam Gigliotti
Jan. 24	Allison Letourneau
Jan. 31	Donna Hohman

Jan. 3	Bettina Tanner & Robin Patterson
Jan. 10	George Herring & Donna Horn
Jan. 17	Alison Dunn & Mitzi Marker
Jan. 24	Troy Horn & Robin Patterson
Jan. 31	Donna Horn Melanie Rubeck

C.S. Lewis "Shadowlands" Production

Stephen Brachlow directs "Shadowlands" at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, January 28-30, and February 4-6.

It portrays the love between C.S. Lewis, author and scholar, and Joy Davidman, an American poet. Tickets are on sale at Cokesbury Book Store, 353-6815.

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,
There is a deafening alleluia
Rising from the souls
Of those who weep,
And of those who weep with those who weep.
If you watch, you will see
The hand of God
Putting the stars back in their skies
One by one.

Ann Weems, Psalms of Lament
(1995, Westminster John Knox Press)

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