

## From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

We begin the Lenten season early this year during mid-February and continue the Lenten pilgrimage through the month of March. This liturgical season is a reflective, prayerful time that moves us through the cross to Easter. For this reason Lent is sober and hopeful in outlook. Sometimes Lent appears rather stark against social and cultural pressure to appear cheery and upbeat. This year may give us a unique opportunity to connect with Lenten lessons in a way that normally may not be quite as resonant with us.

Consider the words of Howard Rice, a former professor of Reformed spirituality at one of our Presbyterian seminaries, *"The Christian life is not a matter of simply trusting in Christ and having everything work out as we want it to. ... Christian faith does not exempt anyone from the tragedies of existence, which test the spirit. No matter how hard we pray or how deep our faith, we continue to be subject to troubles."*



That kind of honesty is a kindred spirit to the church season of Lent. Troubles come in all shapes and sizes: relational, health, financial and emotional. Amidst the weight of these, we find ourselves being tempted by avoidance. And religion itself can become a favorite means of avoidance. The resurgence of "health and wealth" religion and its easy promises of material blessing remind us of the power of avoidance's siren song. After almost a year of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have been reminded of trouble's persistent presence in a fallen and broken world.

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The season of Lent, however, invites us into a deeper experience of life in God. During this time of year we remember the Biblical stories of Jesus in the wilderness resisting the tempter. We hear the grief of Jesus lamenting over Jerusalem. We experience the pain of Jesus upon the cross. Wilderness, temptation, grief and death are all topics that we would gladly avoid. Yet all are human experiences that all people encounter. The Lenten pilgrimage reminds us that none of these experiences can separate us from the life and love of God. And so Lent is a remarkable season of hope.

Howard Rice, who I quoted earlier, lived his life with Multiple Sclerosis and spent most of his adult life in a wheel chair until he died at the age of 78. Given the unique real life challenges that he faced, his words have a special genuineness about finding hope amidst disappointment. Let me finish this piece by quoting his words that point to the deep and profound hope of Christian faith.

*"That if we truly seek, we shall find God is the basis for the journey of the spiritual life. In spite of the difficulties along the way ... this journey is one from which we cannot turn back. The testimony of the saints of all ages is that the journey is worth it; that God really is love; and that the love of God offers is the most important reality that can be known by any of us. Such knowledge enables a person to have tremendous power to take what happens, to surmount great difficulties, and to grow in the face of* (Willis, continued on page four column two)

## PW Word of the Month: GRACE

Our earliest encounter with the word **GRACE** is likely to say grace before meals. The pause is to thank God for family, food, friends, Jesus, and at some early age perhaps include the family pet.



In New Testament time Greek, one common meaning of **GRACE** was “pleasantness” such as Colossians 4:6, “*Let your speech be always with grace.*” Another is “*favor or approval*”. Jesus increased “*in favor with God and Man.*” Luke 2:52. The word could also mean “thanks”.

In the early Christian communities, **GRACE** was increasingly used to denote God's relationship to us humans. The Apostle Paul predominately used it in his writings: the “**GRACE** of God” and “**GRACE** from God”, and less frequently “the **GRACE** of Christ”. Nearly all of Paul's letters began with “**GRACE** and peace from God.”

Thus, we grew up in the Christian faith learning the sense of the word **GRACE**: God's unmerited free and spontaneous love for sinful humankind, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ. The beginning of worship is joyful thanksgiving to God for his **GRACE** to us and all humankind.

Akin to **GRACE** is the concept of God as judge implementing *justification*. It means the activity wherein God restores the sinner's goodness, makes “righteous”, and free from guilt. We are “*justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.*” Romans 3:24. In both **GRACE** and *justification*, the initiative is from God to welcome us to the loving relationship with our creator.<sup>1</sup>

*“Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his incredible gift!”* 2 Corinthians 9:13-15

**GRACE** and peace from God to you!

Martha and Philip Sieck

1. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, articles



## Readings For Lent

March 1	John 4:27-42	March 16	John 6:16-27
March 2	John 4:43-54	March 17	John 6:27-40
March 3	John 5:1-18	March 18	John 6:41-51
March 4	John 5:19-29	March 19	John 6:52-59
March 5	John 5:30-47	March 20	John 6:60-71
March 6	John 7:1-13	March 21	Mark 8:31-9:1
March 7	Mark 5:1-20	March 22	John 9:1-17
March 8	John 7:14-36	March 23	John 9:18-41
March 9	John 7:37-52	March 24	John 10:1-18
March 10	John 8:12-20	March 25	John 10:19-42
March 11	John 8:21-32	March 26	John 11:1-27
March 12	John 8:33-47	March 27	John 11:28-44
March 13	John 8:47-59	March 28	Matt.21:12-17
March 14	Mark 8:11-21	March 29	John 12:9-19
March 15	John 6:1-15	March 30	John 12:20-26
		March 31	John 12:27-36

## One Great Hour Of Sharing

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to build God's house-



hold and welcome our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief for natural and human-caused disasters, giving food for the hungry, and supporting the oppressed and poor.

Your help can address the root causes of hunger whether it be supporting the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota, helping communities in Bolivia, South Sudan, or Detroit secure access to safe drinking water, or donating to other projects in over 100 countries. Each gift you make helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations. If we do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Expect to receive materials and giving envelopes throughout the month of March with collections targeted for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you are donating by check, please add **OGHS** on the memo line.

## The Great Awakening Splits Churches Into Two Sides

Prior to the founding of the North Mountain Meeting House, the first “Great Awakening” swept across the English speaking world in Britain and the thirteen colonies of America in the 1730's and 1740's. Many northern colonies in America were founded upon religious principles while most middle and southern colonies were founded upon ideas to create wealth. With subsequent generations, many Christian colonists became complacent with formal and less personal worship which led to lower church attendance. Many became disillusioned with the higher authority and church leaders dominating the religious culture. America was largely divided into Quaker, Anglican, and Congregationalists churches.

The Great Awakening increased the degree to which people felt religion was important in their lives and transformed the religious climate in the colonies. Preachers challenged existing ways of thinking of religion. The focus was to produce a conversion experience within the *heart* of the hearer. The movement's purpose was to convince people that religious power was in their own hands and not in the hands of church leaders. Themes included:

- religion should not be formal but casual and personal
- all people are born sinners
- all people have a direct and emotional connection with God
- sin without salvation will send a person to Hell
- one can be saved if he confesses his sins to God, seek forgiveness, and accept God's grace

Two influential leaders of the movement were Jonathan Edwards, a New Englander who studied at Yale, and George Whitefield of Britain who studied at Oxford. Edwards refused to convert to the Anglican Church. He believed that New Englanders were too concerned with



worldly matters such as wealth. Some people even suggested that predestination was wrong, and good works could save a soul. He spoke with fury and conviction saying “God was an angry judge, and humans were sinners!” He sparked the Great Awakening in America.

Whitefield visited America in 1739-40 and preached to large crowds of colonists in open fields because there were no churches large enough to hold the number of people he attracted. An actor by training, he traveled over 5,000 miles and preached more than 350 times. He would often shout, weep with sorrow, and tremble as he delivered his sermons. He preached to common people, slaves, and Native Americans. He convinced the colonists to join churches and reenergized a waning Christian faith. He argued that religious authorities did not have control over ordinary people. Being an itinerant preacher, Whitefield would challenge the local church authorities in the name of God and then move on to the next town with no accountability for his work or action. He assumed the right to preach the gospel wherever he had an opportunity without invitations of existing church leaders. Other itinerants followed Whitefield's example of emotional “hell, fire, and brimstone” preaching.



Not everyone accepted the ideas of the Great Awakening. Many ministers and colonists still supported formal and traditional styles of worship. By 1742, the debate over the movement had split the colonists and clergy into two groups-Old Side or Old Lights and New Side or New Lights. At the time of the split, there were twenty-five Old Side ministers and twenty-two New Side ones. Until the “awakening,” ministers were classically trained in universities in England, Scotland, Harvard, and Yale and represented an educated upper class. New Side  
(Sides continued on page four, column one)

**Sides** continues from page three)

preachers began to organize their own schools and churches. The Neshaminy Log College of Pennsylvania, which later became Princeton University, was one such school. The Old Side ministers reacted negatively to ministers being trained in the New Side schools citing a lack of educational rigor or substandard training. Old Light ministers refused to accept this new style of worship.

But one result of the Great Awakening was greater religious tolerance with the rise of non-traditional denominations. The “awakening” became an event that all colonies shared and was a unifying factor resulting in political consequences in years to follow.

In 1758, the Presbyterians reunited. The number of Old Side ministers had decrease to twenty-two while New Side had numbered seventy-two. The New Side churches were active, growing, and full of young people. The organization of Hebron Church was a result of the New Side movement.

## Memorials For Easter

The Flower Committee is suggesting that memorial gifts replace the traditional Easter lily donations this year. Some examples of memorials include the cemetery and sanctuary funds, SACRA, and Valley Mission.



If you would like to make a memorial designation, please make your check payable to Hebron Presbyterian Church. On the memo line indicate which fund you wish to support. The deadline for gifts is Sunday, March 28.

## PW Meeting Scheduled

The Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, March 9 at 1:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. After a business meeting, the Rev. Steve Willis will lead a discussion on the first four chapters of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold Kushner. Please join us!



(Willis continued from page one)  
*tragedy and deep disappointment.”*

**(Reformed Spirituality)**

May God strengthen us during this Lenten season and through the careful remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we experience this profound hope once again.

Peace,

*Steve*

Rev. Steve Willis

## Committee Updates Manse

The Property Committee has been making progress on refurbishing the church manse. During the last few months. At this time the following projects have been completed:



- upgraded air conditioning duct work on the second floor
- cleaned and painted walls of the first and second floor rooms
- installed a new range hood
- power washed the brick wall on the north end
- repaired soffit on the north end
- removed old clothesline from back yard
- evaluated and cleaned living room and dining room curtains

Projects yet to be completed are:

- removal of remaining furniture and small items in garage and basement
- replace some light and fan fixtures
- repair shower and surround in first floor bathroom

Committee members along with numerous volunteers have donated many hours to planning and labor. We thank them for all they have accomplished thus far.

# A Loving Tribute To My Mother-Nancy Bell Brubeck Cline

April 26, 1926-January 10, 2021

Nancy Brubeck Cline was my mother—not by birth, but by choice. Mom and Dad made a decision to adopt when they were not able to have children of their own; they chose to love and support a daughter and a son, my brother Scott. God blessed me with a wonderful home and life because of their decision made in love.



Several attributes describe Mom best. The first is *love*. Mom was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grand-mother, daughter, sister, aunt. She loved her family and we all felt that love in everything she did for us – housekeeping, cooking, encouraging us to excel, and the list could go on. She was a wonderful *caregiver* to us, to her aging parents, and later to her grandchildren. As well, she was an *encourager*. Scott and I were always encouraged to step out and find our way and pursue the talents and skills that were given to us by God. She sacrificed so that her family could have the things they needed; Mom tells that “she washed many a dish” so that I would go sit at the piano and practice. Mom challenged Scott and me to be the very best we could be.

Mom exhibited *strength* throughout her life, handling hardships and illness with grace and perseverance. When Dad was sick and in the hospital for 40 days with Osteomyelitis, she carried the load of taking care of Dad as well as making the many decisions that were needed to complete the building of their house. Mom was a five-time cancer survivor. Treatments made her very tired and sick, but we never heard her complain. She lived each day one day at a time and accepted whatever came her way. Even as Mom was so sick with Covid-19 in her last days, my final memories of her were her sweet smile and her love for me as she took my hand and held it and kissed it.

Most important, Mom was a Christian. She loved the Lord and trusted Him every day of her life. She and Daddy made sure Scott and I went to Sunday School and Church where we learned about God and His love for us. They exhibited how to live a Christian life. She lifted her family up in prayer. She served her church faithfully as a member, a youth group leader, a Sunbeam girl; she was active in the work of the Women of the Church. Mom was a private person but would do anything for everyone without recognition.



If I would choose one Scripture that best describes my Mom’s life and the love and trust she exhibited for her Lord, it would be Psalm 23: *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Well done, thou good and faithful servant!

Martha Cline Ramsey

## A Note About Our Sunbeams

Several editions ago, the Sunbeam Society, a group organized for young girls in the 1920’s to 1940’s, was a featured topic. At that writing, three Sunbeams remained. Since the beginning of 2021, two have passed away. Next month, we will honor Nancy T. Cook for her life and work at Hebron.





## Lent Word Search

Find the words listed at the bottom of the page having to do with the season of Lent. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in all directions.



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

Ash Wednesday

Palm Sunday

Holy Week

Prayer

fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Easter

purple

Jesus

palm

Passover

resurrection

desert

sacrifice

ashes

cross

wilderness

temptation

forty days

meditation

sins

crucify

crown

hosanna



# March 2021

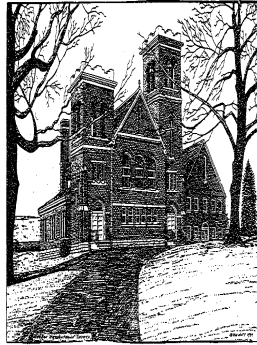
## Hebron Presbyterian Church

Worship 11 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Drive-In Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> PW Meeting 1:30 P.M. 	<b>10</b> Hug Your Dog Day 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Drive-In Worship Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Spring Begins 
<b>21</b> Drive-In Worship  Elder Training	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Session Mtg. 7:00 P.M. 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Drive-In Worship 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Doctor's Day 	<b>31</b>			

# HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church  
 423 Hebron Road  
 Staunton, VA 24401  
 Church Office: (540) 885-1648  
 E-mail: [myhebronpc@gmail.com](mailto:myhebronpc@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.hebronpc.com](http://www.hebronpc.com)  
 Ministries available to all ages  
 Sunday School 9:55 A.M.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.  
 Interim Pastor - Rev. Steve Willis  
 Editor of *Hebron Herald*—Joan Clemmer Wright



**March Birthdays**

Ross Shull	6	Wendy Kennedy	22
Chuck Davis	13	Parker Turnage	26
Benjamin Riley	15	Tim Malcolm	28
Janet Tuttle	16	Sandy Showalter	29
Lynne Moore	22	Rev. Steve Willis	31

## Session Minutes

Since there was no January Session meeting, there are no minutes to be found in this edition of the newsletter. The February meeting was held on February 25, but the minutes can not be distributed until they are approved at the March meeting.



## Like a Good Neighbor...

For three weekends in a row, Hebron could easily sing the jingle, "Like a good neighbor, Doug Riley is there." Without being asked, Doug has been pushing snow off the Hebron blacktop for more years than we can count. And we have been so fortunate that with all the farm chores and responsibilities that he has, he has always found time to plow out the parking lots and cemetery roads for many, many years. He is just that good neighbor we all are proud to have. So thank you, Doug. We appreciate your kindness and willingness to help us out when the snow and ice come our way!



## SACRA Donations

For the month of February, Hebron donated 56 food items to the SACRA food pantry. Thanks to all who have made contributions.