



**WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS** Check [www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](http://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) or 304.876.6466 for notices after 7:30 a.m. If the official leadership cannot make it to a service, anyone who can make it safely is welcome to organize an informal service of lessons, songs and prayer using the bulletin for the day.

**MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE**

*Give me eyes filled with compassion, give me ears ready to hear, may my heart be a reflection of your mercy.  
Keep me tender, keep me true. Make me more like you.*



Beautiful Montreat

Joining with 1,000 college students, singing that prayer, over and over again for four days straight, is my favorite image of this year's Montreat College Conference. It was written and led by our conference preacher, the Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, a powerful and gifted young black pastor/musician who preached each day. The keynote speaker was Eboo Patel, an influential Muslim interfaith organizer, and we also heard a heart shattering presentation from chaplains and inmates from the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women.



Congregation full of young people

"Faithfully LGBTQIA+" this year's More Light workshop, led by Jess Cook, was a smashing success, attended by around 60 people, two days in a row.

The Connections contingent from Shepherd University joined a group of 11 from campus ministries from across

the West Virginia. We shared a house, cooked meals in common, worshiped, and gathered at the end of each day to unpack all that we had encountered, students and campus pastors alike. It was a powerful experience of "Compassionate Community," this year's conference theme.



WV Campus Ministries

I believe that our campus program is the single most important mission outreach that we support as a congregation, and I think that the college conference is one of its most important aspects. So much happens in four short days, as we encounter new ideas and theologies, voices and experiences, new challenges and opportunities to study and to serve.

Thank you, SPC, for your faithful and continuing support for this ministry. I know you don't often see the fruits of our commitment. But please trust me—they are plentiful, meaningful and rich.

*—Ethel Hornbeck, Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry*

**YOU AND SPC CAN BOTH BENEFIT FROM THIS TAX REGULATION**



If you are over 70-1/2, and are taking an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from an IRA or 401(k), you normally must pay income tax on the amount of the RMD. But, you may avoid some of that tax if you have a part (or all) of the RMD sent directly to the church to satisfy your pledge. Briefly stated: The church gets the donation. *You pay no income tax on that portion of the RMD that you donate.*

This is not a tax loophole or gimmick. Congress enacted this rule to encourage philanthropy. With this tax regulation, you get a tax benefit for your donation, even if you take the standard deduction on your tax return. Your tax adviser can discuss the tax benefits; your IRA custodian can provide instructions on how to do this.

*—John Burns, Stewardship Committee*

**COLD WEATHER SHELTER March 16–23**

Guests will arrive around 7 p.m. Volunteers needed for morning meals and overnight stays. At least one man and one woman are needed each night. If you can help in any way, please contact: [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**SLEEPING BAGS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE** Check your closets for queen or king blankets, quilts, and comforters to use to make the bags. Contact Rie Wilson via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).



## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The PNC continues to meet weekly. To date, we have reviewed 44 applications and are conducting interviews. Once we've narrowed the field to 1-2 individuals, we'll be checking references and arranging to meet personally with each one.

Continuing the process as outlined in the PCUSA revised *On Calling a Pastor* manual, our next steps will be arranging for presbytery examination and approval, negotiating terms of call, and presenting our report and recommendation to the congregation for its vote. We are making steady progress and continue to welcome your prayers and support. For any questions please contact Christa Joyce at [shepherdstownsearch@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdstownsearch@gmail.com).

## STRATEGIC VISIONING

The Strategic Visioning Team continues to turn your feedback into action! One of the themes that surfaced from last year's focus groups was the need to more explicitly claim our identity as a church. Our team drafted, and the Session approved, an identity statement. We've integrated this into the website, and are in the process of creating other mechanisms to embed this statement into the life of the church.

We're also working to create mechanisms to make it easier for newcomers and old-timers alike to engage in the life of the church. To deepen this exploration, we're partnering more with the deacons and committee chairs about how to tap these very important structures to deepen the sense of care and engagement both within and beyond our walls.

—Leslie Williams, Chair

**PRAYER REQUESTS** Send to Kathy Reid at [kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**NEW CLERK OF SESSION** is LOIS SPREEN. Thank you to SUELLEN MYERS for five years of service.

## Adult Education...

**SUNDAY SEMINARS** February 17 begins an exploration of anger, using the Richard Rohr periodical *Oneing: An Alternative Orthodoxy* devoted to the topic. It includes a dozen essays from a wide variety of writers and perspectives. "Anger can actually be an expression of compassion, a willingness to uphold boundaries that are sacred or stand up for someone who is being oppressed." Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. Books are in the office: \$10 (or pay what you can.) All are welcome. Childcare provided.

- 2/17 Introduction and Contemplating Anger
- 2/24 The Virtue of Anger and The Costly Loss of Lament
- 3/3 Learning of Fire and Saluting the Divinity in You
- 3/10 Break
- 3/17 Moral Outrage and In Defense of Anger
- 3/24 Arthritis of the Spirit and The Role of Anger in Spiritual Work
- 3/31 The Second Sacred Gate and Anger, Contemplation, and Action

## SPC Monthly Activities...

**FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY** Coins for relief of hunger. Next: February 3

**TAIZÉ SERVICE** First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. *A Service of Prayer* in song, silence, candlelight. Next: February 6

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE** First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We continue our discussion of the book, *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. The February chapter is "Susanna's Choice." All women of the church are welcome. Next: February 7

**CONNECTIONS** SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Friday at 4 p.m., at the Blue Moon. For more information contact Ethel Hornbeck, [ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00-9:00 a.m. Next: February 16

**LISTENING GROUPS** Prayerful listening and conversation around scripture, poetry and other selected texts, led by Ethel Hornbeck.

- Third Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., in the balcony.

Next: February 20

- Third Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., in Classroom #1. Next: February 21

**CANTERBURY SERVICE** Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact Debbie Romano via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). Next: February 27

**SPC YARNS AND THREADS GROUP** Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. Contact Melinda Landolt or Elaine Hurd via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). Next: February 23

**COMMUNITY HYMN SING at SPC** Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., in the Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics: gospel, old-time and new. Contact Terry Tucker via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). Next: February 24



## Elsewhere...

**COMMUNITY DINNER** sponsored by the Jefferson County



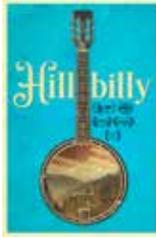
Homeless Coalition. First Sundays, 5 p.m., at Zion Episcopal Church, 301 East Congress St., Charles Town. We need: main dishes, veggies, salad, fresh fruit, bread, butter, and desserts. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or go to [PerfectPotluck.com](http://PerfectPotluck.com).

coordinator Wright, password 5777. Questions? Contact Bert Wright via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

Drop off hot food from 3:45-4:15 p.m., that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). Please use disposable containers, if possible. Next: February 3

**SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, February 21, 6 p.m.,**

Reynolds Hall, SPC/Social Justice and Shepherd University's Appalachian Studies Program present *Hillbilly*, a documentary depicting the authentic side of Appalachia. Countering the usual characterizations, *Hillbilly* includes people of color, LGBTQIA+ persons and features Silas House, bell hooks, Affrilachian poets and more.



Plus, the filmmakers are coming to Shepherdstown to answer questions after the screening. Check out the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/268320305>. Reservation information will be available soon.

**Looking ahead...**

**ASH WEDNESDAY March 6** Asbury United Methodist Church (across from Morgan's Grove Park) has invited us to observe Ash Wednesday with them. There will be a light dinner at 6 p.m., with worship, including communion and imposition of ashes at 7 p.m. We will be joined by Charles Town Asbury United Methodist and Shenandoah United Methodist Churches.

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS and PROGRAMS Sundays, March 10, 17, and 24.** Supper at 5:30 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. Details to follow.

**PC(USA) OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS  
COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE TRAINING DAY  
Friday, April 5, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,** New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.

Gather with fellow Presbyterians to look at how our church and partners are working to organize for change. Look at the Church as movement and as well as ways to build movements for change. Hear from inspiring leaders and learn about past, present, and future efforts to bring about a more just society and world. Receive concrete tools and strategies for members and their congregations to organize and advocate in their churches and local communities.

Training day registration is \$90; students \$45. To register go to: <https://ww2.eventrebels.com/er/Registration/RegistrationForm.jsp?ActivityID=28077&ItemID=96321>.

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE (IRSC)**

In the Fall of 2018, SPC's IRSC became aware of the work at Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, just 10 blocks from the US/Mexico border. The volunteers at this converted building, in a "gospel spirit of service and solidarity... accompany the migrant, homeless, and economically vulnerable peoples of the border region through hospitality, advocacy, and education."

Already struggling to maintain services, over the weekend of December 22, 2018, there were three days of ICE releases directly to the streets of El Paso. Annunciation House responded by providing hospitality to the increased number of refugee families being released by ICE in El Paso. Once ICE processes refugees, they have nowhere to go for support until their immigration hearing.

*SPC folks generously gave \$1,555 through the Alternative Christmas Gift Fair to Annunciation House. It came during a particularly needy period.* —Pat Hamilton

**YOUTH GO SHOPPING** The youth had a great time Christmas shopping for two organizations: Jefferson County Community



Ministries and Operation Christmas Teen. The youth worked on budgeting and allocating funds evenly for both toys and clothes, or food and clothes depending on which organization they were

buying for. Some of the toys included: DVDs, UNO decks of cards, Rubik's cubes, and a basketball. The items were delivered to JCCM and placed in the Operation Teen box at SPC. Thank you all for your dedication to serving our community. —Blessings, Morgan Sell, Youth Shepherd

**CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY PAGEANT, January 6**



Narrators



Always angels??



Of course there was a giraffe, kangaroo and tiger at the manger!



Four magi? What else!



TERRY TUCKER, Music Director



## Mission...

### ODE TO ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

A miracle occurred this Christmas-tide  
With a great SPC outpouring.  
The shoppers opened their wallets wide,  
o'er all the past records soaring!  
**\$1,730** to accompany threatened Colombians,  
For border programs, **\$1,230** for backpack provision  
and **\$1,555** for Annunciation House welcome were  
given.  
And an astounding **\$4,270** for homeless havens!  
The total, **\$8,785**, the Christmas spirit's profoundest  
vision;  
And the voice said, "Well done, my faithful and loving  
children!"  
—Bill Rule

(NOTE: Thanks to Bill Rule for his creativity and leadership in organizing this program!)



**LOST & FOUND; TOSSED AROUND** These boxes are outside the church office. Please check them out to see if something is yours.

*Otherwise, it gets tossed!!*

## Members and Friends...



**EUGENIA HANCOCK** celebrated her 98th birthday on November 28.



**WELCOME NEW OFFICERS**, ordained January 6  
L to R, Elders: **LONCE BAILEY** and **LYNN CODDINGTON**  
Deacons: **LORES MORTON**, **MERRY MORGAN**, and **BOB TUCKER**



**RIE WILSON** snapped the picture of several human and two dog souls who made it to the late service on January 13, after an 8+ inch snow storm. Five attended the early service (sorry no pic).

So while we were digging out, **DAVE and JULIA SPRINGER** were enjoying a vacation on Carriacou, 20 miles north of Grenada. Obviously, Julia was taking the picture.



## WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE

Christmas may be all about family and remembering years past. I experienced walking down memory lane in a different way while participating in our community's Historical Churches Tour, December 26.

It was a lot of fun to share with our community and visitors a little history of our faith community, to talk about how we began as a congregation in 1743, and how our building and faith has grown and changed over 275 years.

Next year, please consider joining us as we share our church's memories with others.



—Mica Martin

(NOTE: We had 153 visitors that day! Thanks to Suellen Myers, Vicki Smith and Mica for being docents, and Becky Phipps and Rie Wilson for greeting.)

The church ladies lovingly helped **JACK YOUNG** celebrate the life of his dear Martha.



**¡POR FAVOR, HABLE MAS DESPACIO!** (Please speak more slowly.) One of many useful phrases shared by the



teacher Sandra Mercado in the first Spanish class, attended by 13 students. Please join the class on Wednesdays, 12:30–2 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

## Financial Corner...

**GENERAL FUND** through January 27. Expected to date: **\$22,308**. Received to date: **\$22,855**. Building Fund pledged for 2019: **\$28,570**. Received to date: **\$2,120**.

**JOY GIFT OFFERING** **\$1,087**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER** March 2019. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite vacation pictures to [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

Deadline: February 20

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Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus  
Ministry: **Ethel Hornbeck**  
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for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.