



ATTENTION!! Construction on the kitchen will begin **June 3** and last until **August 2**. There will be **NO** access to the kitchen during this time including entering through the kitchen door. All handicap access will be via the portico ramp. Appliances and cabinets will be stored in one end of the Fellowship Hall, but it will continue to be available for meetings and gatherings. Questions? Contact Bill Rule, Property Chair, billnbethrule@comcast.net.



2019 SPC MISSION FAIR

Sharing gratitude, awareness, and possibilities with our congregation
Sunday, June 2, after both services

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to see and celebrate SPC's mission engagement in our community and our world.

Your Mission Committee is excited to share information with you about the various projects, partnerships, and organizations SPC supports throughout the year. In addition to the funding you provide through our annual budget, these initiatives can benefit from your support in non-monetary ways as well. We hope you will take some time to come celebrate this important work with us and investigate how you might make a more personal connection with some of these projects.

If you cannot join us for the Mission Fair, feel free to contact the advocates listed on the last page for more information.

—Mary Ellen Lloyd, Mission Chair

PENTECOST OFFERING Sunday, June 9. Split equally between Caring Cupboard, which supplies food to school children for the weekend; and the PCUSA Youth Mission Fund, which encourages, develops, and supports its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children.

Remember to wear red on Pentecost Sunday.



Say adieu, tot ziens, adiós, Auf Wiedersehen, do svidaniya, sayonara, salaam, shalom, arrivederci and GOODBYE to our Interim Pastor Bill Sitterley at a reception in the Fellowship Hall after both services on **Sunday, June 16.**

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH and SPC will be celebrating our LGBTQIA+ community in several visible and programmatic ways. On **Saturday, June 29**, at 10 a.m., SPC will be hosting a first-ever interfaith service of celebration and blessing to kick off Panhandle Pride 2019. This service will feature readings, music, stories, and words of blessing from faith leaders of various traditions.

The Pride event in downtown Shepherdstown begins at 11 a.m. that same day, where you'll find SPC at a booth. Please contact Jeananne Stine at office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org if you are willing to take a shift. On Sunday, July 7, we will celebrate More Light Sunday at both services; this year, we will remember together key moments in our "rainbow history" and share stories about how God's infinite abundance has shown up in our ongoing journey of welcome to our LGBTQIA+ family.

—Ethel Hornbeck, Director, Spiritual Formation/Liturgist

(See article inside, "Welcoming Our Friend James.")

PRAYER REQUESTS Send to Kathy Reid at kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Your PNC continues to work. We have interviewed some very promising candidates and are making plans to meet in person. We are confident the Spirit is working with us and as always, welcome your prayers and support.

STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM (SVT)

With Rev. Sitterley's impending departure and the eventual calling of a new pastor, the Strategic Visioning Team has focused on how to support SPC in our ongoing transition. We are working with Session to:

1. Strengthen key processes and structures to support this time between pastors.
2. Articulate the main strategic issues facing SPC going forward.
3. Provide opportunities to engage the SPC community in conversations about our community life.

With respect to the third effort, the SVT and Session will be hosting a conversation called "Reflections on the Journey: An Open Conversation," between services **Sunday, June 23, 9:45-10:45**. It will be a chance to come together, take a breath, and reaffirm our connectedness and intentions for the journey ahead. We'll have more details in the coming weeks, but please plan to come!

Feel free to direct any comments or questions to the Team chair, Leslie Williams via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for Presbyterian Hunger Program. Place in bucket in the Narthex. **Next: June 2.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00-9:00 a.m. **Next: June 15.**

SUPPER GROUP

• Moveable Feast, **Saturday, June 15, 6 p.m.**, hosted by Helen & John Burns.

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact: Debbie Romano via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: June 26.**

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. **Next: June 29.**

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. **Next: June 30**



FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

Presbyterian Women's (PW) Circle celebrates the end of this season with our annual salad/dessert luncheon, **Thursday, June 6, 11 a.m.**, at the home of Helen Burns, 189 Hensel Drive, Shepherdstown. Contact HelenHibbardBurns@gmail.com or 304.876.9146 for directions. Bread, iced tea, plates, etc., will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

PW is an inclusive, caring community of women who study and pray together, and nurture and support each other. We work for justice and peace, and support the mission of the church worldwide with a particular emphasis on the needs of women and children. We invite all women of the church to join us.

NOTE: The following activities will resume in the fall:

- Taizé Service
- Listening Groups
- Exploring Spiritual Practices
- Connections at Shepherd University
- Community Hymn Sing (after June 30)
- Presbyterian Women's Circle (after Spring Luncheon, June 6)

Notices...

MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

by **Sunday, June 23**

- Email office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org, or
- Pick up a form in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex, or
- Use the attached form.

(Note: See church directory for those currently serving as elders and deacons.)

CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, September 8, 5 p.m., at Morgan's Grove Park. **Mark your calendars.** Details to follow.



2019 SUNDAY STUDIO SUMMER LOUNGE!

Sunday Studio turns into the Summer Lounge beginning Sunday, June 5th. Kids will spend time socializing, doing art projects, and playing games. Kids will meet in the nursery after first pew and then move on from there for activities. Any adult willing to be a chaperon for one of the Summer Lounge Sundays is warmly welcomed! No need to plan a lesson, just be there for guidance and to help with activities. Parents, we will be doing a sign-up for chaperone duties soon. If you want to volunteer or have questions please contact Amanda Groff at amandagroff@gmail.com.

WELCOME OUR FRIEND JAMES



James and Chris

James was too polite to tell us whether he liked the turkey he sampled for the first time at SPC's community Thanksgiving dinner in November 2018. It was the first of many new experiences. James had just settled into a new life in this country in Morgantown, WV. It was a long journey from his native Uganda.

In February 2018, he contacted me on FaceBook to say he anticipated resettlement in Morgantown. I found the broad outlines of his story checked out and stayed in touch. In November, we met, and I brought him to the Thanksgiving dinner.

Uganda has seen virulent homophobia in recent years, in part inflamed by American evangelists. Although a law to make being gay punishable by death was struck down by the nation's supreme court, the social environment in the country remains intensely anti-LGBTQ; there are many acts of vigilante violence creating a climate of terror. That's the environment James found himself in when he applied for refugee status,

which was eventually granted after a vetting process that took about two years.

So, James found himself in a completely new country and community. He had one childhood friend, who preceded him by about two years and with whom Catholic Charities placed him. He's been keeping pretty busy. With refugee assistance being time-limited, and an obligation to repay his airfare, he quickly found an opportunity to train for a Certified Nursing Assistant program.

He's been trying new foods and taking pictures of those he likes the best since he can't remember their names. He's also been traveling a bit, getting to know his new country. He did ask us when it would start getting warm again. We said "March," to which he replied, "that long?" We hope he is finding it more to his liking!

We have invited James and his friend to Pride, Saturday, June 29. We hope you will visit the SPC booth at Pride and give them a warm welcome!

—Chris Morehouse,
Member of Immigration and Refugee Support Committee

Elsewhere...

COMMUNITY DINNER sponsored by the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition, first Sundays, **5:30 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; coordinator Wright, password 5777. Questions? Contact Bert Wright via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.



Drop off hot food from **3:45–4:15 p.m.** on Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). *Please use disposable containers.*
Next: June 2.

ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

For details, check *Events* at www.rollingridge.net.

"Restorying the Heroine's Journey," **May 31–June 2**

"Tulip Poplar Bark Basket Workshop," **June 1**

"Painting and Soul Retreat," **June 14–16**

"Arts to the Ridge: A creative spirit retreat for girls ages 10-16," **June 23–28**

"Children of the Earth: Overnight for ages 6–10 and their parent, grandparent, or other adult mentor," **July 6–7**

EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE (EJI)

Watch *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality*, the HBO documentary on the work of Bryan Stevenson and the EJI in Montgomery, AL, on **Wednesday, June 26.**

UNDERWEAR PROJECT: ASYLUM SEEKERS AT THE SOUTHERN US BORDER

SPC's Immigration and Refugee Support Committee has learned of a desperate need at a new port of entry in Laredo, TX. Most of the asylum seekers have been walking for weeks and have only the clothes they are wearing—and no shoelaces. They have no means to support themselves until they connect with a family member or sponsor in the US. Our colleagues at Catholic Charities, who recently worked in the Laredo center, have asked us for help.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Donate socks, shoelaces, shampoo, deodorant, and underwear** (ONLY new and in sizes for children and adult sizes small to medium). Bring them to the church until June 2 and they will be shipped to Laredo.
- **Donate money through June 2.** Make checks to SPC with "Laredo" in the memo.
- **Send help directly to Laredo.** Go to the Amazon link: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/Z7SL0RKRR4T>. Select from the Catholic Charities Wish List to send the items directly to Laredo.

The Immigrant and Refugee Support Committee is sharing this information with those who want to engage in an ongoing need to welcome the asylee sojourner.

Learn about the crisis at the border.

<https://wchstv.com/news/local/west-virginians-helping-immigrant-families-at-southern-border>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2347/text>

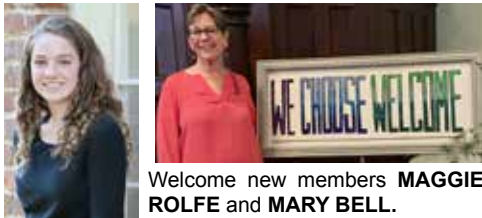


(Continued from front page)

SPC'S 2019 MISSION PROJECTS

1. Earthcare, Than Hitt
2. Jefferson County Community Ministries:
 - Bert Wright, Community Meal
 - Paul Hodder, JC Homeless Coalition
 - Stephanie Jamieson, JCCM programs
3. Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Vicki Smith
4. Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (formerly Shenandoah Women's Center), Mary Ellen Lloyd
5. Caring Cupboard, Suellen Myers
6. Backpack Project, Anne Barrat
7. Bluefields and Verbo Church, Kay Shultz
8. Coalfield Development, Mary Ann Hitt
9. Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Anne Teresa
10. Congo Women's Center, Bill Rule
11. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Chris Cubby
12. International Justice Commission, Charlotte Baker-Shenk

Members and Friends...



Welcome new members **MAGGIE ROLFE** and **MARY BELL**.



HELEN BURNS turned 90 on May 13!

Graduates: **MADISON QUINN**, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from WVU and **DONALD SYKES** (valedictorian) from Broadfording Christian Academy, Hagerstown



BRANDON DENNISON was the commencement speaker for Shepherd, May 11. He is pictured here with his wife Ashley and son Will. His 2-year-old son Owen was visiting friends.

I just returned from a 10-day trek in the Andean Mountains of Peru! Final destination was Machu Picchu. Trekked with eight others on the Salkantay Trail, reaching an altitude of 15,200 feet at the Salkantay Pass! This was a transforming, soulful experience! —Carol Wood

SESSION REPORT

The Session, the governing body of SPC, met Thursday, May 16. It is working on a number of important matters which the Session wants to share with the congregation.

- Endorsed a proposal from the SPC Earth Care Committee on further action regarding SPC opposition to the Rockwool heavy industry plant, including an open letter to be shared with the congregation and the community. Than Hitt is our official spokesperson.
- Continued to put in place processes to cover all aspects of SPC's congregational life during this next chapter of transition. It has charged Ethel Hornbeck with coordinating worship and programmatic life during this period.
- Approved plans from the Property Committee to renovate the kitchen, and to identify and address issues raised by this project, such as handling the handicap access.
- Heard a report about upcoming plans for Pride Month, which is celebrated throughout June, when SPC will be hosting several events. (See front page.)
- Received report from the Immigrant and Refugee Support Committee about engaging the congregation in addressing urgent humanitarian needs at the border. (See Underwear Project article.)

Questions on these matters or other issues may be addressed to Session elders: Lonce Bailey, Lynn Coddington, Jeff Hornbeck, Mary Ellen Lloyd, Joshua Nolen, Lois Spreen, Anne Teresa, Richard Womeldorf, and Judy York. Session next meets Tuesday, June 11. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

Financial Corner..

GENERAL FUND through May 26. Expected to date: \$117,115. Received to date: \$123,110. Building Fund pledged for 2019: \$28,570. Received to date: \$8,881.

NEXT NEWSLETTER July–August 2019. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite travel pictures to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. Deadline: **June 26**.

VISIT www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.

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