



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, April 28, 2019

TOM BANKS has strong roots in the United Church of Christ, and is joining with us as an Affiliate Member. A resident of Homewood Retirement Community, Tom is interested in travel, history, and music.

MARY BELL, a retired attorney, has been part of our faith community for many years, and has historic ties to the Presbyterian Church. She enjoys music, and is just now learning the piano.

JIM and KAREN CRAWFORD both have a strong history with the Presbyterian Church, and reside in Charles Town, WV, where Jim is a practicing attorney. They are following in the footsteps of their son (JB), who joined in the prior membership class.

DAVE SPRINGER has also been a part of our faith community for many years, and unsure about whether or not he is retired. He enjoys biking and gardening, and is extremely well-traveled!

CHRIS THATCHER is a Senior Web Architect with the Library of Congress, and resides in Shepherdstown. Along with raising three children, she enjoys music, tai chi, and cooking.



Karen Crawford, Jim Crawford, Tom Banks, David Springer



Rev. Sitterley receives new members Chris Thatcher, Isabella Tuzzio, Jack Walker, Chandler Willis, GG Brown. Chris Thatcher and Isabella Tuzzio were also baptized.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

GALLEAN "GIGI" BROWN is completing her sophomore year at Jefferson High School. She enjoys dance, hiking, and travel.

MARGARET "MAGGIE" ANNE ROLFE is completing her freshman year at Jefferson High School. She enjoys traveling and is passionate about dance.

ISABELLA TUZZIO is completing her freshman year at Jefferson High School. She enjoys tennis and swimming.

JACK WALKER is completing his freshman year at Washington High School. He is on the school soccer team, and enjoys skiing in the winter.

CHANDLER WILLIS is completing Shepherdstown Middle School, and enjoys archery.

(Mary Bell and Maggie Rolfe will become new members on another Sunday.)



A yummy cake to welcome new members

SOUL SHOP

Earlier this month, I attended a workshop called "Soul Shop for Campus Ministry Leaders." This gathering of about 15 other campus pastors and student leaders was made possible by the generous contributions of this congregation to our Westminster Foundation offering last August. Soul Shop training is intended to equip "suicide awareness leaders" within faith communities and, ultimately, to help reduce the suffering experienced by the many people who are impacted by suicidal desperation.

It is estimated that one in four people has experienced suicidal thinking at some point in their life. Young adults are particularly vulnerable, with over 1,000 suicides happening on college campuses each year. One of the most

important things I learned was that we all need to practice simply saying the word, and finding ways to ask when we see signs of desperation: Are you thinking about suicide?

Shame around this very real human experience, much of it religiously inspired, helps keep people silent, trapped, alone and in pain. Soul Shop offers simple and powerful tools to help people learn how to be present to others experiencing desperation, which is the first step on the way leading them toward safety. I'm happy to share more with anyone who might be interested.

—Ethel Hornbeck
Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) STATEMENT FOR CONGREGATION, APRIL 28, 2019

We were very hopeful that we would have a candidate to recommend to the congregation very soon. However, upon meeting in person, we determined that this individual would not be a good fit for our church. In making this decision we recognize the importance of finding the best possible person to lead us forward. While we are disappointed, at the same time we're encouraged and excited by a number of new referrals we have received.

We are certain that the Spirit is leading us to a candidate that we can enthusiastically endorse. We are reminded from Galatians 6:9 (NRSV) "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." We so much appreciate your continuing prayers and support.

PNC members: Catherine Irwin, Chair, Chris Morehouse, Christa Joyce, Dave Smith, Elaine Hurd, Joshua Nolen and Rev. Carl Howard, Shenandoah Presbytery Liaison.

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

Adult Education...

SUNDAY SEMINARS Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

The Gospel of Mary, Part 2, May 5, is the only gospel whose main character is a woman. And what a woman! Mary (presumably of Magdala) is Jesus' confidante, with whom he shared insights not shared with the other disciples. Mary shores up the others when they fear that preaching the gospel will get them killed, too.

Mary is conversant with Greek philosophy. This gospel is contemporaneous with books included in the New Testament. We'll also critique the canon process—and why New Testament woman-bashing is bogus! Mary's gospel blows away an all-male priesthood, bishoprics (that's one word), etc. Copies of the text are available in the Fellowship Hall, or go to [Gospel of Mary](#) to download a copy.

—Ed Zahniser

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger. **Next: May 5**

TAIZÉ SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence, candlelight. **Next: May 1**

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 next chapter is "Herodias and Herodias: Not So Sexy After All." All women of the church are welcome. **Next: May 2**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: May 18**

SUPPER GROUP Moveable Feast, **Saturday, May 11, 6 p.m.**, Hosted by Joyce & Larry Neumark

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: May 15

• Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., in Classroom #1. **Next: May 16**

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (ESP) Third Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., SPC Library. Explore, experience, and practice various spiritual disciplines such as silence, meditative music, insight meditation, passage meditation, loving kindness, prayer, and others. Next theme is "The Path of Radical Acceptance." Contact Larry Neumark via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: May 15**

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: May 25**

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: May 26**



CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact Debbie Romano via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: May 22**

Mark the Date!
Shepherdstown Pride
Saturday, June 29, on King St., 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
The entire town will be a part of Pride so don't miss it!
For more information, go to EPrideWV.com.

PRIDE MONTH

We're looking ahead to June, which is Pride month nationwide. At Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, we'll be celebrating Pride in several ways. On **Saturday, June 29**, the Eastern Panhandle Pride weekend will kick off at SPC with a special interfaith service of blessing that we are calling "Celebrating Our Stories." It will be a simple gathering featuring music, readings and stories from several people on how their experience of faith/God/the Universe has shaped their journey of "being and becoming beloved."

On **Sunday, June 30**, we will celebrate More Light Sunday with more stories of how God's abundance has been experienced in our 20-year journey as a congregation seeking to "choose welcome," especially for our LGBTQ brothers, sisters and siblings. Our vision is that SPC's external and more visible expression of our commitment to welcome and celebrate all of God's beloved children will become more evident.

—Lynn Coddington for Social Justice and More Light Presbyterians (MLP)

RACIAL JUSTICE

A cooperative effort between SPC and Berkeley County NAACP is underway to bring a monument to Berkeley County to remember the local lynching of Joe Burns on February 19, 1886. Working with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama, home to the lynching museum, SPC and NAACP are identifying partners and gathering community support to lay the foundation for remembrance and reconciliation, a prelude to placing the monument.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.

If you would like updates about the efforts to bring a monument to Berkeley County or would like to know how you can help, email me at socialjusticespc@gmail.com. Also go to the EJI website at www.eji.org for a wealth of information on this topic.

—Pat Hamilton, Social Justice Committee

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;



coordinator Wright, password 5777. Questions? Contact Bert Wright via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

Drop off hot food from **3:45 to 4:15 p.m.**, that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). *Please use disposable containers, if possible.* **Next: May 5**

ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

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

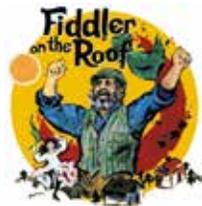
"Restorying the Heroine's Journey," **May 31–June 2**

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

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

ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

presents *Fiddler on the Roof* at Sam Michael's Park, June 7, 8, 14, & 15 at 8 p.m. and June 9 & 16 at 2 p.m. For reservations and information, call 304.876.6436 or visit www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org.



IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE (IRSC)

Compassion, Peace & Justice Training

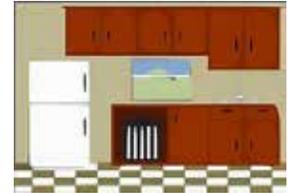
We attended the Presbyterian Mission sponsored Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Day in Washington DC on April. Workshops addressed a wide range of topics including: poverty, climate change, immigration, mental health, incarceration, and the military industrial complex.

The main theme centered on creating a movement for lasting change. People cannot wait for a hero to save us, when joining together makes such an impact and creates change. One speaker stated, if one fish comes to shore, you think, "What is wrong with that fish," but, if several hundred fish come to shore, "What is wrong with the water?" It was reassuring to witness the work of the church impacting people's lives and changing the narrative.

—Suellen Myers, Bob Tucker, Julie Tucker

SPC KITCHEN RENOVATION

The SPC property committee is obtaining bids to renovate the kitchen, due to damage caused by a leaking dishwasher and water seepage around the foundation. The extent of damage and the amount of reconstruction that may be necessary are unknown until the floor is removed and an assessment is made.



However, if cabinet replacements or other design modifications are necessary, the committee is soliciting suggestions from SPC church members. These can be ideas about changes members would like to see made in the general kitchen area, if the cost and scope of the project make them possible.

Please make suggestions in the next week or so and email them to the attention of the property committee at office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. There are no guarantees of what can be done, but please feel free to submit your ideas for possible consideration.

—Bill Rule, billnbethrule@comcast.net

Mission...

Colombia Accompaniment Program: Sharing the Stories

With the prayerful and financial support of SPC, I spent the month of March with the PC(USA) Colombia Accompaniment Program. My job was to accompany church leaders as they ministered to some of Colombia's over 7 million internally displaced people. Accompaniment is often described as a "ministry of presence." It means "being with" rather than fixing, advising or accomplishing a specific task. It means walking with the pastors as they visit and console parishioners living in the poverty of displacement. It means worshipping with them as they pray for peace and restitution of their lands, an unfulfilled promise of the 2016 Peace Accords.



Listening group

It also means sharing deeply in my hosts' stories, which is both a simple act of solidarity and a way to keep their stories alive. Both are essential in their struggle for peace with justice. Importantly, all eight pastors who housed me were themselves displaced people. All had lost family members to violence; all had to abandon their farms, livelihoods, churches and communities. Yet in their difficulties, each somehow found the grace to attend seminary and dedicate their lives to their poorest neighbors. I will share these stories more deeply between services on May 19. Hope to see you there.



Small Presbyterian church in El Dos

—Jeff Hornbeck

Members and Friends...



CONGRATULATIONS! ED ZAHNISER was appointed as the new Shepherdstown Poet Laureate by the Mayor and Town Council. Ed is the author of six books of poetry.

New email addresses

MARY BELL: marybell001@comcast.net

ETHEL HORNBECK: eshornbeck@gmail.com



Easter Sunrise Service at Rumsey Monument Park

EARTH DAY

What can and should SPC do for Earth Care? The Earth Care Team (Mission Committee) is currently working on SPC's response to Rockwool pollution in Jefferson County, planning a five-year anniversary ceremony for the solar project, working with SPC youth on environmental issues, distributing energy-saving light bulbs in Jefferson County, and advocating for clean energy and environmental clean-up in WV. But of course there's more to do, and we need your ideas and involvement! Please contact Than Hitt, thanhitt@gmail.com for more information.



MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY



Than Hitt led First Pew: We are all connected to the Earth.

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through April 28. Expected to date: \$94,808. Received to date: \$105,348. Building Fund pledged for 2019: \$28,570. Received to date: \$7,640.

EASTER OFFERING, ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: \$1944.65

NEXT NEWSLETTER June 2019. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite vacation pictures to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Deadline: May 22

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Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry: Ethel Hornbeck
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Visit www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.