



Orange Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Perspectives

May 2012

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Orange Presbyterian Church

**162 West Main Street
Orange, VA 22960
540-672-4240**

**E-mail:
opc@orangeopc.org**

**Website:
orangeopc.org**

For the Love of Water (FLOW)

Sunday, May 20: A Spaghetti Lunch and a Video

FLOW (For the Love of Water)

In keeping with our year long theme of The Restorative Power of Water. Child care provided for younger children. Join us and learn more about the restoring power of water.



Pentecost Offering - May 27, 2012

Theme verse: "So I send you." (John 20:21)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

The apostle John tells us Jesus miraculously appeared to his disciples on the very day of his resurrection to assure them he had risen from the dead and commission them to continue his work upon his ascension to heaven. "Peace be with you," he told them. "As God has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21). John also tells us Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we still celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). When you give to the Pentecost Offering during Sunday morning worship on May 27, you help bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders – all in the name of Jesus Christ.

This year the Mission and Outreach Committee has designated the forty percent that stays locally to go to the Boys and Girls Club of Orange. The remainder is sent to the General Assembly Mission Council to support other programs that help youth and young adults and advocate for children at risk.

Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering.

With great anticipation of Christ, and in his love,
Pastor Denise Hall



Pastor's Ponderings

Are You Gratitude-Deprived or Gratitude-Filled?

Often a newsletter article on “Gratitude” shows up in the fall when we think about Thanksgiving and all the blessings we have been given. However, this is May and I can think of no better time to ponder a few minutes on gratitude.

“Gratitude – as conviction, practice, and discipline – is an essential nutrient, a kind of spiritual amino acid for human growth, joy, and creativity. Take away the daily experience and expression of gratitude, and life is quickly diminished. Like a weakened immune system, the spirit is left vulnerable to the diseases of cynicism, anger, low-grade depression, or at least an edgy sense of dissatisfaction. Gratitude-deprived, we suffer a relentless loss of vitality and delight.” (*Seasons of Grace: The Life-Giving Practice of Gratitude*)

So write Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and John O’Neil, President of the Center for Leadership Renewal. They are convinced that this spiritual practice must not be viewed as an exercise in etiquette or as one more virtue to cultivate but rather as a wholehearted response to the bounties of life.

In their book, *Seasons of Grace*, they set out to show how gratitude can abound in the happenings and healings of the four seasons: spring (Opening to Wonder), summer (The Flowering of Thanks), autumn (The Grateful Self), and winter (Living into Gratitude).

Can gratitude become a daily experience for us? If we practice something often enough it becomes a habit. Not all habits are bad – and it is possible to cultivate good habits.



I have a friend who makes it her habit to learn a new word each day. She then learns the meaning and proper pronunciation and uses it in a sentence. Her vocabulary has increased over the years. After a while her practice is just habit.

In a similar fashion, what can we do to develop the habit of gratitude? Sad to say, I know people who look for the negative in every situation. Given a beautiful day, they will complain about the heat. A good news story is treated with ridicule and scorn. Those are people Jones and O’Neil would call “gratitude-deprived.”

How can we turn that around? How can cynicism be turned into gratitude? Can change happen to our attitudes? Can the “gratitude-deprived” become the “gratitude-filled?”

I say we *can* be people of gratitude and thankfulness. We can begin each day with the goal of finding something for which we can be thankful. We can then keep looking through the day for situations, people and circumstances that touch us and make us grateful.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thess. 5:18

Thankfully,

Denise

Preschool Corner

Easter celebrations started the month of April for us in preschool. Both classes enthusiastically hunted for eggs in Taylor Park. It always amazes me that 300 eggs can be found in less than ten minutes!

The older children have been learning about the life cycle of the butterfly and insects. Mrs. Hargett provided us with colorful cookie dough which the children used to make edible bugs.

The younger class made bumblebee and ladybug puppets, and flying birds. They also made dandelion bouquets and then picked all the dandelions on the playground.

The last day of the month was “Sibling Day” in

the four year old class, which was attended by future preschoolers. Several children who do not have siblings invited friends instead!



I am a member of a teaching sorority called Alpha Delta Kappa which focuses on altruism for children. I attended my first convention in Washington, D.C. and was so impressed by the many amazing projects for children and their families that ADK sponsors, not only locally, but nationally and internationally as well.

A month from now, preschool will be over. Graduation practice begins now!

Mrs. Ski

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:30 Morning and Luncheon Circles 12:30 Knitters	2  <i>Dean Sherwin</i> 7:30 Adult Choir	3 <i>Committees</i>	4  <i>Dorothy Browning</i>	5
6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i> 12:00 Cinco de Mayo Potluck	7	8  <i>Anna Hogan</i> 12:30 Knitters	9 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	10 6:00 Finance	11  <i>Jennifer Ernst</i>	12  <i>Myrtle Baker</i>
13 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Admin. Mtg.	14  <i>Kay Nix</i> <i>Sydney St. Clair</i>	15 12:30 Knitters	16 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	17	18 10:30 AWOL - Gari Melchers Art Museum	19  <i>Sue Gooden</i>
20  <i>Thelma Sanford</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Cong. Care Lunch, Video - <i>For the Love of Water</i>	21  <i>Carol Woolfrey</i>	22 12:30 Knitters	23 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	24  <i>Suzanne Sherwin</i>	25  <i>Nick Davis</i> 10:00 Preschool Graduation	26
27 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship <i>Pentecost Offering</i> <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office Closed	29 12:30 Knitters AWOL - White Oak Lavender Farms	30  <i>Lloyd Parcell</i> 5:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	31 7:00 Session	1 Indicates Birthday 	2  <i>Melanie Rose</i>

Greeters

6 Pat and Jonathan Stewart
13 Dawn Phillips
20 Jim and Cindy Reid
27 Debbie Rexrode

Nursery Helpers

6 Ellen Kendall and Allison Norberg
13 Rachel Gibson and Denise Samuels
20 Ralph Graves and Melanie Rose
27 Linda Nash and Robert Kendall

Acolytes

6 Grace Kendall
13 Grace Kendall
20 Seth Dalton
27 Ann Taylor Mohrmann

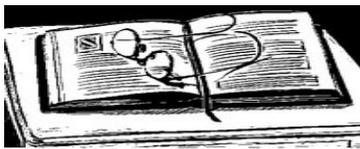
Children's Church

6 Tracy and Rick Munger
13 Karen Tinsley and Jacob Barragan
20 Lynn and Ann Clements and Dawn Phillips
27 Jennifer Ernst and Grace Kendall

Lectionary Readings for May

These readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and are often the basis for the sermon and anthem. These readings are offered to help in your preparation for worship on Sunday.

While we don't necessarily have four readings on Sunday, the lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading to prepare for worship on Sunday.



May 6

Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8

May 13

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 1 John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

May 20

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

May 27

Day of Pentecost
 Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Session Meeting Highlights

At its April 22 stated meeting, the session:

- Approved the minutes for the March 15, 2012 Stated Session meeting and the April 22, 2012 Congregational meeting.
- Approved the transfer of membership of Andy Hutchison to Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Rapidan, Va.
- Approved to pay one-third of the fee (\$125) for Lynne Clements' Career and Psychological Evaluation as part of her Inquirer process. (The remainder is paid by Lynne and the Presbytery of the James.)
- Approved the transfer of up to \$5,000 from the Hamilton Money Market fund if needed before the end of May to cover expenses.
- Approved the recommendation that any budgeted expenses over \$100, other than payroll and utilities, be

- discussed with the Finance Committee prior to purchase or expenditure.
- Heard of upcoming plans to celebrate the theme of The Restorative Power of Water by the various session committees.
- Approved Rachel Gibson as the Sunday School Superintendent and Tracy Munger as the Children's Church Coordinator.
- Approved that the pastor will be away on vacation from May 15-22, 2012 (Sunday, May 20).
- The May Session meeting was rescheduled to May 31 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sandra McLeod Clerk



Treasurer's Report as of March 31

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,816.43	Lily Contributions	\$ 365.00
Income	\$ 13,120.15	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$ 207.40
Expenses	\$ 14,566.29		
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,325.65		
Ending Balance	\$ 44.64		

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll recipient for the month of April is Albert Packard. Everyone knows Al as the Choir Director and we love all the beautiful music we listen to every Sunday morning. We also see him directing the Bell Choir, the Instrumental Ensemble and when we have enough young people, the Youth Choir. But most of us don't think about all the time he puts in practicing with these groups. He also directs the Orange Community Chorus, who put on a free concert twice a year to benefit our community, and he sings in the Madison Choral Society, who also do two free concerts each year.



Al has been an elder, serving on the session and worked on the Worship Committee. For those of us who enjoy a July 4th get together, Al is responsible for starting that and keeping the fireworks going each year. He also started the annual New Year's Eve Celebrate Orange we used to have. Thanks for all you do for our church and our community. This town would be rather dull without you Al.

Cinco de Mayo Potluck Lunch

May 6 at 12:00



Immediately following worship service on May 6, there will be a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall for all to enjoy. The theme is Cinco de Mayo (Mexico's Independence Day). Bring some food and come share with everyone.

Adults Wild on Life AWOL)

Our May AWOL trip will be to Harrisonburg to the White Oak Lavender Fields on May 29. We will have a walking tour of the fields, which will be in bloom. If we can get at least 10 people, we get a 1 1/2 hour guided tour and a lecture, plus a glass of lavender lemonade. The cost is \$13 per person. We will depart the church at 9:15 a.m.



Thank You

To Our Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the love and support I have been receiving during my knee surgery and recovery period. It has been a great joy to me and has helped keep my spirits up during some of the more trying moments. The gift of the prayer shawl was very special. I was very honored to receive it and felt protected by it during my stay in the hospital. The cards, phone calls, and prayers have made me feel terrific! I feel that some of the friendliest people on earth are in our church, and I'm proud to be in our church family. Thanks for everything!



Love, Dave Ulan

Dear OPC,

We would like to give a special thank you to all our friends at OPC for all your concern about Leroy during his illness and death. All the cards, visits, food, flowers, and prayers meant a great deal to all of us. We are so thankful to have you as our church family. With love, Nancy Crowder and family

Pastor Denise,

I am sorry this email is coming to you so late, but I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and the congregation for the McDonald's gift card and the previous care package that was sent to me this semester. Needless to say the second semester of my senior year has been quite chaotic and time is hard to come by. Both of these gifts were welcomed and enjoyed very much! Again thank you and the congregation for the gifts and for keeping me in your thoughts while I finish up here at Bridgewater College! Thank you again, Taylor Roby

To my OPC family,

For each and every prayer you've breathed I'm thankful to proclaim:
They work, they work, they work!
I'll be out of here in record time
My freedom to reclaim.
I appreciate all the many cards, calls, flowers, gifts and visits from so many of you and look forward to being back with my church family soon. The prayer shawl is particularly appreciated. Lavinia Phillips

Welcome to New Members

On Easter Sunday, April 8, we welcomed Zachary and Olivia Ernst as baptized members of the Orange Presbyterian Church.

Their parents, Scott and Jennifer, were received as members by transfer in December of last year. Zachary is 5 and attends the Orange Presbyterian Weekday School. Olivia just turned 2, loves the nursery and is looking forward to “going to school” like her big brother. Elder Cynthia Pedersen, their grandmother, presented the children on behalf of the session.

Their address is: 14736 Porterfield Drive, Orange, VA 22960.



Orange County Habitat for Humanity Auction

Thank you to all who helped make the Orange County Habitat for Humanity auction an amazing success. Over 45 people gave of their time, talents, unwanted treasures, cookies, muscles, money, encouragement and smiling faces. And a special thank you to Ryan Gibson and Elizabeth Szunyogh.

Carol Couch

Southwest Virginia Mission Trip – July 22-28

Go to the Appalachian coal field region in the southwest corner of Virginia July 22 to 28, 2012. Team members will participate in a ministry of home repair and improvement coordinated by a local community ministry. Fellowship and worship enhance these transforming faith experiences. Trip leaders: Diane Biesecker and Bob Fulton.

Total cost is \$145 each, plus a small amount of travel and miscellaneous expenses.

Deposit of \$75, payable to Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church is due May 1, 2012.

See Shirley Newman, chair of Mission and Outreach, for more information.



Volunteers Needed!

The Property Committee needs volunteers to paint the support columns outside the sanctuary. Please contact Gene Whitaker if you are able to help.



Our Giving

We are called to be faithful in our service to God and to the church. During our Stewardship Campaign last fall, we discussed many of the ongoing ministries of the church and presented ideas for future projects. Ministry happens with the generosity of the faithful gifts we pledged during that campaign.

This month's Treasurer's Report shows a pattern we have been experiencing since the beginning of the year. The income each month has been somewhat short of meeting the expenses. The Finance Committee has been monitoring the total income and has observed that the first quarter income for 2012 is approximately \$3,800 less than the first quarter income for 2011.

The session is concerned about the current level of giving and would like to ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge and whether you are up-to-date. If you have a concern regarding your giving, please contact Suzanne Sherwin, Treasurer.



The Session

Water Works!

What's Your H₂O IQ?

- By volume, the number one pollutant of Virginia's waters is:
 - Sewage treatment plants
 - Sediment or soil washing off the land
 - Industrial waste
 - Litter
- Which is a major source of water pollution?
 - Factories or industry
 - Sewage plants
 - Agriculture
 - All of the above
- From which source does the highest percentage of water evaporate?
 - The oceans
 - Freshwater lakes
 - Plants and trees
 - Rivers and streams
- People use about how many gallons of water each day?
 - 5
 - 10
 - 25
 - 70
- What resource do factories use the most of?
 - Oil
 - Water
 - Wood
 - Iron
- Every living thing on Earth is mostly water. What percent of water are you?
 - 70%
 - 90%
 - 65%
 - 15%
- Water can be found naturally on the Earth in what forms?
 - Liquid
 - Gas
 - Solid
 - All of the above



VBS at OPC

August 6-10, 2012

Theme: Clean Water for All God's Children

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details about our upcoming Vacation Bible School. We plan to have a "splashing" good time!

Children's Church - Breaking for the Summer

The Children's Church program will be on break over the summer, starting in June. During the summer months, children are invited to pick up an activity bag in the Narthex to use during worship. Children's Church will resume in September.



Sunday School End of the Year Picnic

Sunday, June 3 – immediately following worship
at the home of Ryan and Rachel Gibson
192 Red Hill Road, Orange

Everyone is invited!
Bring a covered dish and
join us for some good
food and fellowship. There will
be a water slide for the children.



Hebrance Scholarship

The deadline for the 2012 Hebrance Scholarship has been extended to May 10, 2012.

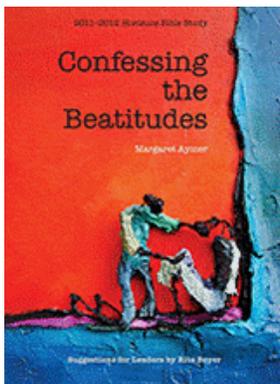
Applicants should submit a one-page typed essay which includes the following: 1) a description of your future educational plans; 2) a description of your activities in the community; and 3) a description of how the church and church family influenced your life and goals.

Please send your essay to Sandra McLeod, clerk of session, at the church office.

Answers: 1. B; 2. D; 3. A; 4. D; 5. B; 6. C; 7. D.



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Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

The **Morning and Luncheon Circles** will meet together on Tuesday, May 1, at 11:30 am in the East Room. Denise Hall is the lesson leader and lunch will be pot luck this month.

The **Evening Circle** will meet on Thursday, May 24, at 7:00 pm. Debbie Rexrode is the lesson leader. The meeting will be held at the home of Debbie Rexrode in Charlottesville.

Prayer Requests

- Mike Lewis
- Louise Lord
- Liz Harmon
- Lavinia Phillips
- Billy Fitch
- Richard and Thelma Sanford
- Pat McCauley at Americahouse
- Margaret Chewing at Dogwood Village



- We extend our Christian sympathy to Shirley Hopkins and family upon the death of James Hopkins on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. A memorial service was held at the Orange Presbyterian Church on Thursday, April 26.
- We extend our Christian sympathy to the friends and family of Hoover Thomas, who died on Monday, April 23, 2012. A memorial service was held at the Orange Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 29.