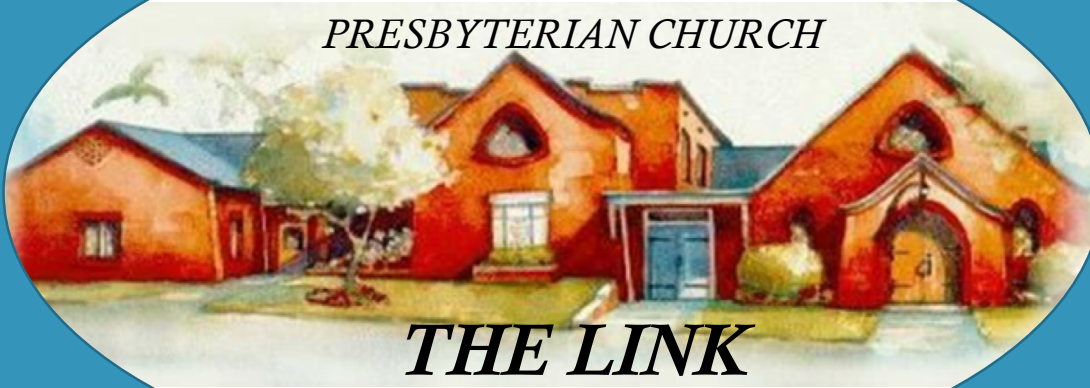


*ALTAVISTA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



***THE LINK***

*March 1, 2019*

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN



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**From our Pastor...**

In Mark's account of the Transfiguration, we have Jesus leading Peter, James, and John up a "high mountain." And suddenly, out of nowhere, Jesus becomes "transfigured," and the only explanation of what that looks like is that "his clothes became dazzling white." And as if the disciples present couldn't take any more surprises, there stood before them Moses the Law-Bringer and Elijah the Prophet. Since God likes to work in three's, the final surprise was God's voice echoing down from an overshadowing cloud, proclaiming Jesus as his son and commanding all to listen to him. Thankfully, Jesus was there to comfort the three disciples and instruct them to tell no one of what they had seen, "until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead." If we regard the Transfiguration as true, what does that mean for us today?

To answer that, I want to take a look at one of my favorite pastors and theologians. Paul the Apostle is writing words of admonition and encouragement to the church in Corinth. In chapter three of second Corinthians, Paul is admonishing the folks for commending themselves on a job well-done. Paul surely was informed that the church was patting itself on the back for doing ministry. "Look at us! We've grown ten-fold. We're bringing people out of the mire of sin. We're changing the community.

**THIS MONTHS ISSUE:**

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**LENTEN LUNCHEONS**

Again this year Altavista Presbyterian will be hosting the weekly **Lenten Luncheons**, sponsored by the Altavista Area Ministerial Association beginning this Wednesday, March 6, at 12:10 pm.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** will be held this Wednesday, March 6, at 6:00 pm

We...Me...Us...I...” After chiding the congregation on their misplaced boasting, Paul begins to encourage the congregation on whence our ministry initiates.

“It is by God’s mercy,” Paul says, “that we are engaged in this ministry.” And, therefore, we do not lose heart; we are not deficient in our duty because “we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.” Paul then describes why the Transfiguration is important for us: “For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” The Transfiguration is God revealing himself to us in the person of Jesus! With Moses and Elijah conferring with Jesus, we see that through the Christ, the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled. And when the voice from heaven tells the disciples that “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” we can understand that command to be speaking about the verses at the end of chapter eight.

The Transfiguration and the charge therein, call us to the ministry of the Gospel. When we become followers of the Gospel and speak unashamedly of our Lord and Savior, we allow Christ to shine through us. Indeed, it is not we who shine, but, like a vehicle, the light of salvation shines through us; through our hearts and our deeds. Surely, it is not our doing that brings about salvation and grace, but is in fact the movement of the Holy Spirit. We are simply vessels of that message. When we pour out the Good News, and allow the light of Christ to shine through us, we give opportunity for our neighbors to open their doors to let the Holy Spirit germinate in their own hearts and lives.

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**Shrove Pancake Dinner**

A **Shrove Pancake Dinner** will be sponsored by our youth group Tuesday, March 5, at 6 pm as a fundraiser for the Puerto Rico Mission Trip and the youth group.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our spring **Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, March 24, immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a class of elders for the Class of 2021 and to conduct any business of the church corporation.

## KAIROS

During the month of January on a Sunday after church our youth sponsored The Super Bowl of Caring with different soups and deserts donated by church members. The money raised with donations from our members that thoroughly enjoyed the very appetizing soups and deserts with a match from act for mission amounted to 496.00 each to The Kairos Prison Ministry and Literacy Volunteers of Campbell County Public Library. Both of those organizations really appreciate being the recipients of those donations. Your acts of kindness will go a long way in helping these organizations in carrying out their missions.

I serve on both of the Boards for these organizations, so I feel the need to give so background on their purpose and mission for those that may not be familiar with what they do.

**Kairos Prison Ministry:** The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming Love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the heart and lives of incarcerated men as well as their families to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. It is a Christian Faith based ministry that addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ Kairos is changing hearts, transforming lives and impacting the world.

The prison population in Virginia (2016) is 37,813, 34,704 men, 3109 women, Black/white ratio: 5.0 to 1. Kairos prison ministry serves nearly 500 prisons and communities in 37 states and over 100 prisons in 10 countries with over 30,000 volunteers. Kairos Volunteers go into prisons in teams of 20 to 40 to pray, share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ; we share meals (prison food) and fellowship. We do a 4 -day weekend that's offered twice a year inside the prison. We ask the Chaplain to give us 32 residents for each walk, we want gang leaders and the hard core residents to attend, if we can make an impact on these guys than they can impact other residents inside the prison.

The prison in Chatham Va., Greenrock Correctional Center has 1200 residents, that's who we want to reach through the 32 residents that attend Kairos twice a year. The Kairos method can be summed up through the examination of the weekend schedule; the outline of 10 talks and meditations, Chapel visits, discussions, singing and fellowship, praying and them getting to know us and also the 30,000 homemade cookies from you that's distributed during the two walks a year. We give every resident in the prison a dozen homemade cookies and a dozen greeting cards on Thursday night after they are locked in. At a certain time during lock down the doors to their cells are open and the volunteers pass out the cookies and cards to them in their cells. By the end of the four days you see the change in many of them and some you don't, you just hope you have planted a seed that they can grow.

I hope this has given you a little idea of the Kairos ministry. Donations are used for funding the twice a year walks for about 4000.00 for each walk. We supply notepads, pens, all the coffee they can drink, certificates, crosses, song books, hotel expense for volunteers from areas not close to the prison, greeting cards and training materials we also help them with musical instruments and song books for their worship services on Saturday and Sunday nights.

On April 9-12 2019 I will be one of 36 volunteers spending four days at GreenRock Correctional Center. Please pray for our team as we assemble the next four Saturdays for 36 hours of training and spiritual preparation to serve God. I will be asking you to bake cookies for me this time I am responsible for 85 dozen and if there is anyone interested in making a monetary donation to this cause please contact me. Looks like I will have to talk about The Literacy Volunteers of Campbell County in next month's Link.

Ron

**Altavista Presbyterian Church  
Session highlights  
February 17, 2019 meeting**

Decided to collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, & match it from ACT for Mission funds.

Reviewed the January, 2019 Treasurer's Report.

Approved minutes of the January 15, 2019 Stated Session meeting as presented.

Ann Andrews has given APC a \$10,000 gift in honor of Preston Andrews. The Session decided to send \$5,000 to the ACT for Mission Trust & to use the remaining \$5,000 to help defray the costs of our recent hallway renovations.

Called a Congregational meeting for March 24, 2019 following Worship for the purposes of (1) electing a new class of elders for the Class of 2021 & holding the annual meeting of APC, Inc.

Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	<b>January-2019</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	10,076.50	10,076.50
<b>Non-Pledges</b>	1,485	1,485
<b>Plate Offering</b>	45	45
<b>Total Expenses</b>	11,992.96	11,992.96

**MARCH**

<b>Birthdays</b>		<b>Anniversaries</b>
2	Susan Gilliam	
5	Betsy Soto	
9	Margaret Liebchen	
10	Jeremy & Jamie Eubank	
15	Kevin deBernard	
17	Dean Smith	
22	Nathan Phillips	
25	Brenda Cuthbertson	
31	Stephanie Moehlenkamp	



## Sermons This Month

**DURING THE SEASON OF LENT,  
PASTOR ED WILL TAKE US THROUGH A SERIES  
LOOKING AT THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**MAR. 3<sup>RD</sup> • TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

*ISAIAH 45:18-21*

*I PETER 1:13-19*

*"THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART I"*

**MAR. 10<sup>TH</sup> • FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

*JOSHUA 2:1, 8-11*

*II PETER 3:10-13*

*"THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART II"*

**MAR. 17<sup>TH</sup> • SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

*DEUTERONOMY 8:1-3*

*I TIMOTHY 6:6-9*

*"THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART III"*

**MAR. 24<sup>TH</sup> • THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

# Happening This Month!

## Bible Study — March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study meets every **Tuesday morning** in the Adult Sunday School room at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to join as Rev. Soto leads us through various studies and discussions of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Matthew records for us the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry with the call of the first disciples. He said to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (4:19). And the Bible tells us that they "immediately" left their nets to follow Jesus. Later in that same Gospel, before his ascension, Jesus leaves with his followers this commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (28:19). The Bible teaches us that discipleship is much more than being a student. It is truly life altering. We are continuing our journey through the Scriptures to see what God tells us about discipleship.

## Prayer Fellowship — March 13<sup>th</sup>

Prayer Fellowship meets on the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays** in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

This month we will not meet on March 27<sup>th</sup>, for Pastor Ed will be out of town.

## Youth Group — March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

Youth Group meets on the **Second and Third Sundays** in the Youth Room at 5:00 PM. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. Pastor Ed will lead a series of discussions on the basic Reformed theology and spiritual practices. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.



**MONTH OF MARCH**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10 AM-Worship/ Communion Children's Church	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg. @ Church  1 PM Boy Scouts Court of Honor  7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>5</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room  12 Noon -Men's Lunch -Taste of Italy  6 PM Youth Shrove Pancake Dinner Fundraiser	<b>6</b> 12:10 PM Lenten Service/Luncheon  6 PM Ash Wed. Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10 AM -Worship/ Children's Church  5 PM Youth Group Mtg. @ Church  Daylight Saving Time Begins  Session Mtg. immediately after Worship	<b>11</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>12</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship  10:30 AM Women's F. Mtg.  12:10 PM Lenten Service/Luncheon  5:30 PM Property Mtg.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10 AM -Worship/ Children's Church	<b>18</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>19</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room  12 Noon -Men's Lunch -El Cazador	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Daily Bread  12:10 PM Lenten Service/Luncheon  1PM DAWN Board Mtg.- Adult SS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11AM-2PM Soto baby floating shower in fellowship hall
<b>24</b> 10 AM -Worship/ Children's Church  Congregational Mtg. after worship  5 PM Youth Group Mtg. @ Church	<b>25</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH  Pastor Ed out of Town  April Link Deadline	<b>26</b> Pastor Ed out of Town	<b>27</b> 12:10 PM Lenten Service/Luncheon  Pastor Ed out of Town	<b>28</b> Pastor Ed out of office	<b>29</b> Pastor Ed Presbytery Confirmation Retreat	<b>30</b> Pastor Ed Presbytery Confirmation Retreat
<b>31</b> 10 AM -Worship/ Children's Church Rev. John Scholer preaching						



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