

# The Carillon

MARCH/APRIL 2019

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An interesting change took place in Paws in Faith last spring: We changed formats to become a devotional service with speakers invited to talk about ways the church and the community can get involved in ministry. Our first speaker was Terry Haddock, a chaplain with the Norfolk Police Department, who literally stopped traffic as she sat on the sidewalk off the Crusader Porch, wearing her police uniform. There was no telling how many of our neighbors stopped to talk to Terry. The service did not go as planned, but that's okay as relationships were being made in the name of Jesus Christ.

The attention that Terry garnered was exactly what we wanted, as it made our neighbors take new notice of Epworth. One man, Tony, who lives across the street, came to his first Paws in Faith service a few months later, after reading on the church sign that the speaker that day, Rev. Ellen Comstock, would be focusing on the environment.

Getting attention and offering service opportunities helps churches survive. For their book *Churchless*, authors George Barna and David Kinnaman drew data from a series of eighteen nationwide surveys conducted with adults between 2008 and 2014 – surveys done among those who have either never been to church or who left the church for various reasons. Respondents were asked about their values and said that “doing good” was their number-one interest. Promoting ministries, then, gives churches an opportunity to connect with neighbors and to develop relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.

I hope that Paws in Faith helps us reach neighbors and brings new attention to the church. March 3, we'll have two speakers from Kairos Prison Ministry, Dan Cott and Neil Knight, talk about their experiences. I've met Dan, and, based on what he says, I'm very much looking forward to meeting Neil and hearing him speak. I hope that what they say will help us become involved in Kairos' Ministry and help us invite our neighbors to participate as well.

We have speakers lined up for April [Maxine Thomas of IGNITE], May [a representative of the Gideons], and July [Mike LaRock, who'll talk about Haygood United Methodist Church's Appalachia Service project]. All of these are designed in increase Epworth's discipleship and to help us help others grow as disciples. Please join us at these important services, and please help continue to try to reach the folks just outside our doors.



**From the  
Pastor's Desk**

*Grace to you, and peace,  
Ned Alderman*

*MARCH Birthdays*

Lee Ann Bennington	March 5
Barry Howlett	March 6
Charles Hurd	March 8
Amy Demeter	March 10
Ed Hurd	March 13
Tom McNeilan	March 13
Marilyn Sarko	March 13
Donna Phaneuf	March 16
Wendy Holley	March 19
Ann Gatling	March 29



*APRIL Birthdays*

Joan Harris	April 7
Jonathan Ramey	April 15
Peggy Sumner	April 17
Ronnie Bagwell	April 18
Lana Ives	April 18
Mark Sumner	April 20
Parker Bagwell	April 22
Anna Lee Bamforth	April 22
Bryan Graves	April 23
Linwood Tabb	April 25
Jane Edwards	April 26
Holly Pennington	April 27
Cathy Grieve	April 29

*UMCOR Special Sundays:*

- UMCOR Sunday – March 31

*For more information on Special Sundays please visit:*

[www.umciving.org/how-we-give](http://www.umciving.org/how-we-give)

**Ash**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**SERVICE**  
*March 6, 6:15 pm*

*PAWS IN FAITH*

*A monthly “pet-friendly” worship service held the 1st Sunday of each month featuring each month a “MISSION MEAL” (Services held in the Crusader Fellowship Room, Outside weather permitting)*

- \* *March Service - 3/3 @ 4:30 pm*
- \* *April Service - 4/7 @ 4:30 pm*

*Come worship with your four-legged friends!*

**Upcoming Speakers:**

**March 3** - Dan Cott of Thalia UMC on Kairos prison ministry

**April 7**- Maxine Thomas from IGNITE, UM Ministry at ODU



**Directory Updates:**

Ms. Ann Gatling  
The Atria  
1628 Old Donation Parkway  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454



**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:**

*Ned, our pastor and family on the death of his mother, Sharon Alderman on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

Make someone's day special by participating in our monthly "Card Shower" for members who are either in Health Care facilities or Homebound. AKA our Missing Angels

**A – C send to:**

**Beverly Smeltzer**  
310 24th St., #102  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**Ed Hurd**

1127 Vintage Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454



**H – L send to:**

**Mary Banks**  
350 S. Ridgewood Avenue  
#208  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

**Dorothy Whitfield**  
1213 Suffield Drive  
McLean VA 22101

**D – G send to:**

**Ms. Louise Gwaltney**  
c/o F.X. Shannon  
10 Applewood Drive  
Hopewell, N. J. 08525

**Mary Lee Lowe**  
6311 Granby Street,  
Apt. #209  
Norfolk, VA 23505

**R – Z send to:**

**Ann Gatling**  
1628 Old Donation Pkwy.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**Marilyn Sarko**  
432 Bartell Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23452

**M - Q send to:**

**Ms. Elinor Edwards**  
538 Washington Park, #B1  
Norfolk, VA 23517

**Jane Lewis**  
6311 Granby Street,  
Apt. #221  
Norfolk, VA 23505



*Thursday March 21,  
and  
Thursday, April 25,  
at 10 am.*

Please contact the church office for more information or to volunteer.



*Epworth has a wonderful tradition of delivering Easter Lilies to our Missing Angels who otherwise might not receive anything else. Just knowing that they have been thought of and prayed for is a wonderful blessing.*

*Please consider volunteering to deliver lilies this Easter which have been dedicated to go to an Epworth "Missing Angel".*



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Dear Friends,

We are in the last weeks of winter, looking forward to the exuberant burst of life that greets us every spring. The bareness of this season is perfect as we enter Lent, a time when we strip away distractions and commit to prayer, devotion, and sacrifice as we re-examine our relationship with God.

As a church we have been busy in 2019, gathering items that supply the needs of others and answering Christ's call to serve our brothers and sisters. We have donated socks and underwear to GAM to share with the homeless. During the Souper Bowl of Caring, we have collected canned goods which were given to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Now, we are completing a drive to assemble paper supplies for the Macleigh-Holland house in Virginia Beach.

While these drives are very important and necessary, our pastor has called us to engage in opportunities that allow us to interact with others and perform hands on mission work. He and a number of church members have helped other churches prepare meals for *Rise Against Hunger*, an organization dedicated to the goal of eliminating hunger worldwide. Please consider joining Mary Lee Howlett, Karen Ward, Vicky Joplin (who has helped five times) and yours truly, and realize the joy of being part of something that is life-changing and life-saving. People of all ages can participate, and several jobs can be done sitting at a table, weighing small bags, I hope that you will join us for the next call to help, as I know that you won't regret it.

I would like to take a moment to spotlight Ann Long, who works faithfully, and with no fanfare, gathering recycled printer cartridges and converting them into money for the church. She, also, coordinates the volunteers for Mobile Meals, which is no easy task; and with her husband, Harmon, delivers meals on one of the routes each month. Thank you, Ann, for your service to Outreach and to Epworth.

Please don't forget our ongoing collections of books for the prisoners, and towels and empty pill bottles for the animal shelters. Since these are ongoing mission projects, they can be forgotten. Christ commanded us to help the prisoners and we are called to care for all of God's creation, which includes the little cats and dogs which have no homes.

This leads us to talk about our Riverstar activities. We were very happy to receive the award on behalf of Epworth. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. We want to continue moving forward and expand on the efforts we began last year. Look for some fun and creative plans we have for 2019.

We know that none of this is possible without the blessing of our Lord and the support of the members of Epworth. Please accept our thanks to each and every one of you.

May God continue to bless our efforts in 2019,

Mary Baker, Chair

Donna Benken, Jackie Fulcher, Mary Lee Howlett, Ann Long, Karen Ward, and Ann Gatling and Carolyn Rogers, Members Emeritus

*A meditation from the book “God’s Welcome, Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World”*

*by Amy G. Oden:*

*Scripture reference: 1 Corinthians 10:15-17*

We are all part of the one body. Paul uses this image throughout his letters to remind the early, contentious Christians at Corinth that, no matter how much it seems that some of them are “in” while others are “out”, all parts of the body belong to the one body. No part of the body is more in or out than another part. Christ’s body cannot be chopped up into disparate pieces. We all belong equally because we all share in the table of grace, the cup and the bread.

The struggles of the early Corinthians continue in every generation. We are painfully aware that some Christians claim to be in and declare other Christians are outside the body of Christ. God’s welcome is so much bigger than our categories of status.

Many mainline congregations have the reverse problem: a body full of outsiders. Folks who attend, who may have been members for years, continue to see themselves as more out than in. It’s hard to be a body with most of the parts disconnected, a congregation made up of observers, members who see themselves on the fringes. This epidemic of outsidership may be especially characteristic of baby boomers, whose identity is rooted in being outsiders who challenge the system, whatever the system is. Outsidership may not be a decision so much as a default for some.

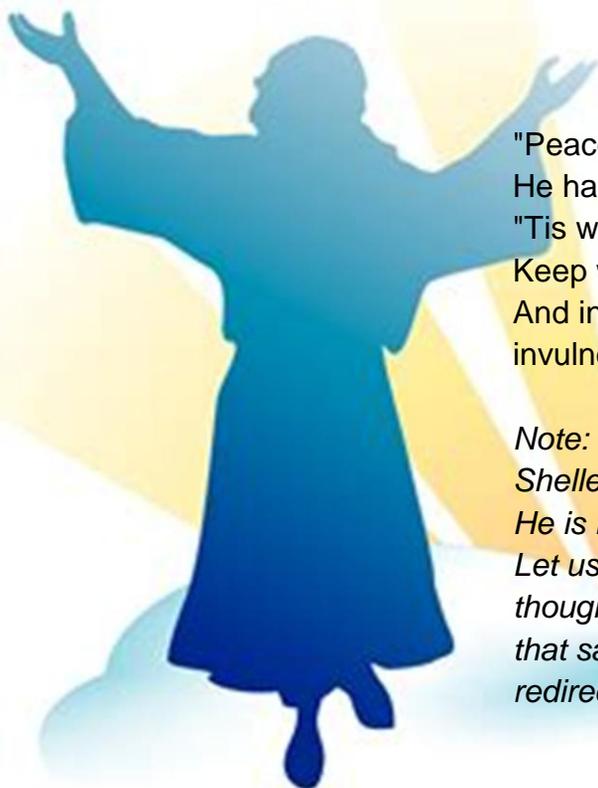
The danger of this self-understanding in our congregational lives is that no one sees themselves as the host, the householder inviting other to the party. Asked whether they routinely seek out and greet visitors to their church, many church folks respond that they don’t think it is their job. The greeter or usher does that. The pastor does that. The lay leader does that. That is someone else’s responsibility.

Dig deeper and we hear an expression of identity underneath this explanation. The pastor, the lay leader, the church matriarch, the usher, that is, those who have a stake here, or those who have power here, are responsible to offer God’s welcome. Though we all share in the one table and the one body, we don’t all feel a sense of belonging and insidership. What does hospitality look like when everyone is the guest, the outsider?

Paul’s words call us to a new self-understanding. Different parts of the body have genuine differences, yet each part exists only to the degree that it shares in the one body. A disconnected hand or foot has no life. The body of Christ has no lone rangers, no observers. We all share in God’s welcome, and God’s welcome is the starting place. Each one of us begins with our own experience of God’s welcome, whether through disruption or challenge, forgiveness or risk. Through God’s welcome in our lives, we are each members of the body, part of something bigger in which we share and take responsibility to share with others.

***Questions to Ponder:***

- *How would you identify yourself within your congregation - as an insider or outsider, as an observer or participant?*
- *How and why has your self-understanding changed over time?*
- *How would you describe your church’s membership with regards to outsidership? Do you have a congregation of guests? Why or why not?*
- *How do you know whether folks feel inside or outside? How is belonging in your congregation experienced? Demonstrated?*



**HE IS NOT DEAD!**

"Peace, peace! He is not dead, He doth not sleep-----  
 He hath awakened from the dream of life-----  
 'Tis we, who, lost in stormy visions  
 Keep with phantoms an unprofitable strife  
 And in mad trance strike with our spirit's kife  
 invulnerable nothings."

--Shelley

Note:

*Shelley's poem is so appropriate for Easter:  
 He is risen! He has awakened from death!  
 Let us do the same: rise above the "dead"  
 thoughts and actions from useless circumstances  
 that sap our energy and dilute our faith-----  
 redirecting our goal to a life of purpose and joy!*

---Jane Edwards

**COFFEE  
 ON THE  
 PORCH**

We set up and serve Coffee on the Porch every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., as a way of meeting our neighbors who live and work around the downtown area. The coffee is served on the sidewalk by the parking lot entrance (not really on the porch) and a good time has always been had by all.



**FISHERS OF PEOPLE**

Luke 5:10 reads, ... "Then Jesus said to Simon, do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people" Jesus calls us to follow him to become fishers of people but most days we are so much in our own world that we do not see all the people around us. Who do you see this week? As part of the #seeallthepeople campaign to engage our community in an outwardly-focused way, guests visiting our church or stopping by our Sunday Coffee on the Porch will be given a bag of goldfish crackers as a welcoming gift.

**PAPERBACK BOOKS FOR INMATES**

**We are once again collecting paperback books for the inmates at the Norfolk City Jail to help increase their library holdings. Educational, inspirational biographies are preferred. Please keep in mind that books will be screened for sexually explicit or violent material.**

**Collection boxes for books will be available in the Outreach Corner just outside the Southgate Chapel**



# PRAYER MEETING

Weekly Prayer meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., in the church parlor



## SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

**Once again** we are joining with the Society of St. Andrew by distributing their 2017 Lent Devotional booklets titled, "*Seasons of Joy and Gladness*", and coin banks during Lent.

As part of your Lenten spiritual discipline, commit to making a financial contribution to the Society of St. Andrew, by filling your coin banks with loose change, or any amount you feel led to give. Your gift in any amount will provide healthy food to hungry people. To learn more about the Society of St. Andrew, go to [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org).

*Did you know that your gift can provide food to hungry people at a cost of just 2¢/meal?*



### Palm Cross Workshop

Saturday, April 13th, @ 10 am, in the Crusader Fellowship room. Bring your scissors & creativity! No cross will be turned down or too heavy to bear!

### March Calendar Highlights

- 3rd - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
- 9th - Outreach Committee Meeting, 10 am
- 21st - Mobile Meals, 10 am
- 25th - Church Council, 6:15 pm

## EASTER LILIES

You are invited to place an Easter lily in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Please submit your check payable to Epworth UMC and mark it "Easter Flowers."

**Deadline for order is Sunday, April 7th**

Please place: \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Lily(ies)

**In honor of/memory of** (circle one)

**GIVEN BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please take my Easter Lily(ies) to an Epworth shut-in or sick member. (tax deductible) \$10.00 ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my Easter Lily(ies). (non tax deductible) \$10.00 ea.

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

(please cut out & mail to Epworth UMC, 124 W. Freemason Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, or place in the Sunday offering).

## HOLY WEEK



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- † Palm Sunday – April 14, @ 11 am
- † Maundy Thursday – April 18, @ 6 pm
- † Good Friday – April 19, @ 6 pm
- † Easter Sunday – April 21, @ 11 am

### April Calendar Highlights

- 7th - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
- 13th - Outreach Committee Meeting, 10 am
- 19-22nd – EDS Closed
- 25th Mobile Meals, 10:00 a.m.
- 29th - Church Council, 6:15 p.m.

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The Carillon newsletter is published bi-monthly. Articles for the May/June 2019 Carillon are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.