

Beulah and Monterey

eNewsletter

August 5, 2022



A message from Pastor Rick Hill



The whole world spinnin' on a journey through space
And nothin' I know of ever stays in one place.
"Everything Changes" by Rick Hill

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: 'Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. ⁸It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.' –Deuteronomy 31:7-8

The earth is spinning at about 1,000 miles per hour. The earth is hurtling through space at about 67,000 miles per hour. Our solar system is blazing through the universe at about 490,000 miles per hour. So, every hour we are travelling close to 560,000 miles! And yet, I can go out in my backyard and gaze at the mountains and feel as though the world has stopped.



Moses led Israel for a bit over 40 years. He was a good leader. He put up with a lot of nonsense – doubt in his abilities, unfaithfulness to God, whining and complaining. But he led through a time of training and preparation. But he was not the man to lead them into the Promised Land. They would need someone different with different abilities, a different temperament. Joshua was the one God had prepared for the job. He had served as Moses' assistant for all those years and now he was ready to step up to the key position.

I have known all along that my time with you would be short. It ended up being a year longer than I planned. I saw my job as one of preparation – moving you folks closer to what I think a successful church needs to look like. It is my strong belief that the church of the 21st century needs to look a lot like the church of the 1st Century. There are a tremendous number of parallels between the 1st Century Roman Empire and the 21st Century American empire. The church thrived and grew in the first century using models of small "house churches" with strong lay leadership and itinerant pastors. I believe that is the direction we should be headed in the 21st Century. Big institutional churches are dropping like flies. Churches that have a clear sense of purpose and strong lay leaders are flourishing.



Over the past four years I have emphasized four "mantras."

"You become what you think about." If you think this organization is worthless, that is exactly what it will be. If you believe this organization is an invaluable foundation for all of life's activities then that is what it will be. What do you believe? Is that belief just words or is it put into action?

Every organization is designed to get the results it is getting." To spend an hour every week staring at the back of someone's head is not a good way to build community. That is a part of the church's design. And there are many other designs that keep us from becoming the organization God intends us to be.

Impact drives income." This is not just financial income. It is resource income, membership income, talent income. Every organization (and this includes Rotary, Lions, Scouts, et al) that is having a positive impact in the community will also generate all those different kinds of income.



“Fulfillment comes from the progressive realization of worthwhile goals.” The major reason for people burning out and dropping out of organizations is the lack of fulfillment. We want to know we are making progress on something that is of value – to ourselves and to the larger community. People in my generation are dropping out of churches because they have been working in them for 30-40-50 years and the church hasn’t moved an inch. We are still dealing with the same problems we had when we were teenagers! The same controversies, the same roadblocks.

With my departure, a number of doors have opened – not just one. I would suggest that you read the book of Acts and then dig into what the 1st century church really looked like, how it operated, what impact it had on the various communities. I would suggest that you have ongoing, deep discussions about the four mantras and what they mean for the life of these congregations. I would suggest that, if you like the way I did things, you emulate that and figure out how you, also, continue on the path.

In the last chapters of Deuteronomy and the opening chapter of Joshua, God instructed the leaders to be “bold and courageous.” The phrase appears over and over again. I would instruct you likewise.

Be bold – do things differently, take a radical new path. Experiment.

Be courageous – do not be afraid of individuals, of institutions.

In all things be faithful. God has promised to be with you always. Be always with God.

Peace,
Rick

LEADING OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST

Last week I mentioned that Reverend Rockwell Ward would be in the pulpit of both churches this Sunday, 8/7. Unfortunately, Reverend Ward is ill and won’t be able to join us this week. We pray he soon returns to good health.

We are blessed Reverend Doctor Henry Scoggins has stepped in at the last minute and will be in the pulpit on Sunday. Reverend Scoggins is from Wilmington NC, received his BS in Business Administration, Master’s of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond and his Doctorate of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has served churches in NC and VA for almost 40 years, including West End in Roanoke where he first met Tony and Sandie Stinnett 35 years ago. His most recent ministry was Smyrna in Waynesboro for almost 5 years. Hank Scoggins is the father of two and the grandfather of two and we welcome him to the pulpit of both churches this Sunday.

August 14 - Jim Sherman

August 21 – Reverend Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter, Shenandoah Presbytery

August 28 – Jim Sherman

Worship services through mid October have been filled and we have a lot to look forward to on Sunday mornings.

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

August 3 – Sandie Stinnett
August 5 – Cappie Hull
August 4 – Patsy Simmons
August 10 – Linda Freeman
August 13 – Derek Simmons
August 15 – Amy Frayer
August 20 – Holden Chambers
August 27 – Linda Sherman
August 30 – Bo Defibaugh
August 31 – Fred Frye

Anniversaries

August 5 – Bucky and Norma Reynolds
August 7 – Dan and Ann Foster
August 9 – Bill and Mary Lou Cox
August 22 - Jessa Fowler and Chris Swecker
August 23 – Mark and Cindy Swecker
August 27 – Jeff and Betty Gail Hiner



PRAYER LIST – Corbin Swecker, Ardis and Holmes Stephenson, Linda Frye, Mike Armstrong, Sandie Stinnett, Lola Sestrap, Mike Humphries, Garland and Lillian Dever, Ray Mueller, and Carol Roberts and Mike Gonzales in your prayers.

Dorothy “Dot” Jean (Colaw) Shepherd, 95, of Monterey, passed away Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at The Legacy at North Augusta in Staunton.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m., Sunday, August 7, 2022 at Obaugh Funeral Home with pastor Chip Hill officiating. Burial will follow in Blue Grass Cemetery. Family will receive friends prior to the service, starting at 12:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad, PO Box 268, Monterey, Va. 24465 or to the Blue Grass Ruritan Club, PO Box 52, Blue Grass, Va. 24413.

Christian condolences and prayers of comfort to the Stephenson family.



This message was posted by Chris on Facebook 8/4 and is being used with his permission.

This was a photo I wasn't sure would ever happen again almost two weeks ago. Our son Corbin and the family are unbelievably grateful to all be back home together. Words cannot express feelings right now, but I'll give it a try.

First and foremost, praise be to God for His grace and mercy to get us to this point. To Him be all the glory for guiding us and being the solid foundation for true hope.

We cannot thank everyone enough for your prayers, love, and support. We felt your presence with us through it all. Every gesture, no matter how big or small,

was impactful.

We send extra special thanks to our midwives and the teams at Sentara RMH Emergency Care, Pegasus, Brookhaven Birthing Center, the VCU PICU and Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House. This includes everyone who makes these systems work, from the clergy to the housekeeping staff to social workers to chefs to therapists and everyone in between. We absolutely couldn't have gone through this without our families. There were too many other helpers to mention during this time, but know we are thankful even if not named explicitly.

I also just want to say that I have such a newfound respect for anyone who works in healthcare. I can't imagine having to face the stressful, grim situations and make judgment calls amidst so much calamity and stress every day. You deserve to be placed on a pedestal in society for your selfless love and care.

Finally, Jessa Fowler is an incredible wife, mother, and daughter. I'm so blessed to have you in my life.

If you want to know more about Corbin's story, please visit <https://gofund.me/47b79f48>.

***** 8/4/22 5:20 UPDATE!!! ***** - With additional Venmo Donations, we have met our fundraising goal! We are completely overwhelmed with this support in less than 24 hours. There are no words to describe how grateful we are to everyone who has donated. Thank you so much! Any additional donations will be used for further expenses and care related to Corbin's condition. Chris, Jessa, Lyla and Corbin



If you would like to provide a meal for the Swecker family, a meal train has been set up online using the link below.

At this time, Jessa's Mom is staying with them and has been diagnosed with Covid, as has Lyla, so meals would be appreciated. Prayers and positive thoughts continue to be important, too.

Here's a link to sign-up for the meal train (no raw onions, please): <https://takethemameal.com/NIBU8792>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beulah Sunday School will meet in-person and via WebEx this Sunday at 10:30 using the link below, studying Lesson #10, "A New Home". <https://pianotuning.my.webex.com/meet/rasimms2000>

MPC Adult Sunday School **CHANGE IN SCHEDULE** - With so many folks traveling in August, Monterey Adult Sunday School will not meet in August, resuming sometime in September.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

STATED SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, August 10– Beulah’s Session will hold a Stated Meeting at Beulah PC at 7:00 p.m.

METEOR SHOWER AND SUPER MOON

August 12-13 – The Perseids meteors have been active since July 14, but their peak activity is expected to occur next week. With our dark skies, searching for meteors is an enjoyable summer activity, but next week we will have a super moon so bright it will make looking for “shooting stars” a little more difficult. That said, even with the moonlight, you can expect to see 10-15 meteors per hour.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thursday, August 18 – Meeting will be at 1:00 pm, via WebEx. The Bible study lesson will be; “What Are These Women Doing in a Place Like This?” All are welcome to join this meeting.

<https://pianotuning.my.webex.com/meet/rasimms2000>

STATED SESSION MEETING

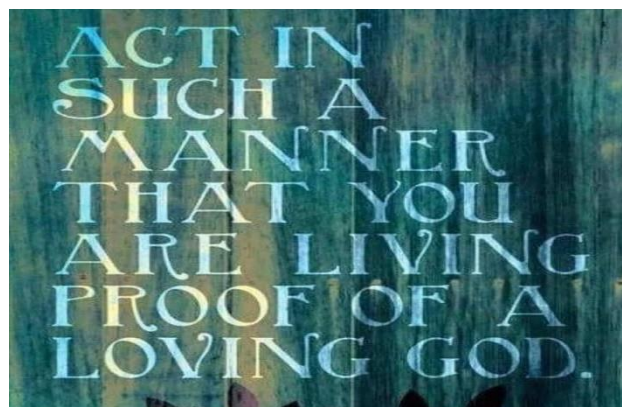
Wednesday, August 24 – Monterey’s Session will meet at the church at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

 **Sunday, August 28** – The annual Ice Cream Social will be held at Monterey Presbyterian Church at 5:00 pm. Ice Cream and Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share.

DEDICATION SUNDAY

Sunday, September 18 – MPC will be dedicating the restored stained glass windows, pavilion, front garden and new roof during the worship service, followed by lunch. Reverend Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter, Shenandoah Presbytery, will be leading worship that day. The congregations from both churches are invited to attend the worship service and stay for lunch.



SUMMER HAPPENINGS



Girls and chickens gone wild



Sammy, Hannah and Ava vacationed in St. Louis with their parents.



Claire's Cakes and Cafe had a tremendous opening on Main Street last weekend and we wish them continued success.



The Spangler family, including the Herold's (with Ryan), took their annual family photo during their trip to OBX this week.



Wren arrives home from 4-H camp



Senator Mark Warner visited Big Fish Cider and answered community questions.



Despite heavy rain that made set up and arrival a bit messy, *Taste of Highland 2022*, the annual Highland Center fundraising event, was a huge success. People of all ages came for food, fellowship, music, and a great cause.

Order of Worship

August 7, 2022

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements and Time Of Centering/Lighting Candles

Call to Worship – (Unison)

Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people.
In your great mercy, look with compassion on us
and all who turn to you for help, for you are gracious,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. To you we give glory,
O blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn – “I Love to Tell the Story” #498 WC red hymnal

Prayer of Confession – (Unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises we make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

(Time of silent prayer)

Assurance Of God’s Love

Scripture

Old Testament – Isaiah 12:1-6 page 1078 pew Bible
New Testament – Matthew 28:16-20 page 1550

Sermon – How’s Business?

*Hymn – “I Need Thee Every Hour” #538 WC

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offering Ourselves

Offering plates are in the vestibule and front of the sanctuary and a container in the rear hallway

*Song – “Doxology” #808 WC

Closing Hymn – “Faith of Our Fathers” #692 WC

Congregational Response – “Faith of Our Fathers” #692 verse 3

*Benediction

Postlude