



PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS



office@peakspresbytery.org

Welcome To PEAKS POSTINGS

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS BELOW

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event
7-5-21		Office Closed

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:30AM - 4:30PM

FAX:

(434) 845-7829

MAILING ADDRESS

PO BOX 2519
FOREST, VA 24551



1195 CARTERS STABLE ROAD
FOREST, VA 24551



(434) 845-1754



office@peakspresbytery.org



www.peakspresbytery.org

A Peaceful Path: Rejuvenating and Revitalizing through Earth Care Ministry

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert, Peace Presbyterian Church

As is apparent throughout this issue of the PHP Post, the invitation from Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

We recognize Christ's urgent call to be vital congregations and worship communities, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And while some folks might think that the vitality of a congregation or worshiping community is based on the number of members, the scope of programs, the size of financial gifts or some other statistics, we know that isn't the case — at least not entirely.

Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God's mission and share the hope we have in Christ. The Presbyterian Hunger Program is thankful for the ways we get to walk alongside Earth Care Congregations (ECC) as they turn their commitments to caring for God's Creation into ministry that rejuvenates, restores and revitalizes their own community.

Peace Presbyterian Church in Lakewood Ranch, Florida, which is both an ECC and a Matthew 25 church, shares about the Peaceful Path, a natural space in the wetlands part of their campus that provides opportunity for reflection and contemplation for their entire community.



(continued)

Having escaped a troubling situation at home, a woman found herself searching for peace and found it on a path in the woods, where the people of a congregation named Peace have developed beautiful “forest art” in a place set aside for connection with God and neighbor via the natural world.



One family came to the Peaceful Path for temporary relief from the dread of chemotherapy for their preschool child with a malignant brain tumor. They rejoiced in discovering painted rocks along the path with messages of hope, peace and kindness.

It all began when a Presbyterian congregation chartered in 2009 was uniquely blessed with a 24-acre site, half of which is a natural wooded forest, adjacent to protected wetland area. With a blessing grant from Peace River Presbytery, the church was able to live into their vision for a meditation pathway to benefit the surrounding community, as well as the congregation, in part fulfilling the overall mission *to make God known by growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, building a community of peace and caring for the needs of others.*

When COVID-19 isolation left members feeling stir-crazy at home, they took advantage of mild Florida temperatures to get outside and create beautiful things in the path with God’s help. Cut palmetto branches with red berries become a Christmas tree.

(continued)

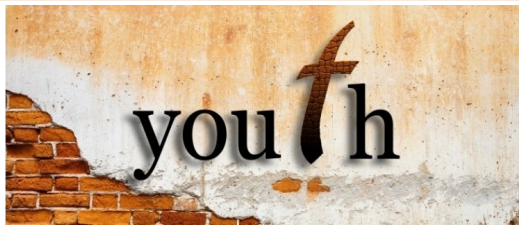
Dried palm tree sheaths form into circular flower shapes. Inner layers of dead tree trunks take on human appearance and are gathered in circles as if at a campfire. Dead tree limbs and trunks pieced together create a sense of mutual support and direction. Staghorn ferns, air plants, rustic pottery, huge wreaths of woven vines and colorfully bright bromeliads add inspiration! Having been certified as an ECC in the PC(USA), this commitment moved beyond discussions of recycling, sustainability and environmentally friendly policies to a vigorous enthusiasm for the natural glory of God's Creation!

Word gets out in the community, with the help of the local newspaper, and soon there are many guests on the Peaceful Path, including CROP Hunger walkers. A grandmother, new to the area, grieving the loss of two sons, comes to walk with her young grandchildren for whom she is now mother, and the whole family connects with the Peace congregation, having an outdoor dance in the parking lot — a peaceful pathway to significant involvement. Others simply pick up a meditation page to have a quiet time in the woods.



In this year's Ash Wednesday service, palm branches are burned to ashes in an old clay pot, and most of the service is recorded along the path, as a symbol of the Lenten journey of life in Christ. Years-old protruding palmetto roots sending up shoots looking for light serve as a reminder that even in the darkness of a pandemic, Christ is our light.

Along the Peaceful path, old vines and dead branches, frustrations and grief are bent and twisted into good forms of art, healing us with "the peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and reminding us that "in life and in death we belong to God" (A Brief Statement of Faith, PC[USA]).



Do you have youth in your congregation that demonstrate strong leadership skills? The Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (PoPYoCo) is still accepting applications for rising 9th-12th graders and adult advisors. PoPYoCo plans & leads presbytery wide youth events every year that are balanced in worship, recreation, fellowship, and study. Visit our website for applications and for more info: Youth Council | Presbytery of the Peaks (peakspresbytery.org)

Have questions? Contact Sam Smith at sam@peakspresbytery.org



The Presbyterian Community Center of Roanoke will be looking for volunteers of local pastors to lead devotionals with their Pathways for Youth After School Program this fall. Devotions take place every other Monday afternoon with three different age groups (elementary, middle, and high schoolers). Volunteers could sign on for one specific age group, or all three! Consistency is highly encouraged in order to build meaningful relationships with the youth in the program.

Interested, have questions, or need more info? Contact Sam Smith at sam@peakspresbytery.org

Church Pianist/Organist

Musician needed to play at Church worship services for the **Presbyterian Church of Radford**. Expectation to practice with the Church choir and accompany on Sunday. This is a part-time position and hours will vary (approximately 6-8 hours/week). Background check and references required. Please call Debra Chase at 540-449-4481 for additional information.

See the church website at PCRadford.org for job description and employment application. Mail applications to:

Presbyterian Church of Radford
201 Fourth Street
Radford, VA 24141
Attention: Worship Committee



Church Director of Music

Experienced Director needed to provide training and coordination for the music program for the **Presbyterian Church of Radford**.

Expectation to practice with the Church choir and accompany on Sunday. This is a full time position and hours will vary (approximately 10-12 hours/week).

Background check and references required. Please call Debra Chase at 540-449-4481 for additional information.

See the church website at PCRadford.org for job description and employment application. Mail applications to:

Presbyterian Church of Radford
201 Fourth Street
Radford, VA 24141
Attention: Worship Committee



Job Opportunity: Clarksville Presbyterian Church

Clarksville Presbyterian Church seeks to hire a part time secretary (minimum 12 hours/week). Basic clerical skills are required with a working knowledge of office programs such as Publisher or Word. Responsibilities will include assisting the minister and congregation members with clerical support as needed (i.e., weekly preparation of the bulletin, maintaining the church directory, among other things).

Candidates need not be PC(USA) but Christian church membership with knowledge of liturgy is preferred. Finally, we seek a welcoming individual able to maintain healthy boundaries and strict confidentiality in matters of parish business and pastoral care.

If interested, please email Dan Hooker, Elder for Personnel (hookerdanielCPC@gmail.com) or call the church office (434-374-8344).



Click [here](#) to
read the Spring
Newsletter from
the Black Caucus.



Westminster PC Church Ministry Assistant

Job Description: Westminster Presbyterian Church Ministry Assistant

The Ministry Assistant represents the congregation to the public and is expected to perform all duties in a manner that reflects the character and values of the church. He or she must have a professional and warm demeanor in handling phone calls and in-person interactions. The Ministry Assistant must be proficient in Microsoft Office programs, have sufficient clerical skills, flexibility, and competence to work, manage time, and make the best use of available office equipment and resources. Tasks include (but are not limited to) producing accurate documents and communications including bulletins, newsletters, website and social media updates, emails, correspondence. The Ministry Assistant is employed by the Church Session, given oversight by the Personnel Committee, and supervised by the Pastor.

Office Hours:

9:00 – 3:00 Monday – Thursday, 24 hours weekly.

Contact Information:

(434)847-6655, wpclynchburg@gmail.com

To see the full job description, visit the Presbytery of the Peaks webpage (Resources> Call/Jobs)



The Black Caucus of the Presbytery of the Peaks is pleased to announce that we will have awarded a scholarship to **Ms. Jada Robinson** who has graduated from William Fleming High School this year as an honor student.

Jada will be a student at Radford University in the Fall of 2021.

A little about Jada. She is involved with school organizations such as the National Honor Society, National Arts Society, DECA and Future Business Leaders of America. She is also an outstanding team member of the varsity soccer team. Jada is highly active in her community and is involved in organizations such as the NAACP Youth Council, Teen United Way, and a youth leader at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Jada has captured the attention of Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Jr. who has written a letter of recommendation for her and he has said in his letter: "I have had the opportunity to meet with many high school students and talk to them with regard to their future career and endeavors. Jada is one of Roanoke's finest students and I would highly recommend her as she proceeds to begin her college career."

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Presbytery of the Peaks' Black Caucus recognizes Jada for her hard work, commitment, and involvement in the community. We are pleased to be able to award her with a scholarship that was presented to her and her family at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.



2021-2022 Presbyterian Planning Calendars

Orders are now being taken for Presbyterian Planning Calendars that will run from September 2021 to December 2022, at our best possible price— \$9.75 each. We will pre-order calendars in August with calendar orders filled first and extra calendars offered at a first come, first served basis. **After the pre-ordered calendars are sold we cannot honor the discounted price, so get your orders in SOON!** (Regular calendar price through the Distribution Center is \$16.75 this year)

Calendars will not be sent to our office from the distribution center until August.



See the order form on the next page.

CALENDAR ORDER FORM:

Please e-mail this form to
julie@peakspresbytery.org or mail to the
presbytery office: PO Box 2519, Forest, VA,
24551

Date of Order_____

Number of Calendars Needed_____

Name of Church/Individual _____

Contact Name_____

Email Address_____

Phone Number _____

Method of Delivery Requested:

I will pick them up at the Presbytery Office _____

Ship them to me at the following address _____

(shipping charges will apply)

Shipping Address:

Peaks Postings is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests **by noon on Mondays** to Julie Burnett at julie@peakspresbytery.org for inclusion in the following issue.

Guidelines for announcements or news items to be featured in *Peaks Postings*:

- Keep the information to one page or less.
- Use links to web sites rather than including lots of details.
- Please obtain permission from the people pictured in your photos before submitting them to *Peaks Postings*.

Peaks Postings Editors reserve the right to

- feature or not feature an article. Our first priority is to feature activities within POP churches and the Presbytery.
- edit submitted articles/announcements.
- limit the number of weeks an article/announcement is featured.

Past issues of Peaks Postings are archived for about six months on our website, [Presbytery of the Peaks](#)