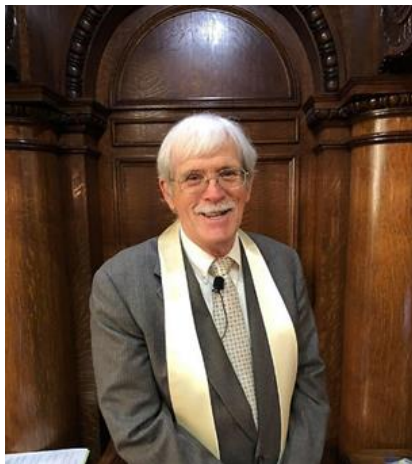


February
PRESBYTERIAN LINK

Monthly Newsletter of the Altavista Presbyterian Church

*Equipping the Saints for Ministry, Building up the Body of Christ.
Eph. 4:12*



From the Pastor's Desk

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

Luke 14:27-30

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.'

Matthew 21:42

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Since the summer of 2024 the Altavista Presbyterian Church has been in a time of transition. Higher governing bodies of our denomination and others have recognized that these times of transition have a discernable progression of emotion, action, and reaction, related to a change in pastoral leadership. In addition to pastoral change, the church experienced the retirement of Carolyn Doss who was a central figure in the operation of the church for twenty-eight years. We have witnessed action and reaction to the loss of both Carolyn and the subsequent resignation of Rev. Ed Soto: members of the Session have stepped into leadership areas formerly guided by Ed; the Session hired Nancy Dalton to take over Carolyn's responsibilities and recruited me as a part-time Transitional Pastor. These actions and reactions are normal adjustments to a change in pastoral leadership and the retirement of a long-time employee. The Altavista Presbyterian Church has been in the process of change and adaptation to new reality. The process does not stop with adaptation but continues into the realm of re-construction.

As shown in the scripture lessons above, Jesus spoke often of His Church in terms of construction. In the first lesson, Peter had just identified Jesus as the Christ—the Son of the Living God. Jesus said he would build His church on the rock of Peter's confession. The church was and is, a construction project undertaken by Jesus Christ. In the second lesson, Jesus advises disciples to weigh the cost of their faith commitment. Repenting of sin, confession, and asking forgiveness, receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, constitute a re-construction of our lives. That re-construction changes our identity into people who are cross-bearers who seek to emulate the heart of our Savior. There is an emotional component to that process that should not be overlooked.

Jesus was the stone that the builders rejected. He bore the sorrow of rejection from the religious leaders of His day, yet He was to become the chief cornerstone in the new temple to be built in the hearts of believers. The gospels tell us that Jesus wept when he approached Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Emotion is essential to the onset of ministry. Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing that He would confront the religious establishment, give His life a sacrifice for the salvation of all humanity, and defeat death in glorious victory. APC is on the verge of re-construction. People are anxious about the direction of their church. I hear it in conversations and meetings: where do we go from here?

There are emotions left from the past and anxieties for the future that need to be expressed. We need to pause outside of Jerusalem and deal with the emotion before we begin our re-construction ministries. At the next meeting of the APC Session, I will ask approval for a special evening worship service devoted to healing and wholeness (both emotional and physical) for our congregation. I envision this wholeness service to be held during the season of Lent, sometime between the Ash Wednesday service on March 5, 2025 and April 6, 2025, (the last Sunday before Palm Sunday).

~~Reverend Glenn M. Coleman

Highlights

	December 2024	YTD
Pledges	2,800	55,417
Non-Pledges	4,143	44,019
Plate Offering	154	1,388
Total Expenses	9,918	141,965

Session Highlights

January 19, 2025 meeting

- ✚ Approved minutes of the November 17, 2024 Congregational meeting & the November 17, 2024 Stated Session meeting as presented.
- ✚ Elected Barbie Andrews as Commissioner to the February 20, 2025 Stated Presbytery meeting at Blacksburg PC.
- ✚ Approved APC's 2024 Statistical Report to Presbytery.
- ✚ Reviewed the December, 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- ✚ Approved applications for the following Presbytery of the Peaks Community Outreach grants: Kairos Prison Ministry (\$2,000), Campbell County Literacy Program (\$2,000) & Altavista Outreach Enrichment (\$1,500).
- ✚ Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Glenn prayed for those listed.



CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Anniversaries

15	Ivey Janiak	
18	Margaret Gafford Charlotte Mabry	
25		Bruce & Fay Kempton
27	Kiernan deBernard	

Updates from your Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee wants to extend our appreciation to all of you again for the tremendous support and the many donations you have given to our Operation Christmas Child mission project through the years. We have heard testimonies of how these shoebox gifts- Gospel Opportunities- have changed lives and been a blessing to so many. It's a blessing to me to know we are helping to spread the love of Christ around the world!

We are going to start our monthly collections again this month with designated items for each month, February through October. We are sharing the full list here and the items for the month will be listed in the bulletins each Sunday. Extra items are always welcome, but please keep in mind that liquids, candy, and soap are no longer allowed.

Thank you and may God bless you all!

Barbie Andrews, Outreach Committee Chair

February -	Toothbrushes & Toothbrush Holders Girl's Hairbrushes, Boy's Combs
March-	Coloring Books Small Plastic Reusable Cups
April-	Socks for 10-14 yr old Boys Girl's Hair Accessories
May-	Socks for 5-9 yr old Girls Socks for 5-9 yr old Boys
June-	Small Story Books for Toddlers Small Flashlights with Batteries
July-	Wash Cloths Ink Pens, Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners
August-	24 count Boxes of Crayons Solar Calculators
September-	Zippered Pencil Pouches Steno Pads, Journals – be sure will fit in shoebox
October-	Miscellaneous Fun Items- Yo-Yo's, Playdough, Jump Ropes, Sunglasses, Small Toy Cars & Trucks for Toddlers, Small Craft/Jewelry Kits, etc.

We will also appreciate monetary donations to go toward purchasing "WOW" items for the gifts such as dolls, stuffed animals, playground/soccer balls & pumps.



2 Corinthians 9:7: Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

ALSO IN FEBRUARY:

APC members know that our church has supported the Claire Parker Foundation for many years, in many ways. We have committed to gathering items for the Foundation's Care Carts this month. You will find a collection bin in the hallway and the listing of items desired on the bulletin board, as well as below. This collection will end on February 23rd.

Bottled Water
Individual Sized Bottled Sodas
Candy bars
Granola bars
Snack packs of cookies, chips, crackers, etc.
Sports drinks (Gatorade/Powerade)
Sour candies (sour patch kids, sour skittles,
gummies, etc.)
Sealed fruit cups
Microwave Mac & Cheese
Capri Suns
Kodiak Cakes - Power Cups
Microwave Chef Boyardee

Matthew 10:42

The Family Care Cart will provide families easy access to food and drink during various treatments and procedures! All donations go to helping provide care to families during cancer treatments.

In Matthew 25:36-40, Jesus says "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...I was sick and you looked after me" reminding us of our responsibility as Christians to help those in need.

The Different Kinds of Love, by Margaret Liebchen

My sister was teaching herself classical Greek. Why, I asked her, at such a ripe age? (We're twins, by the way.) She couldn't give me an answer, but I think I figured it out.

It's because Greek is such a beautiful language. It's not just the shape of the letters, the familiarity of the Alpha and Beta, the twists and turns of Zeta and Xi, playful as they are. Greek is beautiful because it's precise.

Take our word, *love*. In English, that means one thing to a teenager, another to a great-grandma. An AIDS worker, a platoon of Marines, a Nashville singer, and a parent all love, but in different ways. We have only one word to express the condition: *Love*.

Classical Greek has four words for the different kinds of love. I wasn't aware of this until several years ago, our minister mentioned it in Sunday School. The words are *Eros*, *Philos*, *Storge* and *Agape*. Talk about being precise.

Eros is the state of being when the hormones, testosterone, pheromones, and serotonin get all mixed up in what is akin to madness. One exists only to long for the beloved's presence of beauty. It's a delight for the subjects, a pain for the onlooker, and a condition that does not last. English words derived from *Eros* are erotic and eroticism, which can describe our popular culture today.

Philos is the bond that exists among people who share a common interest or activity. Soldiers on patrol possess this bond, as does a football team and a political party in a campaign year. It's a relationship that looks beyond itself, either for good or for bad.

Storge is the natural love a parent has for a child or other family members, or the love that is felt by a group of people who have found themselves together by chance. In ancient Greek, it described relationships within the family. In modern Greek, it describes affection felt throughout the familiarity. Think of *Storge* when you're dealing with a two-year-old or the next time you're caught in a queue.

Agape is perhaps the most cerebral kind of love. It's a conscience effort transformed by grace that enables us to show compassion: for the unlovable, the lost, the broken and flawed, our enemies and tormentors, those persons who nibble and those who slash, yes, even for our own unforgiving selves. I can find no English words derived from *Agape*. It's a love that stands by itself.



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 AM Worship/ Communion <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Two Cents-A- Meal Offering	3	4 5pm Outreach Mtg.	5 12 PM Men's Lunch Colonial Restaurant 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study	6 3:30 PM The Reflective Woman	7	8
9 10 AM Worship <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	10	11 4 PM Admin. Mtg. 5:30 PM Discipleship Mtg.	12 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study	13 3:30 PM The Reflective Woman 6:30 PM LLA Mtg.	14	15
16 10 AM Worship <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Session Mtg. after Worship	17	18	19 12 PM Men's Lunch Taste of Italy 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study	20 Stated Presbytery Mtg. Blacksburg PC- 3:30 PM The Reflective Woman	21	22 4:00 -8:00 PM Fellowship Hall Rented
23 10 AM Worship <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Claire Parker Collection Ends	24 March Newsletter Deadline	25	26 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study	27 3:30 PM The Reflective Woman	28	



Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM Eastern CEDEPCA's Chocolate Tasting Celebration is back! This delicious online event that built community and delight during the pandemic is returning on the eve of the Lenten season with a cultural twist. Join us to TASTE delicious Guatemalan Chocolate with the guidance of chocolate expert Nico Silverman; SEE the colorful Lenten processions of Antigua with renowned Antigua historian and tour guide Elizabeth Bell; and best of all, SUPPORT an organization that is changing lives throughout Central America with theological "education that transforms." Reserve your spot now with Zoom registration and payment of \$60 (includes three bars of artisanal chocolate shipped to your home + a \$30 tax deductible donation to CEDEPCA). Space is limited to 100 Zoom participants – but consider hosting a living room party and sharing your chocolate with others! Registration deadline is February 10. Can't make the live event? Register through Zoom and receive the recording on March 4. See you then!

** Register at www.peakspresbytery.org

**NEWS FROM THE
PRESBYTERY OF THE
PEAKS--
FEBRUARY 2025**

Finding God in our Community

2 Cents a Meal
GIVE A LITTLE...
to help a lot!

Look at what "2 Cents" can do!

FACES Food Pantry

Endorsed by College Presbyterian Church, in Hampden-Sydney, VA, in several ways **FACES Food Pantry** aims to reduce food insecurity within Prince Edward, Charlotte, and portions of Cumberland Counties. Operating out of a newly constructed warehouse, FACES provided 135,000 meals last year to those experiencing homelessness, to qualified students on the weekends, and to families in crisis in partnership with Madeline's House. In addition to these programs, to assist persons with food preparation, FACES offers cooking classes a few times a year!

"neighbor helping neighbor"

Aren't you glad that we can find encouragement, hope and possibilities all around us? We can find God in the **FACES Food Pantry** of Farmville, VA.

YET, not only here, but also where you are! **Remember: Give a little to Help a lot...!**

vernier@peakspresbytery.org

According to Director Paul Baker, FACES began in 1981 with four local churches joining together to assist in the fight against food insecurity but has since grown into a two-location operation. Of course, this growth is bittersweet as it highlights the need for continued vigilance against hunger.

Our Next Presbytery Meeting
Thursday
February 20, 2025
IN-PERSON
at
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

More information to follow in the new year.