

Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter April 2024



Worship Service is at 11:00am every Sunday in person.

Sunday School Classes (9:45am)

- The Shurley Class: meets in room 7
- Men's & Women's Class: meets in the library

CONTACT US...

Email us:

sandspres@verizon.net

Call us: **804-737-1527**

Office hours: **Monday -
Thursday (8:30am -
1:30pm)**

Follow us on Facebook
@sandstonpc

Check out our website:
www.sandstonpc.org



A Note from Pastor Todd...

I love music. All kinds of music. You'd be hard pressed to find a style or genre that doesn't exist in my digital library. One of the things that interests me is how a song came to be. Recently I watched the Netflix documentary "The Greatest Night in Pop" on the creation of the all-star charity song *We Are The World* and thoroughly enjoyed hearing the story of how the song developed. As we have just spent the Lenten season partially focused on the hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* I wondered if there was a story behind that song. Turns out there certainly was:

It is an unfortunate turn of events when a young boy is forced to grow up without a loving father. Thus was Robert Robinson's fate. His dad passed away when he was only eight years of age. Robert was born on Sept. 27, 1735, to Mary Wilkin and Michael Robinson, a customs officer, in Swaffam in the county of Norfolk, a market town and civil parish in the English county side.

To make Roberts circumstances much more difficult, his maternal grandfather, Robert Wilkin, a wealthy man, who had never reconciled himself to his daughter's lowly marriage, disinherited his grandson and provided an inheritance for him of only ten shillings and sixpence.

All of this led to Robert being a rather difficult, headstrong boy. So, when he turned 14 in 1749, his mother sent him to London for an apprenticeship. This was done out of love, to instill some sense of responsibility and structure to young Robert's life. To no one's surprise, he was just as much a troublemaker in London, and to make matters worse he gained some friends and followers as a leader!

When he was 17, he took his gang to a revival service where a well-known preacher at the time, George Whitfield, was speaking. I imagine him saying, "We'll go down and laugh at the poor deluded Methodist." ...But something happened that night that Robert wasn't expecting... After hearing the message, it moved him deeply and it made him rethink his life and how he was living it.

Nearly three years after hearing that sermon, a twenty-year-old Robert Robinson made his peace with God, and "found full and free forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus Christ." Joining the Methodists, and feeling the call to preach, the self-taught Robinson was appointed by John Wesley himself to the Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England. It was there, to accompany his sermon for Pentecost Sunday in 1758, the three-year anniversary of his conversion, he penned the words of his hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing".

However the story doesn't end there!

Unfortunately, and for some unexplained reason, he became altogether unstable and unhappy. His Christian beliefs and training seemed of little importance to him.

On one occasion, years later, he found himself the fellow passenger of a young lady on a stagecoach. It is reported that she began to sing to break the monotony of the trip. And what did she sing?

"Come, Thou fount of every blessing..."

As she finished singing the young woman asked Roberts what he thought about the song. His startling reply was: "Madam, I am the unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago; and, I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, if I could feel now as I felt then."

A wandering heart indeed! And an appropriate story as we are reminded of what we talked about during Lent in regard to Peter: the journey of faith is not always easy and certainly is not a straight path either. As we move into the post-Easter season, may our hearts continue to be tuned to remember, sing, and proclaim God's (amazing) grace.

Pastor Todd

Our Prayer List...

Please keep the following individuals below in your thoughts and prayers.

- Thomas Nolan
- Alice Baldwin
- Sandy Young
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Joanne McCabe
- Richard Young



Flower Calendar Requests 2024...

We are taking requests for the flower calendar for 2024! You can find the request forms outside of the office as well as the narthex of the church. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00. You will find the available dates just below.



April – 7, 14, & 21
May – 5, 12, 19, & 26
June – 2 & 9
July – 7, 21, & 28
August – 4, 11, 18, & 25
September – 1, 8, 15, & 22
October – 6 & 20
November – 3

Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, April 2nd from 7pm to 9pm**. If you have an interest in bees this may be the place for you. If you have any questions please contact Arlo Amstutz.

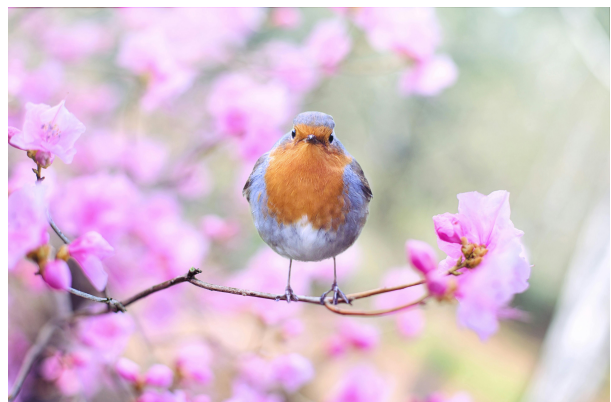
The Highland Springs Garden Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 16th from 10am to 12:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Anyone who *loves flowers is encouraged to come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Pat Fitzgerald.*

April Birthdays

5 Jack Smith
19 Todd Davidson
20 Joyce Spiller
25 Amy Monacell
28 James Sadler
30 Betsy O'Brien

Covered Dish Luncheon

The Presbyterian Women are hosting a **Potluck Luncheon** following worship on **Sunday, April 7th**. Please bring a dish or dessert to share as we enjoy fellowship with one another!



PW Circle Meetings

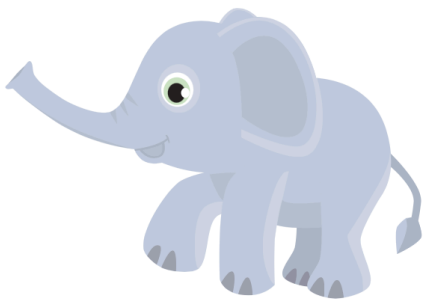
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00pm.**
 - The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 10th at 10:00am.**
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How you can help— Bring Items, Bake Items, & Volunteer:

White Elephant & Bake Sale

Friday, May 3rd &
Saturday, May 4th
9:00am to 3:00pm

Please continue to clean out your closets, attics, basements, etc of all of your unwanted stuff to be brought to church for the sale beginning April 8th. All donations can be left in the fellowship hall. Helps you and helps the PW too!



Baked Goods Needed

The PW needs baked goods for the White Elephant Sale. Bake cupcakes, bars, cookies and package them in small groups. Depending on the size of your items, pack individually, packs of 2, or packs of 4. Or, we can package it for you! Deliver for Friday and or Saturday's sale days.

Volunteer....

Volunteers are needed to unpack, sort, and price items beginning Monday, April 29th - Thursday, May 2nd. Volunteers are also needed for during the sale to assist customers and work the Bake Sale on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Pack-up and cleanup is on Monday, May 6th. Sign-up sheets can be found on bulletin board by office.

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting toothpaste (adults & children) for the month of **April**. Please remember to pick up an item or two the next time you are grocery shopping. There is a box outside of the church office you can drop them off in. **The Deadline is April 30th**. For the month of **March** we were able to collect a total of 46 items for Eastern Henrico FISH! Thank you to everyone for the continued support every month!

Camp Hanover

Enjoy a taste of summer camp for everyone! Visit Camp Hanover on **Sunday, April 28, for Camp Fun Day**. At this free afternoon event from **2 to 5 pm**, experience everything that makes Camp Hanover special. Bring the family (and friends!) to:

- Meet Camp Hanover's staff
- Tour our grounds and buildings
- Try activities like archery, canoeing, and the climbing wall
- Enter drawings for awesome prizes

For more info, visit **www.CampHanover.org** or call **(804) 779-2811**.

Life Line Screening

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. **Life Line Screening**, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Sandston Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, May 22, 2024**. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening
Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
Atrial Fibrillation



The church office has 2 complimentary screening certificates if anyone is interested.

Help Our Garden Grow...

The Christian Life Committee is holding a Rock Painting Event on **Saturday, April 13th from 1:00 to 3:00pm**. Come join us paint some rocks to go in our Kindness Rock Garden out front. You can stop by for a little bit or stay the whole time. Rock painting is such an enjoyable activity that requires no skill just a little imagination. Hope to see you there!

Help Our Garden Grow



**Come join us paint rocks for our
Kindness Rock Garden!**



**Saturday, April 13th, 2024
1:00pm to 3:00pm**

April Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion Covered Dish Luncheon	8	9 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	10 10am Finley Walker Circle Meeting	11	12	13 1-3pm Rock Painting Event
14 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	15	16 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	17	18	19	20
21 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	29	30				