



Pastor's Note

"Pastor, please come bless the food." I, along with every pastor I know hears this on a regular basis. When you are used to praying in public, people often ask you to "bless the meal," i.e., pray before we eat. It happens at church events, family dinners, and all sorts of occasions. I am always happy to be the one to lead others in giving thanks to God for a meal, but in the back of my head, I always hear on my seminary professors. He would say, "We bless things that are alive. No matter how much you bless the Thanksgiving dinner, that turkey is still going to be dead."

Of course, when we "bless the food," or "say the blessing," we are not expecting God to form any miracles on the stuffed bird. We usually want to take a moment to thank God for providing the meal and move on to pass the mashed potatoes.

But I wonder what would happen if instead of saying a "blessing" over the food this Thanksgiving, we might say a blessing over the people with whom we gather. What if we took a time to share how others had been a blessing to us? How has each person enriched your life? How has each person taught you more about life? Love? God?

"Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing someone else can count on." - Anonymous

What if, during this season when we reflect on all we have to be thankful for, we started to think of how we might be a blessing to someone else? How might our focus change this month if we spend less time thinking about blessing a meal, and more time thinking about blessing one another?

— Rev Sharon Bell

Wednesday Night Dinner: Aaron Rayburn

During November's Wednesday Night Dinner (Nov 1) we will have a special guest from Huntington's Department of Veterans Affairs Aaron Rayburn.

Aaron Rayburn, MA, MSW, LICSW- Aaron.Rayburn@va.gov

Aaron Rayburn has over fifteen years of experience with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a lifelong resident of West Virginia, residing in Huntington, WV with his two daughters. He is a Marshall University (MU) graduate and a graduate of West Virginia University (WVU). Aaron received a BA and MA in psychology and mental health counseling from Marshall University and an MSW from WVU. Aaron has worked solely with the Vet Center program in multiple locations during his VA tenure. He continues to serve as the Director for the Huntington Vet Center. Aaron served honorably in the US Marine Corps and with the US Army 19th Special Forces Group (A) in 2009 during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.



Dinner will include: a variety of soups, corn bread muffins, and of course plenty of desserts

Upcoming Service Work

November 3rd

- we will be making lunches for Harmony House and bring them down to them for the people they serve



November 12th

- **City Mission Meal Honoring Margie & Riley Stone.** The mission committee welcomes donations of simple dessert breads (banana bread, pumpkin bread, cranberry bread, etc). They can be brought to the church on Sunday 11/11. The committee will provide the rest of the meal.



November 19th

- During worship a dedication of fresh fruit and vegetables collected for a **Fruiting of the Table**. If able please bring potatoes, onions, carrots, peppers, apples, oranges, etc. These fresh items will be delivered to New Baptist Church Food Pantry to be included in their Thanksgiving baskets.



A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ



Sacred Encounters

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Lesson Three of this year's Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is entitled... A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ. The main idea of this month's lesson is Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as his own.

Through the testimony of the bleeding woman, the sacred encounter in this month's lesson engages the relationship between poverty, disability, menstruation, and chronic diseases. In Luke's story, the presence and power of Jesus prevails over the sense of impurity and shame imposed by society. Jesus recognizes that the woman's faith is the foundation of her self-advocacy and, by believing that Jesus will heal her, she overcomes her illness.

A couple of questions which may lead to an interesting discussion might be. Why do YOU think some people suffer physically more than others? What do YOU think about the idea that there might be a spiritual reason for suffering?

Both evening and day groups meet on the second Thursday of each month in Fellowship Hall from September to May. Can't or don't really want to commit to every month attendance? Feel free to come join us when you can and when it fits your schedule.

If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Neva, Sally, or myself. Hope you will consider joining us. Thank you.

— *Shelia Brownfield, Moderator of HPC Women*

Next Meeting
November 9th

Neva Baldwin is the moderator of the 1:00pm Group
Sally Lowe is the moderator of the 7:00pm Group

New Baptist Food Pantry

We received a lovely thank you letter from Linda Cummings over at New Baptist Food Pantry it reads...

Dear Friends at Highlawn Presbyterian Church,

Oct 10, 2023

Please accept our love and gratitude for your generous donation for the work of our food pantry at New Baptist Church.

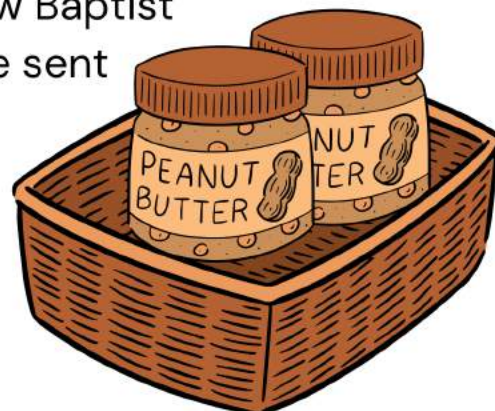
Each Tuesday (9:00–2:00) we open our doors to those who need help for themselves and their families. Your help is so valuable to us and again thank you for sharing in this ministry.

Our members are growing each week. Close to 100 are our individuals and families'.

He covets your prayers and wonderful help. May our Great God bless you as you seek to serve Him.

— *“Thanks So Much” Linda Cummings and
New Baptist Church Food Pantry*

We had a terrific response to this years peanut butter challenge! We delivered well **over 100 jars of peanut butter** to New Baptist Food Pantry. The peanut butter will be sent home with the children at Highlawn Elementary over Thanksgiving.



Mission Committee

It had been some time since we had a **Sewing party**. What fun we had when we got together on October 5! We received some beautiful stockings, stitched up more, exchanged ideas and shared our love of coordinating fabric in creative ways! Liza Hemphill personalized some stockings with her beautiful counted cross stitch details. Libby Haught did some trouble shooting and got an old sewing machine of ours running. She also shared an easier way to construct our stockings. Martha Woodward found us someone who does sewing machine repairs! Lots of sharing and creative energy! Thank you to everyone who worked together to make it such a great day!



We were a small, but mighty group at the Wednesday, October 18 **Stocking Stuffing Party!** We organized tubs of donations and got 25 adorable handmade stockings filled for local children to be distributed by Salvation Army. **We still need some stockings sewn.** We have lots of toys for young children, but we could use some **items for older children.** We also need a few things for **Senior Citizens**, such as gloves and socks, lotion and chapstick, puzzle books, playing cards, notepads and pens. **Our next Stocking Stuffing Work Party will be Thursday November 9** following both the Daytime and Evening Circle Meetings. We hope you can stay and join the fun!

Mission Committee

Children's Home Society Emergency Shelter. Unfortunately, there are bound to be some foster children at the Emergency Shelter in Ona over Christmas. We have been assured that each child will have a nice stack of gifts. However, last year they did enjoy our handmade stockings filled with a little candy and gift cards. We are told each \$5 gift card means an outing for these kids. **We would love to collect 15 McDonalds and 15 Taco Bell gift cards**, which would mean 2 different outings! If you are interested you can contact Nancy Estler

Patty M delivered **30 pillows with red, white and blue handmade pillowcases** to honor residents of the **Veterans Home** for Veterans Day. They remembered our donations of pillows from years past and were very happy to receive them! We also had some magazines donated, so we sent those along for their library. Thank you to all who sewed, collected and delivered. It takes a village!

Beautiful Hats crocheted by Karen Albers have been packed in our Operation Christmas Child boxes and are being packed in our Salvation Army stockings. Martha W delivered hats to a new local yarn shop, The Blue Ewe who is sending them to the Ukraine. Carla L has carried hats to her friend who donates to folks in need in Dunlow. Neva B took hats to both Mountain Mission in Charleston, and Room at the Inn by First Presbyterian in Charlotte. Karen continues to crochet, colder temperatures and more donations are on the way!



— *Nancy Estler*

Harmony House Rapid Rehousing

Highlawn Presbyterian Church continues each month to donate many items to the **Harmony House Rehousing Program** and shelter which is available for clients to find personal items they need. October donations included a quilt, eight towels, shower curtains, trash cans, three new pillows and homemade cases, three backpacks and supplies, eleven fleece blankets, dog and cat food and cat litter. Items for the shelter included boots and shoes, bag of women's shirts, a box of sweaters and sweatshirts, a box of t-shirts, women's socks, and men's and women's underwear, and personal hygiene items.

Jacki Woods, program director for the Rapid Rehousing Program and staff are very appreciative of these donations and our continued support of homeless individuals in Huntington.

Needs for November include:

- **Twin Bed Sheets**
- **Blankets (all sizes)**
- **Cleaning Supplies**
- **Laundry Soap**
- **Hygiene Items**



Donations (either new or slightly used and clean) may be brought to the church and left in the wagon in the Narthex. From the back entrance, items may be placed in the Blessings Room across the hall from the office. They may be left on the table under the Harmony House sign. If anyone would prefer giving a monetary donation instead of shopping or has a question, please speak with Linda Hansen (304-421-0860) or Anne Myers, Mission Committee Chairperson or any member of the committee.

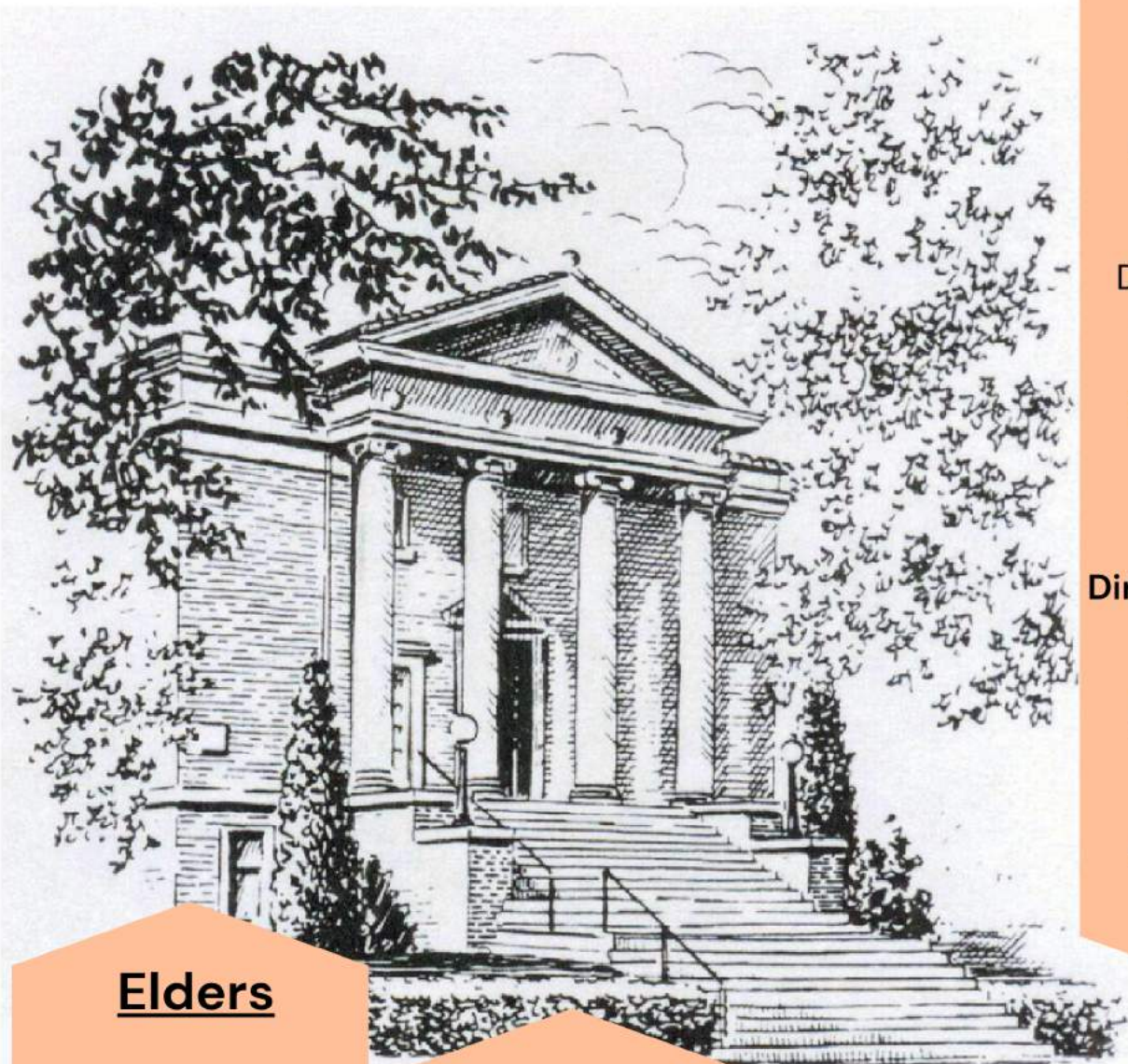
— *Mission Committee*



Hangin' of the Greens

Following worship on
November 26th we will
be decoration the
church for Christmas
while enjoying some
pizza together!

note: order forms for poinsettias will be available soon



Staff

Rev. Sharon Bell
Pastor

David Chenoweth
Choir Director

Emma (Em) Rau
Secretary

Sarah Specht
Director of Christian Education

Alanna Cushing
Organist

Jane Armstrong
Sexton

Elders

Class of 2023

Kalyn Dorey
Amy Browning
Anne Myers

Class of 2024

Carla Lapelle
Brian Specht
Debby Stoler

Class of 2025

Gary Baldwin
Pam Curtis
Howard Aulick

Greeters

November 5
Neva Baldwin

November 12
David DeMattie

November 19
Paul & Nancy Estler

November 26
Jason, Amy &
Maverick Hatfield

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Church Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm