



Riverlawn Presbyterian Church
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JUNE/JULY 2022

Earthly Mirrors of a Heavenly Reality

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).

In *Bad Dads of the Bible*, Roland Warren writes, “Over the years, God has shown me that the attack on the institution of fatherhood and the strategy to make fathers unloving and ineffective is a primary goal of Satan himself. Why? Because if fathers are distant, distracted, disconnected, or even abusive, children will believe all fathers are this way, even a heavenly Father who claims to love them unconditionally. But this is clearly not God’s plan. His desire is for all fathers to reflect aspects of His character, an earthly mirror of a heavenly reality.”

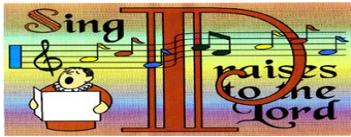
Matthew 7:9–11 illustrates this quite clearly. Jesus asks, *“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!”*

From God’s perspective, fathers are created to imitate His goodness. In fact, if this were not the case, the entire analogy Jesus used loses its meaning. But there is more. When you contemplate the symbolism in Jesus’ examples in Matthew 7, a deeper meaning, especially for fathers, is evident. For example, consider the comparison of bread to a stone. Especially to a small child, a piece of bread and a small stone may look the same. But they are not the same. Bread was, and remains today, a key source of physical life and sustenance, and it represents spiritual life as Christ’s body, which was broken for the salvation of the world. A stone, especially in the time of Christ, could be a tool of destruction and death. Remember, stones were used to martyr Stephen.

Now consider the symbolism in the comparison of a fish to a serpent. The fish is an early symbol of the Christian faith. Of note, Jesus’ first disciples were fishermen whom He transformed into “fishers of men.” These men fervently shared the good news that salvation is available for all. In contrast, the serpent is the symbol of the Evil One who seeks to thwart the gospel and lead humankind down a path of destruction and death.

What Jesus is saying in this passage is that *fathers should make sure their children have both physical and spiritual life*. Godly fathers are to provide a pathway and a connection to God’s saving grace, because when they give their children “good gifts,” it makes it much easier for children to connect with a heavenly Father who gave the best gift of all — His Son. So when their children hear, “Dear heavenly Father,” it’s winsome rather than worrisome.

Maybe you had a wonderful dad and have a lifetime of happy memories (and a few not-great ones). But maybe you’ve lost your dad. Maybe your dad tried his best but wasn’t a great father. Maybe your dad was a heartless, cruel man who did things that scarred you. Maybe he was just a



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS JUNE/July 2022

Hard to believe summer is almost here. The choir will be rehearsing on June 2nd and 16th. No rehearsal on the 9th. Our 'break' will begin on June 23rd and rehearsals will resume on August 18th. We will, however, be singing on several Sundays during the next 3 months so expect to hear some of our favorite summer anthems soon.

Parry & I are excited to welcome Dave & Maysa back to West Virginia in July. They have not been to the United States since July of 2019 because of travel restrictions due to Covid. Dave is Director of Athletics & Activities at the American International School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Maysa is Director of Human Resources there. We all plan to be together for the 4th of July to celebrate the holiday and have some very special family time. It will be a great gathering and the first 4th of July with our new grand dog, Waylon who joined Chris' family two months ago. He is the sweetest Golden Retriever puppy ever. Looking forward to the month of July!

Enjoy the upcoming days of summer.

Blessings! Pam

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June 19



## Deacons Meeting



## News from your Riverlawn Deacons

The deacons hope everyone has a very blessed and safe summer!

The next deacon's meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2022 right after church.

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Dates to Remember

- 06/05 Pentecost
Pentecost Offering
Deacons meeting – following worship
- 06/12 Trinity Sunday
- 06/19 Father's Day
- 06/29 Session meeting Wednesday, 4:00 PM via Zoom
- 07/10 Update from Mission Partner Becky Bresler
- 07/14-07/27 Pastor Chris & family away in California on vacation
- 07/24 Memorial Service at Riverlawn for Hazel Pritchard. Afternoon time will be announced later.

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June 21





## Nurturing Faith

**June 5 – Day of Pentecost: Read: John 14:8-17** In John 14, Jesus promises his disciples that if they love him and follow his commandments, the Father will send an Advocate to be with them forever. As believers, we also have an Advocate we call the Holy Spirit. On this Pentecost Sunday, consider what that means to have an advocate with you forever. How does that affect the way you live, speak, and act?

**June 12 – Trinity Sunday: Read: John 16:12-15** On this Trinity Sunday, we read in John the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the disciples. The Spirit leads all believers in the way of God’s truth and guides believers to behold God’s glory and might. What does this mean for you? How do you recognize God’s glory and might? Do you allow the Spirit to lead you in the ways of God, or do you choose to follow your own paths in this life on earth?

**June 19 – Second Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 8:26-39** In Luke, we see Jesus met by a man filled with demons. He calls to Jesus as soon as he sees him arrive. Jesus commands the demons to come out, and he sends them into a herd of swine, which drown. The reaction of the people was not one of awe but of fear, so Jesus left. When you become aware of the miracles of Jesus, do you run in fear or worship and adore? Your answer makes all the difference in your life.

**June 26 – Third Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 9:51-62** In Luke 9, we find Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Many he meets say, “I will follow you, but first I must take care of some business.” To follow Jesus implies forsaking security to go where he goes. Discipleship means the same thing today as then: Choose this day whom you will serve. As you reflect on this scripture this week, consider how you follow Jesus, not just in name but in your actions as well.

**July 3 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Read: Galatians 6:7-16** Galatians 6: 10 reads, “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all...” What will you do for good this coming week? Write down three things that you will do to help God’s people.

**July 10 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 25: 1-10** The Psalmist said, “O my God, in you I trust.” Take a few moments today to tell God about things that worry you and any problems you may have. Tell God that you trust God to take care of you. Be quiet and listen for God’s voice. Remember your prayer of trust throughout the week.

**July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 52** At the end of Psalm 52, the Psalmist tells God, “I will proclaim your name, for it is good.” Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half. On the outside, write “God is Good.” On the inside, write all the names that you can think of for God. Say each of these names out loud, adding after each name, “God is Good.”

**July 24 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 138** God wants us to praise God with all our heart. That is a lot of praising! Cut out a heart from a piece of paper then fill up the heart with words and phrases that tell of the wonderful things you believe about God. Tape the heart up somewhere where you will see it all week, reminding you to praise God with all your heart.

**July 31 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 12:13-21** “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Choose some of your money or a possession and give it away to someone who needs it. Praise God that you are able to give away some of what you have.



**Family Night, Thrive Middle School and Ignite High School Youth Groups are off for the summer.**

### Patient Care Bags

We have delivered a total of 448 bags to CAMC Behavioral Unit. Thank you for your help in giving comfort to these patients. But the need had increased this year, and funds are needed to be able to continue to supply the bags. Monetary donations are preferable due to the specific nature of the size and brand of the items that must be used for the bags. Donations can be made to Kathy Barnes. If donating with a check, please list Patient Care Bags on the memo line.

Thank you!  
Kathy Barnes

**2022 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons**



**Elders:**

*Kathy Barnes, Stated Clerk/Stewardship*  
304-444-3058; Kabgmrl@comcast.net

*Susan Bryan, Christian Nurture/Family*  
304-389-6063; newsusanbryn@gmail.com

*Joe Lothes, Missions/Community*  
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

*Bill Michael, Building & Grounds*  
304-741-1736; Bmichael47@gmail.com

*Pam Mullins, Evangelism*  
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*Paul Mullins, Worship/Fellowship*  
304-741-5914; nascarmemberswva@yahoo.com

**Deacons:**

*Jason Barnes—304-205-3315*  
jasonbarnes@yahoo.com

*Ann Cox—304-389-2227*  
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*Sherry Marcum—304-395-7610*  
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*Mary Reppert—304-419-2755*  
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

***SINGING PRAISE SERVICE***

There will be no Praise Service in June or July.



**June**

- 1st Shelby Sherman
- 6th Yilmar Moreno, Janet Young, Courtney Kellar
- 9th June Paxton & Sandra Cottle
- 12th Maryssa Rogers
- 16th Randy Dodrill
- 17th Janet Wherle
- 20th Pam Johnson & Lakyn Kilbert
- 21st Dennis Emmett & Barb Hughes
- 28th Brody Sneed

**July**

- 9th Hannah Marcum
- 11th Nikole Kilbert
- 16th Jason Barnes
- 18th Sarai Cook
- 19th Ron Nestor
- 22nd Joyce Ryan
- 23rd Mary Lee Dehart
- 24th Bill Bryan
- 25th Emily Wandling
- 26th Jamie Albert
- 30th Dustin Campbell

**RIVERLAWN FAMILY**

Sunday, May 29 is **Bob and Barb Willson's** last day with us. Join us during fellowship after church this Sunday to give them our love and wish them well. You are welcome to bring notes. Below are their phone numbers and address:

Bob 304-552-3109; Barb 304-545-7311  
(same numbers)  
570 57th Ave W Lot 18  
Bradenton Florida. 34207  
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Earlier this month, **June Paxton** moved to Texas to be close to her family. Her address is:

Delaney at South Shore  
2605 Marina Bay Drive  
#2408  
League City, Texas 77573

*We will surely miss Bob, Barb and June.*



Hannah Bowman; Roger McBride (Linda Wilson); Chuck Miller, Becky Miller and the Miller family; Jane Lothes; JB Recknagel; William Summerbell (Nikole Kilbert); Grace Summerbell (Joanna Keller); Casey Stribling; Rachel Cottrill; Anita Reed (Steve & Linda Wilson); Fred Giersch; Dawnetta Cook; Roger Cobb; Lakyn Kilbert; Janette (Mimi Albert); David Blevins (Donald & Sherry Marcum); Linda Means; Dave and Joyce Ryan; Janet Young; Charlie Kellam; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.

**Prayer List for Nyeri Presbytery and Presbytery of West Virginia**

**June 5**—Parish: Riamukurwe; Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg; St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Pinch

**June 12**—Church: Gatitu; Parish: Riamukurwe; Ronceverte Presbyterian Church; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Shady Spring

**June 19**—Parish: Rware; Baxter Presbyterian Church, Dunmore; Frankford Presbyterian Church

**June 26**—Church: Kigwandi; Parish: Riamukurwe; Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charleston; First Presbyterian Church, Kenova; First Presbyterian Church, Weston.

**July 3**—Church: Rev. Naman Githenya Memorial; Parish: Rimukurwe; Canyon Community Church, Morgantown; First Presbyterian Church, Colcord; First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

**July 10**—Church: Thunguma; Parish: Rimukurwe; Beckley Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, White Sulphur Springs

**July 17**—Church: Kiandu; Parish: Riamukurwe; First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; Spencer Presbyterian Church

**July 24**—Church: Gitathlini; Parish: Rware; Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro; Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church, Huttonsville

**July 31**—Church: Gitero; Parish: Rware; Fayetteville Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

**BUILDING SECURITY**

- June 5 Joe Lothes
- June 12 Dennis Emmett
- June 19 Larry Hyatt
- June 26 Randy Dodrill
- July 3 BrendaPetry/Rosie Rhodes
- July 10 Bill Bryan
- July 17 Pat Croghan
- July 24 Ron Claar
- July 31 Jamie Albert

Deacons' After Church Lock-up and Microphone for June is **Ann Cox**, July is **Mary Repert**.



**Summer Schedule**

- June 2nd Rehearsal
- June 9th—NO Rehearsal
- June 16th—Rehearsal
- June 23rd and 30th—NO Rehearsal
- July—NO Rehearsal
- August—NO Rehearsals on the 4th and 11th
- Rehearsals resume on August 18th



- June 5—Kathy Barnes
- June 12—Susan Bryan
- June 19—Beckie Croghan
- June 26—Susan Bryan
- July 3—Kathy Barnes
- July 10—Susan Bryan
- July 17—Beckie Croghan
- July 24—Susan Bryan
- July 31—Susan Bryan

We are happy to have Katie Beth Bowens as a volunteer to help out with the children's programs.

*Riverlawn Strives To*

*Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God  
Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship  
Demonstrate a life of love through service to others  
Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need  
**Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love***