

Massanutten Ministry Link

A Publication of Massanutten Presbyterian Church

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

April 8, 2007

Easter Sunday

Sermon Text

John 20:1-18

Sermon Title

There's a New World Turning

Worship Leader

8 a.m.—Fred Burfoot
10:30 a.m.—Melissa Leecy

Hymns

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Christ Is Alive
The Day of Resurrection

April 15, 2007

Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon Text

Revelation 1:4-8

Sermon Title

Learning the Alphabet of God

Worship Leader

Anne Bradley

Hymns

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart



Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Service

April 5 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

April 6 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Morning

Early Service at 8 a.m.

Easter Breakfast at 9 a.m.

Late Service at 10:30 a.m.

Egg Hunt (Picnic Shelter) at 11:30 a.m.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Please remember that we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during worship on Easter Sunday. Your gifts will help support the ministries provided by the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Offering Envelopes for this collection will be available at the church.

Parents - This one's for you !

Next **R O C K** Event

Raising Our Christian Kids

Sunday, April 22

9 am - Gathering Area

Join us for faith, fellowship and food!

Blood Drive Assistants Needed

MPC is hosting three Blood Drives in 2007: April 26, Aug. 8, and Dec. 13. We are looking for one or two volunteers to assist Shawn Green to organize and host the Brave Hearts of MPC for each Blood Drive. If interested contact Shawn Green at 289-5735.

Check Out the MPC Website

Have you visited the church's website lately? You can download this year's Annual Report, see pictures from our mission trips and other activities, and always find the latest news. Why not make it your homepage?

www.massanuttenchurch.com

Serving Among Us	April 8, 2007	April 15, 2007
Greeters	8 a.m.—Alana, Caitlyn, and Megan Miller, Tim and Lisa Cooper, 10:30 a.m.—Mark and Barbara Palmer, Brian and Gina Phelps	Bill and Ellen Painter Don and Carol Poulson
Ushers	8 a.m.—Bob Bales, Tim and Lisa Cooper, Bill Heinemann, Bob Milner, Heidi Wagner; 10:30—Tim Miller, John Myers, Don and Carol Poulson, Julia and Marcus Sensabaugh	Kevin Caldwell, Brian Phelps, Ramona Ritchie, Glenn Strawderman, Sandy Taylor, Jack Wysor
Deacon of the Day	Shawn Green	Sandy Taylor
Sunnyside Bus Driver	Brian Phelps	Randy Atkins
Acolyte	8 a.m.—Caitlyn Miller; 10:30—Brady Hylton	Logan Comer
Sunday School Nursery	Easter Breakfast (No Sunday School)	Becky Rohlf
Infant Nursery	Ginny Biggs and Carol Poulson	Melissa Caldwell and Julie Colville
2 & 3 Year Old Nursery	Laura Atkins and Becky Hylton	Reed and Sheila Laughlin
Floater	Deb Comer	Jennifer Bryant
Children's Church Leaders	No Children's Church	Alayne Leggett and Kim Phillips

MPC Homecoming

The Fellowship Ministry is planning the first ever Homecoming for all of our MPC family and we need your help. Please write the names and addresses of anyone who has ever been a part of the MPC family that you may know on a sheet of paper and place in the basket in the Gathering Area or email the information to Shirley Jackson (catfishjackson@comcast) or to Karen Leecy (kleecy@comcast.net) by May 13. We want to invite all of our church family to a *Day of Homecoming at MPC* on Sunday, Aug. 5. We will all gather here at the church for worship and a time of fellowship, food and fun.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

The **Presbyterian Women of the Shenandoah Presbytery** will hold their Spring Gathering at Massanetta Springs Conference Center on April 14. Worship speaker will be Rev. Cheryl Duke, minister at large of Winchester Presbyterian Church. There will be numerous displays that will be set up in Calvin to give Presbyterian Women a wealth of information. Registration is from 9:00-9:45 in Calvin. Stop by and have a cup of coffee or tea to begin your day. Information and registration forms are available on the PW table in the Narthex.

Presbyterian Women Collect Blankets

The Presbyterian Women are collecting new and used sheets (any size or color) and thermal blankets (twin and double) for Church World Service. Please place your donations under the PW Table in the Narthex.

Stewardship Information through Mar. 25

Weekly Budget Need—\$11,652.00

Budget Need Year to Date—\$138,744.00

Received Year to Date—\$131,972.90

Difference—(-\$7,851.10)

In response to the blessings of God in our lives, we give of ourselves—our time, our talents, our treasures.

News from Camp Massanetta

Are you thinking about Summer? The staff at Camp Massanetta is gearing up for a big summer. We offer a variety of programs for campers entering 1st grade-high school graduates. Whether you are a first-time camper or an experienced senior high, there is a camp program for you. Find a buddy and try Day or Overnight camp at Massanetta this summer. Camp brochures describing the programs are available on the table in the narthex, on the Massanetta Springs website www.massanettasprings.org or by contacting the Camp Massanetta Office by email at campmassanetta@yahoo.com or by calling 434-3829. Scholarship information is available in the church office.

In the Mail

Dear Friends at Massanutten,

We are truly blessed to have had all of your prayers during my recent brain tumor surgery. Your cards were an inspiration, and obviously, your prayers worked. Thank you for keeping us in your circle of friends.

Don Grimes and family

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for remembering us with your prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards during the recent loss of Dick's mother, Anny Leecy. What a blessing to have the love and support of a wonderful church family. Blessings.

Dick, Karen and Melissa Leecy

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank all of you for the cards, calls, visits, and food you provided during the time following my father's death. Your prayers and support are much appreciated. God bless each of you.

David Showalter and family

Church Office Schedule

The Church Office will be **closed** on Apr. 6 for Good Friday, and on Apr. 9 for Easter Monday.

Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Theater

The Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church would like to invite you to join them on a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Strasburg, PA to see the new play entitled *"In The Beginning"*. The bus will leave Mt. Horeb at 6:30 a.m. and MPC at 7 p.m. and will return home at 10 p.m. The cost is \$75 per person. Flyers are available on the table in the narthex or call Lorena Cosby at 249-4511 or Sue Thompson at 249-4746. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, April 10.

Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Offers Concert

The **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society**, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The concert will open with Johannes Brahms' *"Requiem"* sung in English, while the second half will feature Brahms' *"Liebeslieder"* (love song) waltzes, also sung in English. The 100-member chorus will be accompanied by 4-hand piano and featured soloists. Church members Dick Forbes and Ron Matthews sing in the Choral Society. Tickets are available from Choral Society members, Family Christian Store, and Red Front Supermarket. Advance admission is \$10 for adults/\$9 for seniors and students; \$2 more at the door.

Daughters of Song Schedule Concert

The **Daughters of Song**, a 30-voice select community women's choir conducted by Gretchen Welch, will present their annual Spring Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. A special feature on the program is *"Amherst Melodies,"* settings of four poems by Emily Dickinson, composed by John Barr of Bridgewater and dedicated to Daughters of Song. The program also includes Schubert's *"Mass in G,"* Eleanor Daley's *"Rose Trilogy"* and a medley of Rodgers and Hammerstein showtunes. The concert is free and open to the public. A \$5 per person suggested donation is invited at the door. Susan Newsome from our church is a member of Daughters of Song. For additional information please call 434-6048.

2007 MPC Blood Drive Schedule

Mark your calendar for three Blood Drives at MPC in 2007: April 26, Aug. 8, and Dec. 13. We are looking for a few good men and women to share the gift of life with someone in need. Look for posters announcing the event several weeks before the scheduled dates, and then sign-up for a time slot. It will take about an hour of your time to help a neighbor in need.

Items to Save for Camp Massanetta

Camp Massanetta is in need of the following items for their use during the upcoming camping season:

- ◆ Cereal Boxes
- ◆ Dish Washing Liquid/Detergent Bottles
- ◆ 2 liter or 16 oz. Soft Drink or Water Bottles
- ◆ Orange Juice/Milk Cartons
- ◆ Gallon Milk Jugs
- ◆ Styrofoam Egg Cartons

Please bring any of these items to the church office, and thanks for your help.

New Adult Short-term Study

Another Adult Sunday School Class for adults will be meeting April 15-May 27 in classroom 105. Collier Harvey will lead a short course on *"Making Ethical Decisions"*. The class will deal with several current issues and an illustration of how we go about making decisions and regular ethical issues that we face.

Middle Highs to Hand Out Eggs

The **Middle School Youth** group will be stationed at a variety of exit doors after church on Easter Sunday. All the children of our congregation are welcome to pick an egg from the basket as a special Easter gift from the youth group.

Brass Band Concert

April 11, 7 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Easter morning, all children up through Grade 4 will gather at the Picnic Shelter for an Easter Egg Hunt. Parents should accompany their children to the Picnic Shelter, and each child should bring a basket or bag to collect their eggs. The hunt will begin as soon as possible after the service. As you know, it won't take long for the children to find the eggs, so plan to stay and enjoy the fun.



From the Pastor

In one of his prayers, Walter Brueggemann asks God to “Easter us in joy and strength.” I must admit that as much as I like the language of that prayer, I’m not certain that I’m ready to be Eastered by God, or anyone else for that matter. It sounds like a painful process to me. How exactly does one get Eastered anyway?

One thing’s for sure: we don’t get Eastered by saccharine celebrations of an Easter joy that fail to take seriously the ache of loss that the world longs to have soothed. Kathleen O’Connor rightly affirms, “Easter joy is the gift of life in the teeth of death.” Unfortunately, the church that gathers on Easter Sunday too often ignores that reality. We strut into the sanctuary shouting our *alleluias* and we ask people to check their sorrows at the door. There is little room left in our Easter liturgy for those who are still experiencing the sting of death that we will announce has been destroyed.

I confess that I feel that sting particularly this year. I feel deeply the loss caused by the death of a child from my former congregation that died far too young. I feel that all-too-familiar mixture of joy and pain as the birthday of my cousin that was killed in an accident this past fall comes for the first time the day after Easter. What are we to do with such things at Easter? Should we move them aside, simply act as if they aren’t there?

I am convinced that if our worship never engages the suffering and death that plague us then we haven’t yet celebrated Easter. Barbara Brown Taylor struggled with this question when she asked about deadly tornados that swept through the south on Palm Sunday one year: Does this ruin Easter? Or is this what Easter is all about? Rowan Williams sounds the note more forcefully: “The

resurrection is not properly preached without an awareness of the human world as a place of loss and a place where men and women strive not to be trapped in that loss.”

If God is to Easter us in joy and strength, God will do so in the teeth of death. The resurrection is God’s way of giving us new life, of birthing in us an enduring hope. We announce on Easter morning that the God we worship is the God who has promised to wipe away all tears from all faces, to put an end to our suffering, and to swallow up death forever. We announce that the One who was crucified and buried now lives. “That Jesus lives is our joy because it promises us that we will live, no matter how dead we are now, no matter how final our losses seem to be. That Jesus lives means death has no ultimate victory (1 Corinthians 15:54), suffering will end, and divine forces for life overpower their opposite.”

It is in our Easter song—in our proclamation of resurrection—that the church announces the presence of the reign of God in the midst of the world. We announce that God is in charge. As C.S. Song observed, “The resurrection life is the reign of God. To live that life is to live a life in all fullness in spite of the fact that it has to be lived in hardship, pain, and suffering.”

May God help us be Eastered out of death into life: “You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you, come in your Easter, come in your sweeping victory, come in your glorious new life. Easter us, salve wounds, break injustice, bring peace, guarantee neighbor, Easter us in joy and strength.” (from Brueggemann’s prayer)

May God bring you to deep and abundant life this Easter. **Pastor John**

Ethiopian Church President to Preach at Massanutten



Qes Iteffa Gobena, President, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), will preach in worship at Massanutten on Sunday, May 6. Qes Iteffa will be visiting Shenandoah Presbytery May 2-7 after attending the annual Ethiopia Mission

Network Conference held this year in Minneapolis, MN.

He was born and attended school in Mettu, Ethiopia, which is in the Illubabor region of the country. As a member church of Shenandoah Presbytery, Massanutten shares in the mission partnership with the Illubabor Bethel Synod, one of the 5 Presbyterian synods in the EECMY. The Illubabor Synod has over 265 churches with over 300,000 members.

Qes Iteffa was ordained to the ministry in 1978. Shortly after taking office as General Secretary of the

Illubabor Bethel Synod, he was imprisoned by the then Marxist government and severely tortured.

“It was only because of God's providence that I was released after 2 years and eight months,” he writes. Since 2001, Qes Iteffa has served as President of the EECMY, which is a national church organization of over 3 million members which was formed by uniting the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches in Ethiopia.

Massanutten is honored to host Qes Iteffa on Sunday, May 6, for worship and a Fellowship luncheon. Everyone is invited to join in welcoming Qes Iteffa, to take the opportunity to meet and talk with him prior to worship and again after worship during the luncheon. The Fellowship committee will be providing dessert and drinks. Please bring a main dish and a salad or vegetable.

Items Needed for Mission Trip

Carol Miller is traveling is traveling to Zambia and Mozambique on an AIDS mission trip from April 25 – May 11. One of the orphanages she will be visiting in Mozambique has asked for clothing for children from ages 6-16.

Boys: t-shirts or long or short-sleeved shirts. Shorts and slacks, but NO DENIM.

Girls: t-shirts and tops. Skirts and dresses

There are 80 children in this particular orphanage (40 boys and 40 girls) all sizes. There is limited space in suitcases to take these clothes, but all donations will be gratefully accepted.

All donations must be received by Sunday, April 22. Thank you.

MPC Education Grants Available

The MPC Education Foundation is now accepting applications for grants to be awarded this fall. Any member of Massanutten who is a graduating high school senior and has been accepted by a two year or four year institute of higher education, or a person enrolling in a Presbyterian Seminary for a degree in the ministry or a degree in Christian education is eligible.

Grants are determined on the basis of experiences, leadership, church and community activities. The amounts awarded will be determined by the funds available from the MPC Education Endowment. Applications can be secured from the church office. Please submit applications, along with reference letters from two people and high school grade transcripts or for college students, a record of current grades.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, or national origin, or physical handicap in the selection process.

Invite a Friend to attend Massanutten Presbyterian Church with you this Sunday.

Don't forget to bring a basket for the Easter Egg Hunt following worship on Easter morning!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Polly Wysor, Chuck Bradley, Mary Lipscomb,
Sherry Gordon, Russell Studenmund, Emily Reid**

FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Raymond Shepley, Sr., father of Sherry Matthews;
Christine Foster, wife of Rev. Kerr Foster, pastor of
Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Steeles Tavern;
Dave Taylor, brother of Diann Reed; our **Confirmation Class**; our **Current and Incoming Officers**;
Nick Linstid, great nephew of Chuck and Anne
Bradley; **Logan Hill**, friend of Fleming and Sharon
Jones; **Don Grimes**, friend of our church family; **Lee
and Reba Emswiler**, aunt and uncle of Charlotte
Landes; **George Matrigali**, friend of Bill and Sharon
Heinemann; **Flossie Roach**, sister-in-law of Geri
Black; **Martha Lohr**, sister of Irene Hartman; **Gary
Royer**, friend of Scott, Lisa, Mackenzie and Morgan
Kanney; **Ranny and Marion Traynham**, brother and
sister-in-law of Millie Roache; **Adriel Gonzoles**,
friend of Will Preston; **Josh and Michele Caplette**,
friends of Alana Miller; **Dale Michael**, brother of
Mike Michael.

*Please place prayer request cards (found in the seat
ahead of you) in the offering plate to be included in our
congregation's prayers. Thank you for continuing to keep
us informed of on going prayer needs.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Mark B. Heltzel, son of Helen Groves (Department of
Navy Medical and Surgery, Washington, D.C.)

Jon Guinn, son of Mike and Ka Guinn (stationed in
AL)

Elizabeth "Lee" Davis, daughter of Marc and Nancy
Davis (stationed in El Paso , TX)

Haywood A. Marsh, son of Tim and Lisa Cooper
(stationed in Korea)

Ryan Tarman, grandson of Dee and Martha Floyd
(stationed in Iraq)

Chad Ritchie, son of Robert and Ramona Ritchie
(stationed in NC)

Chris Jerome, son of Bob Jerome (stationed in Naples,
Italy)

Jennifer Lonas, niece of Tim and Rhonda Miller

Brent Rohrbaugh, brother of Rhonda Miller (stationed
in Norfolk, VA)

Jeff Pascale, friend of the Wissinger family (stationed
in Iraq)

Matt Moore, cousin of Dee Floyd (stationed in Iraq)

Joe Arbogast, cousin of Dee Floyd (stationed in Iraq)

Stephanie Beard, granddaughter of
Jean Beard (stationed in Germany)



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ...**Jeannette Kidd** on the death of her son-in-law.
- ...**Dick, Karen, and Melissa Leecy** on the death of Dick's mother, **Anny Leecy**.
- ...**Jaime and Erin White** and their family on the death of Erin's grandmother.
- ...the family and friends of **Dr. Isabel Rodgers**.
- ...**Eric and Angie Baylor** on the death of their friend, **Chris Thurman's father**.
- ...**Corky and Judy Coffman** on the death of their daughter, **Julie Coffman**.
- ...the family and friends of **Beth Duckwall**.
- ...**Sandy Levensgood** and her family on the death of Sandy's uncle.

*Remember to pray for our
Confirmation Class as they
continue their journey
together.*

*In our baptisms, we have
been named a community
of priests. Let us pray for
one another.*



Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Penn Laird, VA 22846
 Permit #1

50 Indian Trail Road
 Penn Laird, VA 22846

Phone: 540-434-6194
 Fax: 540- 434-3102
 E-mail: mpcinfo@comcast.net

Sunday School—9 a.m.
 Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m.

Church Staff

- John P. Leggett, Pastor
- Ann Pettit, Parish Associate in Member Care
- Doug Sensabaugh, Director of Music
- Karen Leecy, Office Manager
- Tina Landes, Office Assistant
- Bob Jerome, Organist
- Sharon Bloomquist, Pianist

Be sure to visit us on the Web!

www.massanuttenchurch.com

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 8

- 8:00 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Late Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (Picnic Shelter)

Monday, April 9

- 9:00 a.m. Disciple 4 Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry
- 10:00 a.m. PW Circle #2 (Highlands)
- 2:00 p.m. Small Group (Sunnyside)
- 6:00 p.m. Massanutten Ringers
- 7:00 p.m. Sessional Ministries
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #28
- 7:00 p.m. Brass Band Rehearsal

Church Office Closed Today

Tuesday, April 10

- 9:00 a.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Shoshana Circle with Sharon Lam

The next issue of *The Massanutten Ministry Link* will be mailed on Apr. 20, 2007. Please submit to the church office any material for publication in the next newsletter by 3:00 p.m. on Apr. 11.

- 10:00 a.m. PW Circle #3 (Sunnyside)
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library)
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. PW Circle #5 (Library)

Wednesday, April 11

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Crossroads Pealers
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. JMU and MPC Brass Band Concert

Thursday, April 12

- 1:00 p.m. PW Circle #4 (Sunnyside)
- 1:30 p.m. PW Circle #1 (Gathering Area)

Sunday, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m. Worship Service for Korean Presbyterian Church
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 4:30 p.m. Spectrum Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Prism Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. New Member Reception

followed by Session Meeting (Gathering Area)

Monday, April 16

- 9:00 a.m. Disciple 4 Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Massanutten Ringers

Tuesday, April 17

- 9:00 a.m. Volunteers prepare newsletter for mailing
- 9:00 a.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study

Wednesday, April 18

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Crossroads Pealers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Brass Band Rehearsal

