The MacPherson Press May 2025

God calls MacPherson Presbyterian Church to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to make disciples, and to be His witness.



Annual Mission
Dessert Auction
with May
Express Meal

May 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Come bid on delicious cakes, cookies, pies, and more to benefit:

Gate Beautiful Cabell-Lincoln Mission Trip MacPherson Building Fund

- Call or email the office by **May 16** if you would like to contribute a dessert or baked good to the auction!
- Express Meal menu is Poppyseed Chicken with green peas, fried apples, and a roll.
 Dessert is your choice if you place the winning bid on your favorite sweet! RSVP by May 20 if not on the permanent reservation list.

"The Rest of the Story" PASTOR JIM

I am certain many of you will remember Paul Harvey's

"The Rest of the Story" program, once heard on many radio stations around the United States. Well, I think it's time for us to hear "The Rest of the Story" regarding some of the stories in the Bible.



Often churches teach portions of Bible stories without completing the story or neglecting to explain the important lessons of the story or why the story is important for us today. When this happens, we who teach Scripture do a tremendous disservice to those whom we teach. When we fail to connect the stories of Scripture with our lives today we are failing to make a positive impact upon the lives of those whom we teach. Let me give you some examples.

Everyone is familiar with the story of David, right? At least we believe we are familiar with the story. We know David killed Goliath; we know about Bathsheba; some may even know who Mephibosheth was. But what about "The Rest of the Story" and its relevance for today?

Then there is the story of Samson. Again, many Christians will know parts of the story, but my guess is not many will know the whole story and why it matters to us today. No, I am not going to tell you why it's important in this article, because I want you to come to church and hear during worship.

However, for a more complete example let me more fully explain Jonah. For many who grew up in church, they learned Jonah was called by God to go and proclaim God's

word to Nineveh. Yet, as it is taught in many churches, Jonah went and boarded a ship and was down in the lower section of the boat sleeping. God hurled a storm against the ship. The ship's crew prayed to their gods. They also implored Jonah to pray to his God. Jonah then explained the reason for the storm was his [Jonah's] disobedience to the God of Israel. Jonah further asserted the storm would cease if they would throw Jonah overboard. The crew heard of Israel's God, and after being instructed again by Jonah to throw him overboard, the crew reluctantly obliged Jonah and heaved him into the sea.

As you know, from what you were taught in Sunday School, God sent a large fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three

nights and then Jonah prayed (Jonah 1:17). Once in the stomach of the great fish, Jonah came to the realization salvation belonged to God and to Him alone. Jonah confessed his sin to the Lord. The Lord then commands the fish to vomit Jonah out onto the beach.

For many who learned Jonah's story in Sunday School this is where the story ends. But what is the rest of the story? The rest of the story is that God gives Jonah a second chance. "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time" (Jonah 3:1). This time Jonah went to Nineveh proclaiming God's judgment upon Nineveh if the people failed to repent. After he made his proclamation, the people repented so fully that they even put sackcloth and ashes on the animals. Scripture reveals that God relented from destroying the city. "But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own

Continued next page →

country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity" (Jonah 4:1-2).

So, what are some, not all, of the lessons we learn from Jonah? First, God's grace is available for all people, even those who are our enemies. Second, our God is a God who not only gives us second chances. He gives us as many chances as possible before we die so we may receive His marvelous gift of grace through Jesus. Lastly, (for the purpose of this article), God cares for animals as much as He cares for us. God concludes His conversation with Jonah declaring, "Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?" (Jonah 4:10-11).

I hope you will make time to be in church this May to hear "The Rest of the Story" for four other stories we usually only get snippets about.

Until the nets are full, Pastor Júm

May Sermon Information

Often churches teach portions of Bible stories without completing the story or neglecting to ex-

plain the important lessons of the story or why the story is important for us today. When this happens, we who teach Scripture do a tremendous disservice to those whom we teach. When



we fail to connect the stories of Scripture with our lives today we are failing to make a positive impact upon the lives of those whom we teach. May's sermons will address a few of these stories where the Christian Community fails to teach "The Rest of the Story."

May 4: Gideon and His Ephod Judges 6:1-27, Judges 8:22-27

May 11: Samson a Nazarite? Judges 13:1-7, Judges 15:1-7

May 18: After the Lord's Heart 1 Samuel 13:8-14, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

May 25: To Be Announced



In the Mail . . .

See paper copy for this content



VBS 2025 July 13-17

Now Is the Time!

Invite Someone to VBS!
Register Someone for VBS!
Volunteer to Help at VBS!
Pray for VBS!

Scan the QR Code to Learn More!



Worship and Music

Awilda (Ally) Reyes, Chair



As we welcome the month of May, we are reminded of the beauty of new life all around us. Spring is a powerful symbol of resurrection, renewal, and the ever-growing love of God. This month, we invite you to grow deeper in your faith and walk with us through a season full of meaning and celebration. Come along and bring a friend or someone you care about to celebrate this exciting news together!

Important Dates & Holidays

National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 1, Join us as a nation for a day of prayer as we lift our community, family, and world. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Mother's Day – Sunday, May 11, Let's honor the mothers, grandmothers, and spiritual mothers in our lives. During our 11:00 am Sunday service, we'll have a special tribute and a small gift for all women in attendance. Bring your mom or invite someone who could use a loving church family!

Pentecost Sunday – May 18, Celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Wear red to symbolize the fire of the Spirit, and come expectant for a powerful move of God.

Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, As we enjoy time with family and friends, let us also pause to remember and pray for those who gave their lives in service to our country. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).

Scenes from Sunrise Worship 2025













Reminder From CCT Instructions for Care of Tablecloths

Responsibility: Any group or individual who uses the tablecloths of MacPherson Church for functions *in the* church. Tablecloths are to be cleaned, folded, and placed back on the hanger.

<u>Directions:</u> Cloths may be taken home; taken to a professional cleaner/laundry; or washed here using the facilities in the Ladies restroom in the Fellowship Hall.

White Tablecloths:

- Carefully inspect each tablecloth for stains.
- Pre-treat any stains with a stain remover containing bleach.
- Wash in warm water. Do not overload the washer.
 The church washer can handle 6 cloths.
- Remove from washer immediately. (Prevents wrinkles.)
- Load into the dryer. Set the dryer to permanent-press.
- Remove from the dryer immediately and fold. (Prevents wrinkles.)
- Hang the folded cloths on the hangers from the linen closet and return to the appropriate racks.

<u>Colored Tablecloths</u>: Follow the steps above, <u>EXCEPT_DO NOT</u> use bleach stain remover or other laundry products containing bleach.

Please be a good steward of this church resource. In order for the tablecloths to remain in the best condition for the next event at the church—without stains and wrinkles—they need to be washed, dried, and folded all at once. If using the church facility, plan to stay with the task until it is complete.



Reminder From CCT Refrigerator & Freezer Guidelines

In an effort to use God's blessings and resources more effectively and avoid waste, CCT asks anyone using the kitchen refrigerator or freezer to follow these guidelines:

FOR ITEMS STORED BEFORE A MEAL/EVENT

Please use the preprinted labels to identify the items with your name and the expected date of use.

FOR FAITH FREEZER LEFTOVERS

If you have "leftover" food that would be appropriate for Faith Freezer meals, please use the plastic containers under the counter to make the meals and identify the meals with the special Faith Freezer Meal label. Then place meals on the Faith Freezer shelf in the freezer.

FOR LEFTOVERS YOU PLAN TO USE AGAIN

Please use the pre-printed labels and identify the items with your name/name of event and the <u>expected date of</u> <u>use</u> before you put them in either the fridge or the freezer.

The contents of the refrigerator/freezer will be inventoried monthly.
Any unlabeled or expired items will be disposed of appropriately.



Direct questions to the CCT Chair or Church Office.

Welcome New Member!

See paper copy for this content

Mary McArthur Picnic

Sunday, June 1 You know summer is close at hand when the Mary McArthur picnic and Youth Sunday appear on the calendar! Start making plans now

to attend with a dish (or two!) to share at the picnic: meat, salad, vegetable, side dish, dessert. Beverages will be provided. Watch your bulletin for more details in the weeks to come. But save the date NOW!

2025 MacPherson Reading Challenge

Hello readers! I've been meeting with the MacPherson Bible book group since it started more then 10 years ago. I'm not an avid reader, but I do enjoy learning new and different things. I found that listening to someone read the book to me opened a whole new environ-



ment for me. I could leave the TV behind and get a few things done while catching up on the weekly book assignment. Recently I decided to get something from the best-seller list: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

This book is an AI story! I must tell you this right up front because the opening pages describe Klara as an AF (Artificial Friend). She is standing in a store window with other AFs. They are discussing who will be chosen today to be a best friend. Josie (an ailing teenager) and her mother, after much discussion, pick Klara. Klara is charged by the sun, so she has to be in the sun for a specified time each day.

Josie is very happy with Klara. Klara will do what it takes to make Josie feel better. While we know that Klara is programed, she can reason and find solutions. She once saw the sun help a beggarman get back to health. She went to extreme lengths to get Josie and her health problems in front of the sun. While there were no Christian overtones to this book, there was something very spiritual about her thoughts. If the sun can help the beggarman, surely it can help Josie.

We find that Klara can learn faith and trust, belief and hope. Josie went on to a good and healthy life. Klara became part of the yard that contained stuff people didn't want any more. At the end, I was left feeling inspired that the use of Al can be helpful in spreading the Gospel. Just as Klara looked to the sun to give Josie better health, we can look to the Son of God for true life and healing.

From APP

Liz Hart, Chair

I thought I would start on a more cheerful note this month. There's plenty of time to talk about the continuing saga of the "Surprise Maintenance Issue of the Month."

Instead, I want to note that we owe a big thanks to Jose and Jeremy for their continued handy-man efforts on behalf of MacPherson. Several leaky faucets were tended to this month at little or no cost to the church. The J's continue to tackle many of the items on the "APP To-Do List."

You may recall from last month's newsletter the requirement for the installation of a water mitigation device, known as Water Hero, and the cost of the device, plumber, and electrician. We knew last month that there would be a requirement for some Wi-Fi improvement in the Water Hero's location, the Tablecloth Room. We didn't realize at the time that this would not be a simple or economical fix.



The cost was \$1,100.00 and many more hours of Rene's time coordinating with our IT support team, Ross IT. Water Hero requires really speedy Wi-Fi (that's as much tech, as I know!), which meant some rewiring and the purchase and installation of that fancy new Wi-Fi extender in the hallway between the kitchen and beverage center. It looks like a flying saucer. **DO NOT TOUCH**.

Between the initial research; purchase of the device; scheduling of plumber, electrician, IT support and Water

Hero support; and training the APP team on use of the online app—Rene spent approximately 40 hours between February 17 and April 10 on this project alone! More in a moment.

Sometimes it's fun to open the church mail. People send checks. PWC just sends bills and, most recently, a letter that told us that after careful review of our usage history, they have determined we should not have been billed on the "Small Power Service Rate," but at the "Medium Power Service Rate." You guessed it...that costs more! We will be paying an increased rate. So, continue to grow MacPherson; just turn off the lights while we do it!

Lastly, we no longer have a church Secretary! Everyone, pick themselves up off the floor, and take deep breaths. We now have an Office and Facilities Administrator.

Many of you may remember when we had a Secretary or Office Administrator, and a Facilities Administrator or Manager. Over time people came and went and the job title and duties merged into Secretary. However, it has become increasingly obvious that MacPherson currently has one individual, Rene Bahrenfuss, performing both jobs (and then some). It only seemed fair that she has the job title to go with all the duties. It also helps when dealing with vendors and other businesses to make it clear exactly who they are working with on MacPherson's various projects!

On that note . . . We bid you farewell until APP's next installment of "What's Newly Broken and Expensive at MacPherson."



Q. How do you train a child up?

A. Take weekly Youth fellowship that includes lunch, prayer, Bible study, & fun; add a touch of a Youth yard sale; throw in a couple of surprise birthday parties for Youth Group members; and top off with a fabulous Family Fun Night... and that's how you train a child up at MacPherson Church!! (Proverbs 22:6)



















From Congregational Care

Tricia DeMann, Chair



TLC 2025 was a beautiful evening full of fellowship, love, and Jesus. The Fellowship Hall was transformed to a lovely garden scape with fairy lights and flower centerpieces on each table. But what really set the mood was the beautiful people who attended. It was a special night indeed for those that we love and care for deeply. They enjoyed a peaceful evening of

recognition and celebration for their unselfish love, for their courage to face daily challenges, for their strength and perseverance, for their joy in the victories and their faith and trust in Jesus. The TLC Dinner of 2025 is in the books as a great success. Thank you to the members

of CCT and the Elders who volunteered to make this event a very special evening. Enjoy the pictures on this page and the next!









I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses...





From Evangelism & Mission

Megan Shoff, Chair

Over the last two months, the focus for the E&M newsletter articles has been to encourage boldness for more introverted members to invite new people to MacPherson Church. This month is no different. This month we will discuss how to create inviting environments and encourage how to propose invitations in comfortable settings as a way to hold true to The Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18–20.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Previous month's suggestions:

Tip #1: Serve Behind the Scenes (March)

Tip #2: Build Deep, Authentic Relationships (April)

Tip #3: Be a Consistent Example (April)

This month's suggestions:

4. Create Inviting Environments. You are often excellent listeners and sensitive to the emotional needs of others. You can provide a safe, welcoming space for people who may feel overwhelmed by large groups or loud environments. You can also foster smaller, intimate gatherings (such as Bible studies or prayer groups) where people feel

comfortable and heard. This could be a great way to invite others into a non-threatening church environment.

5. Encourage Invitations in Comfortable Settings. Instead of public invitations or large group outreach, church members can invite people to smaller, more intimate settings such as a coffee meetup, a book study, or a small Bible study group. This allows for more genuine connections in a less overwhelming environment.

<u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u>

Operation Inasmuch Breakfast Support: May 16, 2025 (Friday) breakfast support from 7:00-9:00 am. Volunteers needed. Please notify a member of the E&M Team no later than May 12 if you are volunteering. We have had a great deal of support this last year so please continue to give.

Annual Mission Dessert Auction: May 21, 6:00 pm. See front cover of the newsletter for more details. Start planning now to bake, buy, and bid!



If you have ideas, concerns, or a passion for our outreach and mission efforts, please contact Megan Shoff, Sharon Mozingo, Barney Treneman, or Don Mollett. I ask that you consider joining us on Thursday, May 1, 6:00 pm, room 228, for fellowship and God's work with the E&M team.

From Christian Education

Dennis Reid, Chair

It has been a great month for the Christian Education Team. It began with an opportunity to work the Happy Feet concession stand. If you have never done this before, it's an unforgettable experience, especially if you take the time to talk with



some of the parents and the children. Hard to believe that a few of them do not attend church at all. I gave



away all the "Building on the Foundation" booklets I had while discussing our church's spiritual development program, highlighting Vacation Bible School coming up in mid-July 2025. I did not find any of the booklets in the nearby trash cans,

so I believe they kept them to read later.

The Youth would like to thank you all for the support you have given us during our fundraisers. The Youth Yard sale was a great success, and the Jason's Deli fundraiser yielded \$106.00. All the money raised will go toward reducing the cost for our regular Youth Group members to attend the Cabell-Lincoln work camp. Currently, eight Youth will be attending Cabell-Lincoln. We are very proud of our youth as they reflect Mark 12:30-31. For a round-up of other Youth events for the month, please see pages 16-17 and the back cover.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 13-17, 2025. This year's theme is "Road Trip." We need volunteers! This event helps bring the community into our church. There is a role for everyone. For more information, contact Dennis Reid or Awilda Reyes.



The Youth have three Bible Study and prayer groups scheduled throughout the week (Thursday at 5:00 pm, Saturday at 11:00 am, and Sundays as part of Youth Group). They are praying for our church, our community, and each other. In their prayers, they remember our country and world leaders. They need your support on Sundays by signing up to provide their lunches following the 11:00 Worship Service. Meals are needed for 20-30 people. If you want to help, please contact Dennis Reid or Awilda Reyes or sign-up on the Christian Education bulletin board.

It is not too late to join the Ark Encounter trip scheduled for August 4-9, 2025. As of now, we have 33 signed up. The bus will accommodate 54 passengers. Our deposit has been made for the tour bus. Final payments are due on May 28, 2025. If you are a latecomer and join the tour after this date, your full payment (753.00) is required at sign-up.

You are invited to join us for the upcoming Christian Education Team meeting on May 4, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Your insights and contributions would be greatly valued as we collaborate on planning spiritual development opportunities for our church and community.

MacPherson Presbyterian Church May 2025

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May 2025 Believers are Redeemed

Verse 1 - Jesus Redeems Us from the Law

Galatians 3:13

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—"

Verse 2 – There is Joy in Our Redemption

Psalm 71:23

"My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed."

Verse 3 - God Redeems Us from Sin

Isaiah 44:22

"I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you."

Verse 4 - God Redeems the Believer

Lamentations 3:58

"You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life."

Verse 5 – God Leads His Redeemed Home

Exodus 15:13

"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode."

Verse 6 – Pray for the Leaders of Habitat for Humanity, Operation Inasmuch & Our City, State, and Nation.

Psalms 127:1

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."

May Birthdays

See paper copy for this content



See paper copy for this content

MacPherson Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. James W. Randall, Jr.

Church Secretary René Bahrenfuss