



# PCR Post

*A Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Radford*

## ***From the Pastors***

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May 27, 2021

Dear PCR Family,

May has gone by in a whirlwind, which seems appropriate for Pentecost! Many of you were at our final outdoor worship service, where we worshiped God in the rain and blessed our high school graduates as they end this chapter of their lives, and begin the next one. Many thanks to Georgeanne for preparing gifts for our graduates, and for blessing all of us with her children's sermon. How wonderful to celebrate these young people who have been so loved by this congregation over the years. We also had the pleasure that day of having a congregational picnic together! The rain couldn't stop us from having a grand time sharing a meal and catching up with new friends and old. The Fellowship Committee, with help from Sylvia, pulled off a wonderful time of food and friendship.

As we reflect on this year of worshipping outside, we cannot help but feel immense gratitude. For some, perhaps being outside in the heat and the cold was a painful reminder of the many ways in which our world is not okay. But for us as your pastors, every time we worshiped outside together was a reminder of God's grace. What a gift that we have a parking lot and easily accessible electrical outlets, and that we could worship God together in person, in relative safety for most of the pandemic! What a gift that we could lead worship without fear of getting sick, particularly once we knew that Kelsey was pregnant! What a gift, that we could ask Georgeanne, Alex, and Hudson to help us lead worship every week, knowing that we wouldn't be putting them in harm's way. And perhaps most of all, what a gift it was to see your faces every week (weather permitting) and worship God together under sunny skies and cloudy skies, in wind and calm. On the fourth Sunday of Epiphany we sang, "All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing..." but the birds heard that invitation every week!

We (your pastors) have been keeping busy this past month. Kelsey taught a four week Basics of the Bible Sunday school class, where we explored three questions: "What is the Bible?", "How do I read the Bible?", and "What literary genres are even *in* the Bible?" She majored in Biblical Studies in college, so Kelsey had a lot of fun, and hopes the rest of the class did, too! We also spent most of the past month or so preparing for the transition back to worshipping in the sanctuary. We met with the Session's COVID-19 Administrative Commission to review our safety measures, we measured out where people could sit, we bought and tested out lots of adapters and cables in our ongoing efforts to livestream, we updated instructions for ushers, we worked with Sylvia to return to the blue bulletins, and with the property committee to get Shentel to install an internet router in the sanctuary... The only thing we *didn't* do was test out the sound system, much to our chagrin!

Worship on Pentecost Sunday was wonderful, despite the sound system difficulties and the heat of the day. The Worship Committee outfitted everyone with red streamers to wave in celebration of the Holy Spirit and our return to the sanctuary, and we sang together for the first time in over a year! We are so thankful for the vaccines that made it possible for us to worship safely indoors, and for your willingness to still take some precautions, like wearing masks and sitting distanced. After all, it's still possible for vaccinated people to contract COVID-19, but the symptoms are vastly reduced.

Speaking of safely being together indoors, we have enjoyed getting to do pastoral care visits inside! It's easier to hear one another, and there's something special about getting to be with a person in their home. To those we have visited so far, thank you for your hospitality! And if you'd like to get together, please let us know and we can make it happen.

June holds some 'goodbyes' and 'see you later's' for all of us. Georgeanne's last Sunday as the Director of Christian Education will be on June 27th. Fear not, though - she and Steve will still be members of PCR, but let's hold off from asking Georgeanne to be on any committees for a long while. She deserves a break! We will also be saying goodbye to Alex and Hudson. Alex's last Sunday as our Director of Music will be on June 27th, and Hudson's last day as our Organist will be on June 20th. We'll share words of thanksgiving for these dear people in our next PCR Post! And if you are feeling anxious about all of these open positions (as we sometimes feel), let us remember that God has provided abundantly for PCR in the past, and God will continue to provide for us now. May the Spirit move among us and open our hearts for whatever lies ahead!

We hope that the coming weeks for you are a blessed time of warmth and renewed connection with one another. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Your Pastors,  
Kelsey and Peter

P.S. Peter's parents will join us in Sunday worship on June 13th and Kelsey's parents will join us on Sunday June 20th!



Photo by Nancy Kent showing the *ruach* banner reflected on the Communion table - a reminder of the Holy Spirit with us!

# From the Desk of the DCE

*As most of you know, I gave my notice at the May 9th service. After these many years of being DCE, June 30th will be my last day. I will save my final words for the June post. :) - Georgeanne*



***Let's celebrate our RHS graduates!!  
Class of 2021!!***



Alex will be attending Radford University  
to major in nursing.

Grayson will be attending New River Community College  
to major in General Studies.

Beatrice will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University  
to major in Art.

# SUMMER CAMP



**Camp Bethel 2021**

<https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/camps.html>

Camp Bethel is a great place to spend some time in the wilderness learning about God's love! Their camps cover many different ages. Their many different types of camps start June 13th and go until July 30. You can still sign up! PCR will cover half the expense of a summer Christian camp. Please get in touch with Kelsey, Peter, or Georgeanne if you have any questions about this.