

Finley
FOCUS
April 2011



Our Ministers Message

Greetings Everybody!

I love this time of year: I waited all winter for it! While all the usual seasonal pleasures are starting to bloom, perhaps the best treasure of spring is yet to come: The April Electricity Bill!

All winter long, my heat pump burned money right out the door. It seemed as though that thing never shut off! But April is different. In April, it's mild enough to keep the heat pump at bay, but it's also not too hot to need the air conditioner. The result is a very low electric bill, and a very happy Pastor Don!

Those winter bills are brutal! I remember that whenever each one would come, I would just lay it on the table, fearful of the pain awaiting me inside that little envelope. My secret hope was that if the bill sat undisturbed for long enough, perhaps it would just go away. Better yet, maybe it would realize how unwelcome it was in my home and pay itself. (Do you realize how many dinners at Mill Street Grill I could buy if that happened?) But no matter how much I wished or believed those winter energy bills out of existence, they never went away unless they got paid! In other words, all the best wishes, intensions, hopes and desires did not change the reality of the debt owed; somebody's got to pay!

Humanity has a real big problem...our condition! But unlike my winter electric bill, our nature carries with us a whopping debt that we are unable to pay on our own. Some have tried to make pretend the debt doesn't exist, but eventually, it becomes due. Others have tried to pay off the debt on their own, but in time, they realize they're only throwing pennies in the Grand Canyon.

The Apostle Paul echoes our human dilemma when he wrote to the church in Rome, *"I want to do what is good, [but] evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"* Paul grasped the seriousness of the human debt problem, but he also knew the answer could not reside within him. That is why in the next breath he answers his own question of who will rescue him by saying, ²⁵*"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

Of course, I'm being facetious when I say the best treasure of spring is my electric bill. The reality is, spring's greatest treasure lies in the remembrance of our sacrificed and risen Lord, Jesus Christ. The world's largest "bailout package" happened on Passover around 2000 years ago. Ever since, the world has had access to all the free energy it needs, or could ever consume.

I love this time of Year. I waited all winter for it! Now don't you wait any longer, receive His Grace today. Isn't it about time you let Christ 'pay the bills'?

I pray that your Easter Season is filled with a sense of wonder, joy, and inner peace that can only come through the reception of God's Grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Blessings,

Rev. Don LaRue

Recent Bible Reading & Study Suggestions

The weekly bulletin features a daily, different passage of Scripture given to reinforce themes highlighted from our last worship. On Thursday, the passages shift to reflect the anticipated sermon. Including this simple outline as part of your daily devotions, it is my hope that you will further enhance your spiritual nourishment by immersing yourself in Scripture. May it continue to be a 'lamp to your feet', illuminating your journey with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Rising the Poor	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Message to the World	Revelation 14:6&7
Revive the Spirit of the Humble	Isaiah 57:14-21	Who Proclaims to the World?	Romans 10:12-21
Peace Abound	Psalms 72	Persevere!	Hebrews 3:12-4:13
Sermon Passage:	Mark 13:1-13	Sermon Passage:	Mark 13:14-26
Amend Your Ways	Jeremiah 26:12-19	Enough is Enough	Lamentations 1:8-18
Weeping For Jerusalem	Luke 19:41-44	Should have seen it Coming!	Daniel 9:8-14
God Relieves the 'Pains'	Micah 4:9-10		
The World Quakes...God Doesn't	Psalms 46		
Word to the World!	Romans 1:8-15		
Sermon Passage:	Mark 13:14-26		
Make Haste, Nothing Worth Keeping!	Philippians 3:7-11		
There's always hope with the Lord	Joel 2:10-14		

Slow Cooker French Dip

This month's recipe isn't very Easter-y, if that's even a word. But this recipe is for a sandwich that's been on my mind (and on my plate) a lot lately. This is a super easy recipe, and if my sister-in-law's opinion means anything, it's pretty tasty, too. (Of course, I think it's great, too.)

This recipe comes from The Pioneer Woman's Tasty Kitchen. Just go to www.thepioneerwoman.com and click on the Tasty Kitchen bar. The recipe for Slow Cooker French Dip came from user Megan, and is highly rated. (See? I told you it was good.) The direct link to the recipe is: <http://thepioneerwoman.com/tasty-kitchen/recipes/main-courses/slow-cooker-french-dip/>

Ingredients:

3.5 lbs beef chuck roast	10.5 oz Beef Consommé or broth
12 oz beer (1 bottle)	2 cubes beef bouillon
1.5 oz onion soup mix (1 package)	

Directions:

Season the chuck roast as desired. Place in crock pot.
 Mix the dry onion soup mix with the beef consommé. Pour the mixture over the meat, followed by the beer.
 Place bouillon cubes on opposite sides of the roast, and cook covered on low for 7-8 hours.
 When meat is ready, shred it (it may be difficult to slice) and return to the au jus until ready to serve.
 Serve as desired. I suggest crusty rolls with melted cheese and, of course, a cup of au jus to dip in!



Treasurer's Notes - From Jack Blacka

February 2011 financials

February 2011 Bank Balance	
Beginning balance	\$4,822.21
Total receipts	\$8,048.93
Transfers	\$0.00
Sub total income	\$10,871.14
Less total expenses	(\$11,238.63)
Ending Bank Balance	\$1,632.57

Consider this: if you are into online banking and contribute the same amount weekly or monthly, set up automatic payments from your bank account for the year. Most financial institutions offer free online banking and when they mail the check for you, that is also free, saving you the cost of a check and even the postage. Each week or month the bank will send a check to Finley, your contribution will arrive whether you are here or not. - Jack

February 2011 Monthly Figures	
Tithing Income	\$21,398.75
Other Income	\$496.94
Total Income	\$21,895.69
YTD Budget Expenses	\$25,634.92
Actual total expenses	(\$23,395.91)
Actual Income less Expenses	(\$1,500.22)

*It's A Spring Thing
& You're Invited*

Pot Luck Luncheon
after worship

Sunday April 03rd

Please bring a covered dish (enough for yourself and a little to share). Drinks and set ups will be provided by Finley.

Inside or outside depending on the weather.

Marion C. Fitch Education Fund Update

The trustees are happy to announce that the Marion C. Fitch Education Fund payout for a full time student at a four year college who successfully completes a semester will increase from \$700 per semester to \$1,000 per semester. The payout for students at a community college will stay the same which is of 50% of total expenses for courses successfully completed.

Since the inception of the fund in October 1996, sixty-three Finley students have participated and the total payout through 12/31/2010 is \$381,200. Marion would be very proud of the hard work of these students who have benefited!



Marion C Fitch

The fund was formed in October of 1996 from the estate of Marion C. Fitch who was a long time member and historian of Finley. Marion met with Henry Woodall, the pastor at the time, and Don McClure in the early 1990's while she was developing her will to make plans for this trust. The trustees had no idea at that time that this trust would start with \$666,403.32 in 1996. There are very few rules for qualifying for these grants and they are on the application form that each student signs. These rules are:

1. A parent or step-parent must be a member on the active roll of Finley Memorial Presbyterian Church at least one year before the school starting date for the student. This status will be reviewed annually.
2. Student must attend an accredited college of higher education, community college or technical school.
3. Advanced education must start before the age of 23 and be continuous thereafter.
4. Ordinarily scholarship awards will be made on a semester basis in January and June.
5. Scholarship awards will be made when proof of successful completion of course work is given to the Trustees of Finley Memorial in writing. Scholarships for fulltime college students will be granted in the full amount for achieving passing grades for the minimum resident class load. This is 12 credit hours for undergraduate study and 9 credit hours for graduate study for fall and spring semesters. Scholarships will be reduced on a prorated basis for meeting less than the above minimum normal semester requirements. Summer semester grants will also be prorated using the same 12/9 hour requirement. Scholarships for community college students will be granted in the amount of 50% of total expenses for courses successfully completed. Proof must be an official grade transcript of the college. Printed grades from the college's website are fine but they must indicate the semester, student name, college name, each course taken, grade for each course, and all final grade / standing calculations. Submissions not meeting these requirements will be rejected and the student will be asked for a grade report meeting the above criteria. This will delay payment to you.
6. Full scholarship award amounts will depend on the number of applicants each year and the income the trust receives.
7. Once you have made application through this form you need not reapply each year UNLESS any of the above changes such as mailing address, name, email, etc. Any changes require a new form to be completed and submitted. The fund is totally managed by Wells Fargo Bank who also directly makes all of the payments. The starting amount of the fund in 1996 was \$666,403.32 and the value as of 12/31/2010 was \$823,202.69. We anticipate that 14 students will participate in the 2010 – 2011 school year.

The application form is located on the Finley website. There have been some minor changes to the form to help the trustees to project future needs and to make sure that we have everyone's correct contact information. If you are a current student or parent of a student and did not get an email notifying you of this, then we do not have your current information. Please complete and sign the form and return to the address on the top of the form.

This education fund trust from Marion is a great example of how a trust left to the Church can offer long term benefits for others. If you have an idea of something that you would like to do as a possible trust, please contact the trustees or pastor to discuss. We would be glad to discuss your wishes.

Donald B. Splaun, Jr. – Trustee – Marion C. Fitch Education Fund Trustee

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School will be using lessons from the Infusion Bible eStudies by Cokesbury. These are individual lessons designed for one-hour group studies. Beginning on April 10, this will be a series of 8 lessons and will end on June 5. There will be no Adult Sunday School Class on Easter Sunday. Books will be available for pick up on Sunday April 3.

Infusion: The act of introducing a certain modifying element or quality to make something stronger or better.

- Listen: to the words of the Scripture, and in them discover God's message for you today.
- Look: at a brief verbal snapshot from the scrapbook of contemporary life and discover its connection both to you and to the Scripture passage.
- Live: inside the Scripture to discover its context and message; then allow the Scripture to come alive in you and cause you to live out your faith in new and more-effective ways.

April 10: Confronting Oppression: To realize that leadership that confronts oppression is one expression of faithfulness.

April 17: From Beliefs to Behavior: To stress the importance of right belief and practice for the faithful service of God's people.

May 1: How Can I Pray for them? To Help us experience the reconciling power of praying for everyone, even those we do not like.

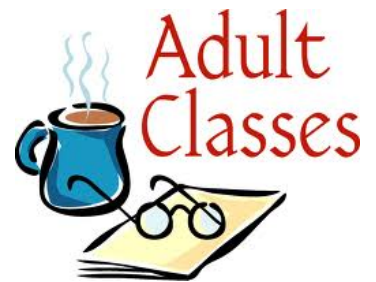
May 8: Living With Hope: To encourage us to take heart in the hope that Jesus brings to those who suffer.

May 15: Finding Hope in Hopelessness: To discover in our feelings of hopelessness the promise of God's deliverance.

May 22: A Thousand Little Details: To explore the ways in which God guides ordinary people to fulfill his purposes.

May 29: Debts and Debtors: To understand how forgiveness can become real for us in the process of forgiving others.

June 5: The Gift of Forgiveness: To teach us that forgiveness is the key to transforming broken relationships.



The Adult Sunday School class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Session room.

The next meeting of the
Finley Presbyterian Women
will be on

April 5th @ 7PM.

The study will be Lesson eight, The Empire has Fallen! Evacuate Now!, taken from Revelation 17-18.

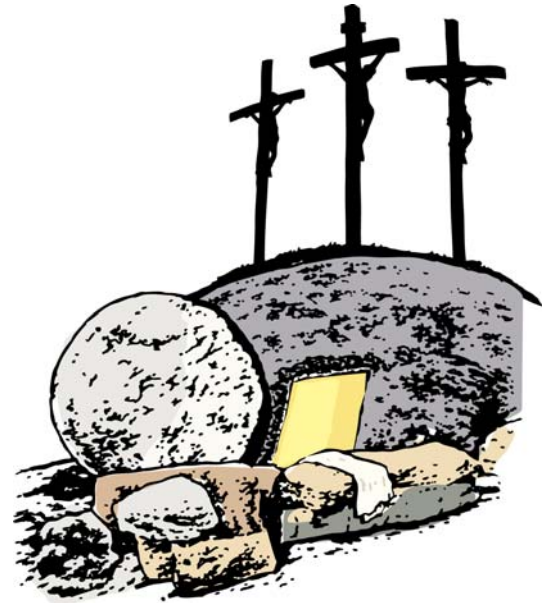
All women are encouraged to come and join in this study.

We have a **new** Bunn Coffee Maker and now serve restaurant quality coffee.

This Sunday, why not give Starbucks and Eavers a miss and join us 10:30 - 11 for the best, 'free' cup-a-joe in town.



Easter Services

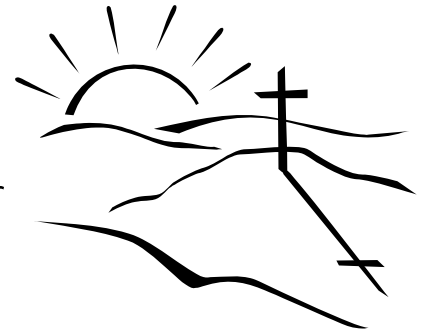


Maundy Thursday 7pm

Join us on April 21st for worship and communion

(Almost) Sunrise Service 9am

On Sunday April 24th we will have Service at 9am followed by breakfast for all, prepared by the Finley Men.



Easter Service 11am

We look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ with you.



You and all the children you know
are invited to a

**Picnic Lunch, Easter Egg Hunt
and Afternoon of Crafts,
Games and Fun.**

Date: April 23, Time: 12:00

Place: Finley MPC

Please bring a picnic lunch & 12 plastic eggs
filled with either candy or money.

There is no rain date, in the case of
inclement weather we will use the church.

(For children aged up to 5th Grade, see Gina Henderson for
more information. All volunteers welcome.)



Easter Lily Sale

Look out for order forms for this year's Easter Lily Sale. Order forms are available in the Narthex and also downloadable from our website.

The Lily's will come from Milmont and be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter services.

Each plant is \$9.50 and all orders are due by April 10th



Easter lilies are a recent addition to the Easter celebration.

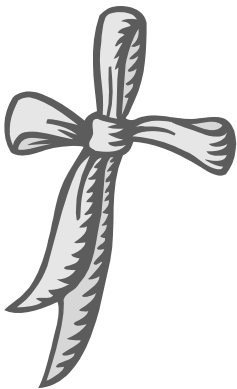
The white Easter lily was introduced in Bermuda from Japan in the mid-1800s.

In 1882, W. K. Harris, a florist, introduced this flower to the United States. Since it is one of the earliest lilies to bloom in the Spring, it soon became known as the "Easter lily."

In Christian iconography, white lilies have always been the symbol of beauty, purity, and holiness. Even in the Gospel Matthew, our Lord referred to the lilies: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (6:28-29). Quite appropriately, these beautiful, large, white lilies became very popular in the Easter decorations of Churches, symbolizing the new life of our Risen Lord.

As an aside, a religious legend did arise concerning the lily: On Holy Thursday evening, when our Lord was in the Garden of Gethsemane, all of the flowers — except the proud, stately, most beautiful lily — bowed their heads in sorrow because of the ordeal our Lord was suffering. In the end, having witnessed our Lord's humility and sacrifice, the lily hung its head in shame, and has humbly done so to this day.

Easter Sacrificial Offering



Last year, the session approved to restructure the way Finley asks for supplementary mission related giving. Instead of having 5 offerings, Finley has reduced them to two; an Easter Sacrificial Offering and a Christmas Joy Offering.

This year, the Missions Committee have decided the beneficiaries of the 2011 Easter Sacrificial offering will be Mike and Gail, who both represent PFF (Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship).

Envelopes will be distributed the week before Easter with the offering to start Easter Sunday. The offering will be taken for 4 weeks after Easter and a running total of the giving will be updated weekly in the bulletin.

For purposes of maintaining our budget, please do not put your normal giving in the Easter Sacrificial Offering envelope.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call your session elder in charge of mission & outreach, Yvonne Simmons or Rev Don.



Middle School Conference - Massanetta Springs

I of the Storm - Don't be afraid it is I

Three powerful messages (at least) stand behind the theme text for this year. First, even as followers of Jesus the Christ, there are storms in our lives. Secondly, scripture confirms over and over that God is to be the center of our lives and we are to keep our focus on God. When our vision, our choices, our lives are distracted, and we aren't keeping our eyes on Jesus, as with Peter, we will sink. Thirdly, the God of our matriarchs and patriarchs is the great **I AM**. Jesus of Nazareth is the great **I AM**. Jesus who reaches out to rescue Peter is the great **I AM**. Indeed, this is our God too, and this God is ruler over all of life...even the storms.

The dates that Finley would be able to go are either July 7-10 or July 12-15. Please see Beth Gibson if interested or call Beth (294-3230) and don't let the price deter you. The session offsets the cost AND Massanetta offers scholarships. Please let Beth know by April 30, 2011. visit www.massanettasprings.org for more information.

Waynesboro Choral Society
presents



"Glee"ful Rock

WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL - LOUIS SPILMAN AUDITORIUM

APRIL 18 & 19, 2010 - 7:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT FINLEY CHURCH OFFICE-

TICKETS - ADULTS \$8.00

STUDENTS \$4.00

Who's Who At Staff & Key Folk

<u>Session Members</u>	
Clerk of Session	Allison Fink
Buildings & Grounds	Buck Earhart 2011 Gary Brubaker 2013
Christian Education	David Seaman 2012 Linda Peery 2013
Congregational Care	Debbie McCormick 2011 Sheri Nelson 2013
Fellowship & Stewardship	Keith Boswell 2011 Beth Gibson 2012
Finance & Personnel	Debbie McCormick 2011
Mission & Outreach	Yvonne Simmons 2011
Worship & Music	Jenny Coyner 2012 Tony Forbes
Presbyterian Women	Karen Brown, <i>Moderator</i> June Craft, <i>Co-Moderator</i> Esther Winton, <i>Treasurer</i> Joan Batten, <i>Secretary</i>
Treasurers	Jack R. Blacka, <i>Disbursing</i> Ann E. Willey, <i>Receiving</i>
Trustees	David Brubaker Dan Hatter Donald Splaun

Minister	Reverend Donald H. LaRue
Music Director	Kelly Ward Hughes
Choir Director	Elise Blacka
Bell Choir Director	Jenn LaRue
Church School Supt.	David Seaman
Administrator	Laura Latimer-Nolan
We're Here	
Sunday School	9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00am
Church Office	Tue - Fri - 9am - 2pm
Choir Practice	Sunday 10:15am - 10:50am 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:30pm
Handbell Practice	Wednesday 6:30 - 7:30pm
Session	2nd Monday 7:00pm
Men's Fellowship & Devotions	1st Sunday 8:30am
Women's Bible Study	1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Contact Us














Mailing Address
P.O. Box 256,
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Actual Address
24 Finley Drive
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Church Office Telephone:
(540) 337-3561

E-mail addresses:
Office: finleypc1@verizon.net
Pastor: fmpcpastor2@verizon.net

Web address: www.finleypres.org

- Please call or email the church when.....**
-  A member of your family is admitted to the hospital.
 -  There is a death in your family.
 -  Your class or group would like to use the church facilities.
 -  Your address, phone number or email address changes.
 -  You or your children get engaged or are getting married.
 -  There is a birth in your family.
 -  A member of your family leaves for college or the military.
 -  You change your name.
 -  You have news / information piece for the Finley Focus.
 -  You have an announcement for the weekly bulletin.
 -  You have news about our community or a community event.
 -  You have ideas for growing our Church Family.
 -  You need assistance from Rev. LaRue or any church staff.

The *Finley* Calendar

APRIL 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	April 01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
May 01	02	03	04	05	06	07

April Notable Dates

**Mar 30 Dalton Christian Birthday
Hand Bell Practice 6:30pm**

Mar 31 Mark Nelson Birthday

Apr 01 Yvonne Simmons Birthday

**Apr 03 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
Finley Hunger Relief
Pot Luck Luncheon after Service**

Apr 04 Fellowship Meeting 6:30pm

Apr 05 Presbyterian Women 7pm

**Apr 06 Hand Bell Practice 6:30pm
Choir Practice 7:30pm**

Apr 08 Paul Willey Birthday

Apr 10 David & Sue Brubaker Anniversary

April 11 Scott Nelson Birthday

April 12 Session 7pm

**April 13 Handbell Practice 6:30pm
Mission & Outreach 7pm**

April 14 Mike Steele Birthday

April 18 Tax Day

April 19 Amanda Alexander Birthday

**April 20 Cameron McCormick Birthday
Jane Schumin Birthday
Kerby Hatter Birthday
Handbell Practice 6:30pm**

**April 21 Lisa Seaman Birthday
Maundy Thursday Service 7pm**

April 22 Good Friday

**April 24 Easter Sunday Service 9am & 11am
Gina Henderson Birthday
Donnie McCormick Birthday**

April 26 Zachary Fink Birthday

**April 27 Buildings & Grounds 7pm
Handbell Practice 6:30pm**

**May 01 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
Finley Hunger Relief
Kim Cheek Birthday
Katie Robison Birthday**

May 03 Presbyterian Women 7pm

**May 04 Doris Willey Birthday
Choir Practice 7:30pm**

May 06 Paul Swink Birthday

May 07 Allison Fink Birthday

May 08 Mothers Day