



# Light From The Hill

**AUGUST, 2017...The Pastor's Corner...Rev. Norman L. Ramsey, III**

Dear Laurel Hill:

The days seem to be moving fast forward; we want to make sure they are moving fast forward for us towards the coming of the Lord. We want the days to move fast forward toward “a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells”. (2 Peter 3: 13)

I know with so many things going on, life can feel like a playground carousel. The faster it goes the more we feel pulled away from our center of faith and the more we feel like we could fall and hurt ourselves. But, I want you to picture Jesus riding the carousel with you. I want you to envision Jesus holding the bars of the carousel and you sitting inside of Him. Stop and think about that for a minute.

The everlasting arms of Jesus hold you in no matter how fast the carousel spins. No matter how dizzy you might become focused on the blurry and whirling world around you, you only have to turn your eyes upon Jesus to find a focus that is still, strong, and right by your side.

This is how Peter calls us to persevere in light of a world falling apart. Peter says, “So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this (a new heaven and a new earth), make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.” (2 Peter 3: 14)  
Yes, we are to be found with Him.

Thinking again of the carousel, the faster it spins the harder we are pressed up against Jesus. Is this the way you are making the world move you? Is its chaos pushing you deeper into the peace of Christ? Is its turmoil and uncertainties pushing you into a stronger hold on the foundations of your faith? Is its clamor pushing you into a simpler, clearer obedience to Jesus? Is its deluge of options and choices pushing you to cling to Christ?

Don't wait for the world to slow down before you reach for and embrace with a fervent faith the love of Jesus. Don't wait for the world to slow down before you ask to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Again, Peter tells us, “Dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3: 17 – 18)

*Love you very much,  
Norman Ramsey*

P. S. Our next First Sunday Luncheon will be September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, we will not have Men's Breakfast during August. Our next Men's Breakfast will be September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST:** Betsy Gottwald, Barbara Wendel, Gail Dagenhart, Bill Perkins, Chris Ragland, Christopher Thompson, Bill Balz, Mary Holmes, Will Brockman, Donald Kindy, Jasmin Disoma



**Praise & Worship**  
**9:45am – Sunday School**  
**11:00am – Traditional Worship**

**August 6, 2017:** That the Power of Christ May Rest on Me (2 Cor. 12: 9)

**August 13, 2017:** But As for You, Be Strong & Don't Give Up (2 Chron. 15)

**August 20, 2017:** Watch It! (1 Timothy 4: 16)

**August 27, 2017:** Hold On, A Promise Is Coming! (Hebrews 10: 36)

**August 29, 2017:** Homeless Feeding

**ALERT...** We will have a Yard Sale in the early fall at Laurel Hill. Start gathering your donation items at home and watch for the collection dates in the September bulletins and newsletter. Let's make this a "big one" and get that fall cleaning done early.

## LAY MINISTERS FOR AUGUST, 2017

Praise & Worship: 8:45 A.M.-Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.-Worship: 11:00 A.M.

<b><u>OUR USHERS</u></b>	
August 6	Kirby Miller, Joe Corley, Randy Welch
August 13	Stuart Walton, Raymond Stevenson, Buddy Whitlow
August 20	Bill Robinson, Gene Russell, George Kaloski
August 27	Craig Pollard, Phil Deane, Ray Alexander
<b><u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u></b>	<b><u>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</u></b>
August 6	Harley Gostel
August 13 & 20	Christy and Roy Owens
August 27	Mary Holmes
<b><u>OUR ACOLYTES</u></b>	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b>
No Acolytes during Summer	August-Keith and Sheree Gostel
<b><u>OUR GREETERS</u></b>	<b><u>SOUND TECHNICIANS</u></b>
August 6	Frank and Muriel Jenness
August 13	Linda Kinsey & Gail Dagenhart
August 20	Doug and Betsy Gottwald
August 27	Elaine Ogburn and Karen Ramsey
<b><u>TELLERS</u></b>	
August 6	Linda Kinsey and Chris Ragland
August 13	Jeremy Rowan and Peggy Singlemann
August 20	Pam Wilson and Lois Miller
August 27	Susan Nowell and Jenny Nelson

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION...**

**DEAR LAUREL HILL FAMILY...** Thank you very much for all the kind thoughts, words, prayers, calls, and cards during my rehabilitation from knee surgery. They were very much appreciated! Phil Deane

**THE SCHOOL BAGS** for our Mission Kits for 2018 have been cut and are in the process of being sewed, (thanks to Sandy Alexander, Pam Wilson and others.) These are done now so that they will be available for the back to school sales season in August and September. This year we sent 88 school bags to Conference.

We were able to complete 160 Mission kits this year because we look for sales and bargains all year long. Maybe we can do even more next year!

## **MORE FISH NEWS-We are collecting Complete Meal Kits for August...**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday, August 20<sup>TH</sup>**, The FISH BBQ - 11:30 until 1:30 pm at Fort Lee Baptist Church. Save yourself the time and trouble of fixing lunch. For \$9.00 you can go after church and get a delicious BBQ meal. Eat at the church or pick up your meal and take it home or to a special person. You WILL need a ticket. See Pam or Kirby by August 13 to get yours and treat yourself to a carefree meal.

**Saturday, September 30<sup>TH</sup>**, enjoy an evening of music at the FISH concert. Carlisle Baptist Church from 6:30-9:00pm. More details will be in next month's newsletter.

**Thursday, October 12 and Friday, October 13<sup>TH</sup>** 9 am to 5 pm each day at Village Presbyterian Church, mark your calendar for the fall **FISH Yard Sale**. If you have items you want to donate you can give them to Kirby Miller or Pam Wilson, or you can take them to FISH yourself at the Village Presbyterian Church.

Do you have a little time to spare? FISH really needs your help! 6 hours a month that's all. Become a phone volunteer and get the gratifying feeling knowing you are making a difference. You will get a 2-hour training session. You don't make any decisions, you simply collect information from the caller and send it to FISH. AND you would do this from your home. 6 hours, one day a month from 8 am to 2 pm! Please give this your

prayerful consideration and contact Pam or Kirby if interested.

AND .....Here's a really easy way you can help. FISH needs paper bags. When you go to the grocery store ask for paper bags. Put them in the FISH collection box at church and we will make sure FISH gets them. Easy huh?! Thank you so much.

## **LHUMC AUDIO VISUAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Our Laurel Hill audio/visual project was kicked off at our January 17th Administrative Board meeting. We have been working to evaluate our audio and visual needs to enhance the presentation of the Word and praises to our Lord in our sanctuary as well as in other areas of our church building. We have focused first on our sanctuary audio system upgrade. We were able to demonstrate a new audio system in our sanctuary on Monday evening, April 24th. I am now happy to announce that at our administrative board meeting on July 18, we approved an audio system installation quote from Communications Specialists, Inc., from Mechanicsville, Va., and we will be moving forward with implementation in the coming weeks.

Most graciously, a generous donor has come forward and has promised to provide the funds for this audio installation. We are very grateful to be able to take this step of faith and to consider the new possibilities that a 21st century audio system will be able to provide in our worship and education. The clarity of this system will be apparent, and audio promises to be clear and audible at the same level from the front pew to the back pew!

Regarding the visual or video aspect of this project, we are still working on refining our requirements, and trying to define the types of video inputs that would be most respectful of our objective to enhance praise, worship, and the presentation of the Word. This is not as simple as it seems, and there are most definitely some pitfalls that we wish to avoid. There is also quite a bit of work to do in defining responsibilities for the actual operation of a modern video presentation. An Internet service upgrade would also be required.

As mentioned before, there is an issue with our sanctuary for the presentation of video in that there is a good amount of light. This is not a bad thing, but it is not ideal for the presentation of information to a video

screen. This is known as "high ambient light". There are solutions using black screen technology, however, we do not yet have such a product available that would be in the ceiling drop down format that we would be interested in. We believe that product will be available soon, but in the meantime we will continue to work on the details and objectives with our potential video presentations.

Please let me hear from you with your questions and comments. Thank you! Phil Deane



The 2017 Virginia Annual Conference was filled with encouragement and fresh fire from the Lord. Bishop Lewis set the tone particularly through her episcopal address and her Sunday morning sermon, "Can You See It?" You can see both of those by going to <https://www.vaumc.org/AC2017> and clicking on the links provided there.

We also want to thank all of those who were at Annual Conference representing Laurel Hill. There were Becky and David Torrence, Pam and Ed Johnson, myself, and Theresa Duke. I know all of us stand ready to answer any questions and share the blessed impressions we have of this year's Annual Conference.



Snapshot of Saturday

15 Elders ordained  
40 Licensed Local Pastors  
1 Deacon ordained  
1 Recognition as Associate Member  
15 Commissioned as Provisional Members  
43 Retirees

2017 Kits 4 Conference:  
Total number of Kits 4 Conference collected for UMCOR was 41,522.  
Specifically:  
Bedding: 330  
Layette: 940  
Birthing: 2,327  
School: 12,035  
Cleaning: 332  
Sewing: 539  
Health: 24,801  
Misc.: 218

# FLOWER POWER

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Laurel Hill is a Missions and Ministries church! Working together we successfully support missions and ministries outreach in our community, state and throughout the world. This summer and early fall the goal is to raise \$6000 through the new *Missions and Ministries in Bloom* fundraiser.

You can support this fundraiser by purchasing the spring blooming bulbs you plant in the fall through this campaign and then share with your friends and neighbors the same opportunity. Purchases are paid for at the time of sale and the bulbs are shipped directly to the customer. Purchases can be made in person at the church or directly on line through the Missions and Ministries in Bloom fundraiser website on [flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://flowerpowerfundraising.com). Help reach our goal through posts and shares on Facebook, with just a few clicks and key strokes we can reach out into our community for additional support of our goal.

The campaign kicks off August 6th and ends October 7th. Catalogs will be available in the narthex and information will be shared on line. Questions? Ask Peggy Singlemann.