



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

Christian Ideas in the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a Christian document — Christian because it reflects many biblical principles, including the Christian idea of man and government, Christian self-government, biblical means of resisting tyranny, limited nature of civil government, the biblical purpose of government, to name a few. It acknowledges God and His revealed will as the source of rights and law. It appeals directly to God as the Supreme Judge, protector, and provider. The ideas contained in our founding covenant reiterate those expressed in the civil documents written by the colonists in the 150 years prior to independence and show the Founders' Christian faith. Reading the Declaration of Independence and identifying biblical ideas is an exercise every Christian should undertake. Doing so will reveal one's ability to reason biblically and to identify Christian ideas of government. It will also show how much history someone knows, since understanding the context will enable you to find more Christians ideas. Most Americans, including Christian Americans, have not read the Declaration of Independence. For those who have, few can identify many biblical principles in the document. Why? One, they are a product of secular schools which teach that our nation was founded upon enlightenment ideas, and any reference to a higher power was merely out of cultural deference to some deistic God. Two, for those who are Christians, most have not been taught by their pastors and churches how to reason biblically regarding governmental or civil issues. The entire nature of the Declaration reveals the understanding that the American people had of the right to resist rulers who violate their duties and plunder the people, and their property, rather than protect them. In addition, their resistance was conducted through legitimate governing officials, through lesser magistrates. This biblical idea, known as interposition, is rooted in Scripture and was written about by early Christian leaders, practiced by the barons and bishops at the time of the Magna Carta, and applied during the Protestant Reformation. The concept of interposition was developed in the writings of John Calvin (*Institutes*), the French Huguenots (*Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos*, 1579), John Knox, and Samuel Rutherford (*Lex Rex*, 1644). England applied interposition in the Glorious Revolution when the Parliament invited William of Orange to rule in place of James II. Lesser magistrates have the right and duty to hold higher officials accountable to the law of the land and to divine law – to the laws of nature and of nature's God. With the King rejecting all our petitions and even acting more contrary, we had no other recourse than to declare our independence.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

I KNOW TO WHOM I OWE. FIRST TO GOD & THEN TO THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

Musical Musings

The Song of Summer

Excerpts from an article by Jordan B. Davis on [Congregational corner](#)

For many, a Sunday morning worship service or Sunday School class is one of our first exposures to song outside of our parent's comforting arms as they rock us to sleep. As small children in the church, we learn simple songs like "Jesus Loves Me" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". We are exposed to new hymns every Sunday in worship, maybe even learning some by memory as they are repeated. As a hospital chaplain, I remember standing by a bedside and singing "In the Garden" with a family as their loved one drew their last breath; I remember sitting with a 98-year old woman who could no longer speak or read, but she could still sing two or three hymns from her childhood.

Music is a unique, but universal language. I don't know about you, but I rarely left my high school French or Latin class with a phrase, much less an entire poem, stuck in my head for the rest of the day. I do, however, leave church most Sunday mornings with a hymn stuck in my head and continue to sing and praise God through that song for the rest of the day (and sometimes into the week!).

Sunday morning worship gives us many opportunities to utilize this incredible love and praise language as we express what it is that we believe through black dots and lines turned into beautiful music. Congregations lift their voices to the heavens, choirs praise God with anthems, and instrumental musicians pull at heart strings as they share their own interpretation of classic hymns. Young children have the opportunity to share their developing talents publicly for the first time, many times as they sit beside a retired member who is dusting off almost-forgotten talents.

Calypso Presbyterian Church in Calypso, NC sees the importance of music in worship and has changed things up for the summer to broaden their musical reach. In lieu of an anthem this past Sunday, Rev. Nick Nielsen invited members of the congregation to call out their favorite hymn numbers. The first hymn, #339 in what is now lovingly referred to as "The Blue Hymnal" was first and the congregation sang the very familiar "Be Thou My Vision." The second hymn reached a little further back, only vaguely familiar to a 27-year old like myself- #459 in "The Red Hymnal" is one that older generations than my own may remember singing, "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus".

Many of our "go to" hymns may not be ones that are regularly sung today, just like "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," but they are still alive within us and for that reason, they are still available to us today even if they are not in whatever hymnal your congregation currently uses. As we sing these hymns throughout the remainder of our Sunday and with our children and grandchildren, we share something almost as old as many of our confessions of faith; one could even say that they are confessions set to music.

I honestly don't remember singing "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" in worship, but I do remember my great-grandmother singing it to me when I was only 3 years old and curled up with her in her bed. Hymns are gifts that keep giving. The hymns that my great-grandmother sang to me will be sung to my own children one day, just as the hymns that are important to one individual in a congregation can be shared with others when we provide time and space to "call out any number." Calypso Presbyterian, only a few hours from Topsail Island which is very appealing on a beautiful weekend, decided to give the choir a break during the summer and they will open the time set aside for the anthem every week. Some weeks the congregation will call out hymn numbers, other weeks members might share their own musical talents. Whatever Calypso Presbyterian's anthem is, whatever your congregation does for summer music, I pray that praising God will be at the center of it and that every person walks out into the sun singing for the remainder of the day!

JULY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

July 4: **"Fenced In"**

July 11: **"Listening to the Stories"**

July 18: **"Inside Out"**

July 25: **"Love Your Neighbor, Really"**

Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Wesley Guild Room!!!!



ADULT CARE CENTER OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Come join us at our First Annual BINGO Bonanza! on **Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 1 PM at the New London Ruritan Club.** One of our favorite activities at Adult Care Center of Central Virginia is BINGO... and we're happy to share this fantastic game with you! Work your brain with pattern, letter, and number recognition. Get

your hands working on those fine motor skills. Help ACCCV continue to provide top-notch care to medically challenged adults (and their caregivers) in our region each weekday.

Tickets are \$25 for 20 games when reserved or paid in advance; or \$30 at the door if space is available. Pay at the door or online through our [secure payment portal](#)

A big **THANK YOU** to the members who attended my first art show and sale on June 27th. The show featured drawings I have been working on since I was 19 years old. It was a long time in the making and I hope to have another show in October at the Art Gallery downtown. Stay tuned for the exact time and place! Thanks again for your support!

Christopher Lilley



2021 Annual Conference

United as One



The 239th session of the Virginia Annual Conference was a virtual, two-day event from Friday June 18 to Saturday, June 19. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the session to order at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, and welcomed clergy and lay members to the virtual session. She gave thanks to the many people who helped make the session possible.

Other aspects of a normal annual conference session were planned for different times with prerecorded services:

- Retirement Worship Service
- Service of Ordering of Ministry
- Laity Celebration Worship
- Service of Remembrance
- Service of Licensing of Local Pastors & Deaconess Commissioning

These prerecorded services will soon be moved from the Annual Conference 2021 www.vaumc.org/AC2021.

Conference Business

Eight churches were voted on and discontinued: Arlington Forest UMC, Arlington District; Browns Chapel UMC, Farmville District; Early's Chapel UMC, Lynchburg District; Fieldstone UMC, Roanoke District; Jollett UMC, Harrisonburg District; Mount Clifton UMC, Harrisonburg District; Mount Hebron UMC, Harrisonburg District; and Pamplin City UMC, Farmville District.

Browns Chapel UMC voted to amicably exit the denomination and, at the conference, they were also voted on and discontinued.

Four **new faith communities** launched this year: Thalia UMC Microchurch Network, Elizabeth River District; The Mission at Washington Street UMC, James River District; NOVA Missional Hub, Rappahannock River and Alexandria Districts; and Indian Church RVA, Richmond District.

More Conference news can be found here: <https://vaumc.org/united-as-one-virginia-annual-conference-2021/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries	August Birthdays
Sam Franklin July 06	Lori & Eddie Letchford July 12	Christopher Lilly August 01
Karen Speer July 11	Sarah & Eric Johnson July 18	Walter Wright August 08
Kathy Mason July 14		John Sweeney August 09
Christine Speer July 17		Martha Moorman August 10
Madeline White July 18		Susan Hall August 11
Keith Leazer July 20		Josh Larkin August 13
Jo Woods July 20		Jay Kelly August 18
George Clark July 23		Ann McDaniel August 20
Kathy Draper July 23		Cheryl West August 20
Brent McCraw July 24		Matthew Diuguid August 22
Sarah Haley McGlothlin July 24	Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin August 02	Debbie Chaffin August 26
Laura McCraw July 26	Debbie & Richard Chaffin August 23	Robert Allen Tyree August 31
Sherwood Newton July 28		
Noel Draper July 31		



PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

SICK (Church members*)

- Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538
mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Dane Peterson - 901 Jefferson Street – Apt. 3E, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin
- * Church members

A prayer for healing

I come to shelter close to you,
please cover me today.
I need to feel your loving arms,
to ease the cry of pain.
I wait upon your words O Lord,
and trust in all you say.
I rest upon your promises,
to hold and keep me safe.

I ask for light within the dark, safe and warm and bright.
I look to you to help me rest, especially tonight.
I wade in deep within your grace, and wait in waters clear.
I trust I'll find your heavenly touch, and always feel you near.

~ We send our love and Sympathy to Bobbi and Randy Hurst and family in the passing of his mother, Dorothy McIlveen "Billie" Hurst, on Friday, June 18th.

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 6/27/21	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$211,366
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

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PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:
621courtstume@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted
on the church website.

