

The ROYSTER REPORTER

A publication of Royster Presbyterian Church

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A Note From The Pastor

That you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.
(Exodus 10:2 NIV)

Friends,

Our building is receiving a much-needed coat of paint. I've enjoyed watching the process. You don't realize how beat up a pair of shoes is until you're trying on a new pair. Similarly, the gleaming white paint is showing how much the previous paint had faded. Royster looks good.

We've also taken steps to keep our organ in prime condition. We've addressed some issues and their root causes so that our music will continue to flow.

Folks, now we have to get serious about building the next generation of Royster people. To be frank, if we do not develop a younger congregation to which we can pass our beloved church, we will have spent our refurbishing funds unwisely -- and not just unwisely, our stewardship of God's resources will be questionable.

God speaks plainly when God tells Moses that the things God is doing in the exodus are being done so that the story can be told to coming generations.

Royster has an incredible story. We have a story of God's welcoming presence that keeps getting better as we welcome more people. We have a story of God's provision that has enabled us to care for our building and our community.

I believe the coming generations need to hear the story of God as God tells it through Royster. I firmly believe God wants the coming generations to hear God's story as God is telling it through Royster. I do not believe that God has brought us this far just to abandon our project before the coming generations experience it.

However, I believe our intentions matter. I believe we need to join God in *working for this desire for children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren to hear what God has done with us. I also believe that, should we decide that it is not our desire -- or it is not within our capacity -- to pass what we have maintained on, God will lift up other congregations to do that work and our new paint will fade away.*

We have spent a lot of money, time and energy on our building. Are we willing to do likewise to seed the next generation?

I believe that, if we have spent our resources to improve a building we fully intend to pass along, God will bless our endeavors and our stewardship will bear fruit. If however, we have repaired things solely for our own comfort -- if we recoil at the thought of using additional resources to announce our gifts and broaden our appeal to new generations -- well. . .

Has the new paint helped Royster become a city on a hill that cannot be hidden or have we whitewashed a tomb?

Grace and peace,
Brian

Church Participation in April

Next Session meeting, Tuesday,
April 23 6:00 PM

April Ushers: Jill Keifer, Wayne Sieloff,
Wil Bryant, Richard Joyner and John Staf-
ford.

Communion will be served from the
center aisle.

April Liturgists:
7 Pennie Sipes
14 Joe Perry
21 Wendy Holley
28

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Brian Harroff
Director of Music and Organist	Sharon Foxwell
Secretary	Louise Gordon
Custodian, Security, & Bldg. Coordinator	Jeff Spivey
Clerk of Session	Jill Keifer
Moderator of Deacons	Pat Miskill
RPW Moderator	Jill Keifer
Treasurer	

Ministry Team Leaders

Administration Tom Ambler	Finance Will Bryant	Property: John Keifer
Communications Anna Wactor	Outreach Sharal Halcomb	
Worship Will Redding	Church Growth Diana Nixon	
Ad Hoc Celebrations: Richard Joyner		

If the spirit moves you to assist any of the ministry teams, please contract the ministry team leader.



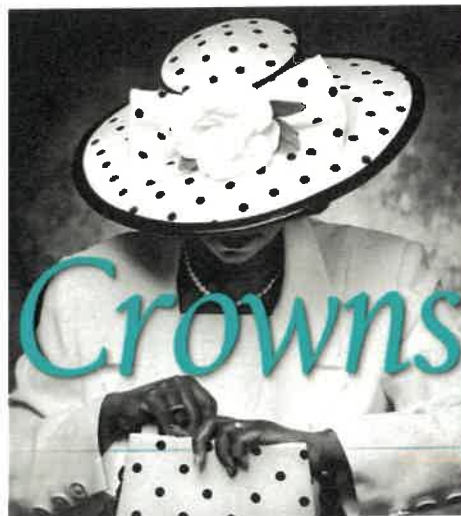
The Gathering is now meeting in Classroom 1
8:50 AM each Sunday.



First Friday Dinner Join your church family for dinner out on Friday, April 5 at The Fishin' Pig 119 W. 25th Street Norfolk at 6:00 PM. The Fishin' Pig is a southern fusion of Grady's BBQ and Shorty's Famous Seafood, Chicken and Vegetables.

Prayers and condolences to the family of Al Jacka. Al passed away on March 15 and his funeral will be at Royster on Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 PM.

Prayers and condolences to the family of Fay Gilbert, grandmother of Brian Gilbert. Fay passed away March 30.



A concert of
African-American Spirituals
& reflections on 'Church Hats'

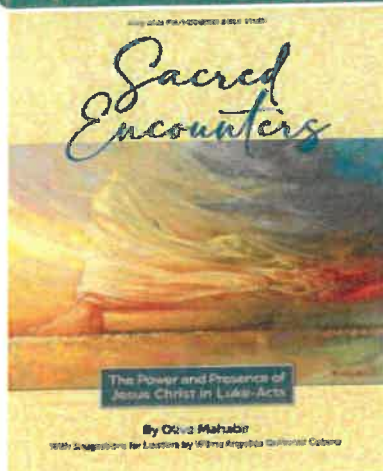
Denise Battle & Cassandra Howard - soprano, Nerissa Thompson - alto, & Rev. Veronica Thomas

Sunday, April 14, 4:00pm

"Our crowns have already been bought & paid for. All we have to do is wear them." James Baklwin

Wycliffe Presbyterian
1401 W. 17th Street, Norfolk, VA 23502

Presbyterian Women



Sacred Encounter—The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Lesson 8: Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship
 Scripture: Acts 16: 11-15
 Main Idea: Baptism connects us to God and the community of faith.

Monthly Horizon Bible Study will meet on

Tuesday, April 9 at 1pm and 6pm.

Royster PW will meet for dinner on Monday, April 8 at 5:15 PM at Mike's Pizza at 8218 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk Mark your calendar and join your sisters in faith for a fun evening. **ALL** women are invited. Please let Jill Keifer know if you will attend.

Property Committee

EXTERIOR PAINTING, INTERIOR REPAIRS STARTING
 Two contracts for maintenance/repairs have been approved by Session and awarded to contractors.

A contract to paint the exterior of the church, including the steeple; the cupola over the fellowship hall; the columns and front of the church; and the eaves and trim around the church buildings has been awarded to Azar/Old Dominion Painting. Competitive bids were received and Azar/Old Dominion was the low bidder at \$77,220. The highest quality paint will be used. The work has already started on the south end of our property as evidenced by the mobile lift. Work is expected to be completed by mid-May.

A contract to repair the ceilings in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary (by the balcony) and outside the door by the Lectern side of the church. The contract was awarded to Clarke Thrasher for \$8,106. Work is expected to be completed by the end of April. The 2024 Church Budget included \$100,000 for capital improvements including these two items of work.

The Property Ministry Team (John Keifer is the chair) has been managing these projects.

Nickel a Meal

Nickel-a-Meal Cans - please take home a can (in the narthex) for your weekly N.A.M collection. Our hope is to donate 15 cents per day from each family. That is \$1.05 per week. All this money will go back to PEVA for our local hunger ministries. Our own food pantry was the recipient of \$1,250 to use in our food pantry this year. Your Outreach Team thanks you in advance for your support!

Prayer Meeting

Prayer Meeting The bi-monthly prayer group meets in the sanctuary on the first AND third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM. Our next prayer meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 2 and 16** Please come and help us cover our pastor and our church in prayer as we seek to discern the presence of God together!



The Royster crafting group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 in the Parlor. Some of us will be crocheting but all crafts are welcome. We will meet Thursday, **April 11 and April 25** in the Parlor. Please feel free to invite any crafters you know to join us. We hope to see you there! Please contact Anna Wactor with any questions.



- Communications/CD Thursday, 04/04/2024 5:30 PM
- Worship Thursday 04/04/2024 6:00 PM
- Admin Meeting Tuesday 4/9/2024 6:00 PM
- Property Meeting Tuesday 4/9/2024 7:00 PM
- Finance Meeting Thursday 4/18/2024 6:00 PM
- Outreach TBA
- Church Growth & Development TBA
- Session Tuesday 04/23/2024 6:00 PM



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>8:50am The Gathering</p> <p>11am Worship</p>	<p>Brian Vacation</p> <p>Easter Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Lectionary Study Various k 10am Food Pantry/Annex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm RPW 5:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm British Isle Dancers 	<p>7pm 7th Day Prayer Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 6pm Old Testament Study 7pm 7th Day Sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOM Suzuki 5:30pm Communications Mtg. 6pm Worship Min. Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 	<p>7th Day/FH & Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sharon Sanctuary
<p>7</p> <p>an Vacation</p> <p>8:50am The Gathering</p> <p>10am How the Bible Works</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>12pm St. Columba Sandwiches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Lectionary Study Various k 10am Food Pantry/Annex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm PW Afternoon Circle 6pm Admin/Fin/Prop 6pm PW Evening Circle 7:15pm British Isle Dancers 	<p>10am Scherzo, Sanctuary, Annex R</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 6pm The Chosen 7pm 7th Day Sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOM Suzuki 5:30pm Craft Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 	<p>7th Day/FH & Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sharon Sanctuary
<p>14</p> <p>8:50am The Gathering</p> <p>10am How the Bible Works</p> <p>11am Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</p> <p>10am Food Pantry/Annex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm British Isle Dancers 	<p>10am Food Pantry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Old Testament Study 7pm 7th Day Sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOM Suzuki 5pm Deacons Meeting 6pm Finance Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 1pm Piano Tuning 	<p>7th Day/FH & Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sharon Sanctuary
<p>21</p> <p>8:50am The Gathering</p> <p>10am How the Bible Works</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>1pm Sharon Music</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Lectionary Study Various k 10am Food Pantry/Annex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Session Meeting 7:15pm British Isle Dancers 	<p>10am Food Pantry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm The Chosen 7pm 7th Day Sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOM Suzuki 5:30pm Craft Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 	<p>7th Day/FH & Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sharon Sanctuary 6pm British Isle Dancers ???
<p>28</p> <p>8:50am The Gathering</p> <p>10am How the Bible Works</p> <p>11am Worship</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Lectionary Study Various k 10am Food Pantry/Annex 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15pm British Isle Dancers 	<p>May 1</p> <p>First Day of Asian Pacific American H</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 6pm Old Testament Study 7pm 7th Day Sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOM Suzuki 5:30pm Communications Mtg. 6pm Worship Min. Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Food Pantry 	<p>7th Day/FH & Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am 7th Day Prayer Breakfast 9am Sharon Sanctuary

St. Columba

We will make sandwiches for St. Columba at 12:00 PM on **Sunday, April 7** Please plan to give 20-30 minutes of your time for this vital ministry that St. Columba provides to folks who come through their doors. All food items will be provided, we just need your hands!



CLOTHES CLOSET we are collecting clothing to give to the Church of the Advent to Distribute in the Ocean View area. Any type of clothing is accepted. Some of the clothing is also given to migrant workers in North Carolina. A bin for accepting the clothes is in the narthex.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you! For 75 years, your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing have helped many of our siblings around the world. With your gifts, we answer the call in Isaiah to be repairers of the breach and be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.



The Chosen

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, April 10

Study and discuss The Chosen the series with us!



2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm in Classroom 1. starting in May 2023

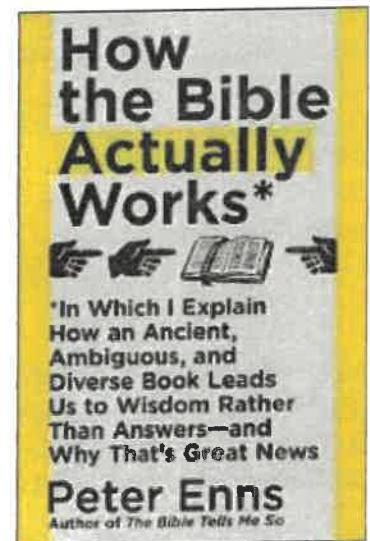
See Brian and Anna for more information

Empty Pockets

Round up for Royster, . There is a glass vase under the TV in the Narthex; please give as you are able. The session members have agreed to roll your change so anyone with a coin jar that wants to donate you have help. Donation YTD—\$317.34

Spiritual Formation

In Which I Explain How An Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Great News
 April 7 Chapter 1
 April 14 Chapter 2
 April 21 Chapter 3
 April 28 Chapter 4



April Birthdays

- Heather Sweitzer Dooley 04/05
- Cassie Howard 04/10
- Patty Pope 04/10
- Brian Gilbert 04/11
- Dave Secrest 04/11
- Bob Greene 04/14
- Neal Wright 04/17
- Jean Hedgepeth 04/20
- Bob Pope 04/20
- Brandon Frantz 04/22
- Levi Stockburger 04/25
- Rachel Tamakloe 04/27



Devotion

Spring Forward in Faith

I recently moved to an area that has seasons and it's a whole new experience for me. I've been mesmerized by the changing leaves, watching them as they shift from green to fiery reds and oranges, and just recently the trees that spent the whole winter with bare branches have sprouted small, white flowers. It's truly beautiful to watch winter melt into spring. I go outside and feel the sun bring new warmth. It's familiar but new all at once.

Isaiah 43:19 NIV says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Sometimes in order to come into a new season and spring forward in faith, we have to let go of the old season.

Isaiah 43:18 NIV says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."

One of the many lessons life teaches us is to let go. We can't hang on to past hurts, past struggles, and past relationships. And, sometimes this means we have to give ourselves time to grieve in order to move forward. We may have to let ourselves feel the loss, be sad for a little while, and talk to someone who cares. After we've grieved, we can pick ourselves up and start looking ahead once again.

As spring starts to surface and the trees begin to bloom, we can see God's reminder to align our hearts to the new thing He's doing. Let us go to prayer, asking Jesus to help us embrace all the "new" he has in store for us:

Dear Lord, Thank you for developing me into the person You want me to be. I have to admit, Jesus, that sometimes I find it hard to let go of old things even when I know they are holding me back. Help me, Lord, to truly see this spring season for what it is: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be. As flowers begin to adorn the trees once again and fresh grass rises up from the ground, renew in me the strength to let go of the past and move forward in my faith journey with You. Amen

Devotional Library from Ecard Studio

St. Columba Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner Our Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner will be held at 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. We will have a delicious barbecue dinner from Mission Barbecue, dessert from Nothing Bundt Cakes and a large selection of auction and raffle items. New this year will be a Selfie Station where you can have fun with different props and take pics of your good time! We are also thrilled to have Group Therapy back to share their beautiful music with us!

2023 Calendar Year Outcomes Served 360 Day Center clients Provided 1478 showers Gave out 860 hygiene kits Gave out 8472 sandwiches Gave out 81 laundry gift cards Distributed 297 men's clothing sets Gave food to 727 households consisting of 2292 individuals Provided 172 prescriptions to 39 homeless persons Provided 32 vouchers for homeless clients to receive dental work Provided 29 vouchers for homeless clients to receive eye exams On Average: We serve 22 persons a day in our Day Center 73% of guests to our Day Center are male 13% of guests are veterans 60 households receive food from our Food Pantry each month Our Special Ministries: Provided Easter baskets to 92 children Gave Thanksgiving food to 77 families Gave Christmas food to 37 families Provided holiday gifts to 293 clients Outcomes reflect services provided January 1 - December 31, 2023. Winter



Spiritual Formation



Old Testament

Old Testament study will resume April 17

PW Justice and Peace Calendar for April 2024

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month Ecumenical Advocacy Days; advocacydays.org
- 2 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 7 World Health Day; who.int/campaigns/world-health-day
- 8 International Romani Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day
- 22 Earth Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday
- 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide
- 24 Denim Day; denimdayinfo.org

Prayer Wraps

PW Wrap Ministry Prayer wraps will be in the Sanctuary the *first Sunday of each month*. If you know someone who may be in need of one, feel free to see Martha Ambler or Jill Keifer after the worship service.

Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, April 21st is our monthly fellowship luncheon. Join your church family after 11:00 AM worship in the fellowship hall for a delicious lunch and enjoyable company. Menu is Pollard's Chicken and sides.



Food Pantry



Food Pantry Needs: bar soap. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted.

Food Pantry News Recently the Foodbank sent out a survey regarding healthy initiatives to local agencies, and our food pantry was one that responded. They looked over all the responses and picked 3 to receive a \$5,000 grant. Royster was one of the fortunate recipients! We will use this grant for a new freezer, refrigerator, and other needed items to help store more fresh and frozen food choices.

What is TEFAP? The Emergency Food Assistance Program is coming to Royster in April. Our food pantry products will grow, and at NO added expense. Qualified participants will receive free USDA food through TEFAP, distributed by the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Our dedicated workers are ready to put in more effort to better serve our neighbors. Free feel to ask questions, stop by, or even volunteer! Thanks to all who support us in this vital ministry.

Freekind

Recently, a human trafficking survivor received some furniture, pictures, and household items from Royster. She wrote this to pass along to be shared with our church family. "I just wanted to thank you again, Donna. I really appreciate all the goodies you brought over today, and the physical labor that it took to get it all over here. I'm extremely grateful. Thank you so much. Please pass on my words of gratitude to anybody that helped you. I'm absolutely in love with my marble table. Thank you again and God bless."

Eyeglasses



Eyeglasses donation. There is a box in the Narthex to donate used eyeglasses to Lions Club of Norfolk. Please donate all your old glasses! So far Royster has donated 28 pairs of glasses and 52 glasses cases. Also, 10 USB Cords.



In Our Prayers

Prayers/Concerns: All Medical Caregivers; Carlton Bailey (nephew of Joe Perry); Cynthia Baker; Dejanique Baker (granddaughter of Cynthia Baker); Jennifer Bamman; Joliene Batcher; Paul Bentley (father of Lisa Harroff); Precious Byrd (granddaughter of Helen Byrd); Jeffrey Cain (brother of Barry Cain); Jen Cain (niece of Barry Cain); Family of Tucker Carney; Janice Cournoyer-Webster; Trisha Coulson and family; Christine Craddock, (daughter of Christie Secrest); Sharon Culbertson; Phil Davenport (friend of Jeff Spivey); Eileen Dennihan (sister-in-law of Janice Cournoyer-Webster); Michael Dooley (Heather Sweitzer Dooley's husband); Betsy Eiling (friend of Donna Dillon Stockburger); Lisa Eser (sister of Pennie Sipes); **Kathy Falconer (friend of Brenda Pendry)**; Frank and Nancy Ferebee (parents of Karin Roberts); Joan Fitch; Jackie Fricks; Carole Gelfeld (sister of Barbara Vogan); Josh Gibson (friend of Tony Mudrak); **Family of Fay Gilbert (grandmother of Brian Gilbert)**; Martha Greenwood; Ted Hannawalt; Vivian Henry, (friend of Joe Perry); Karen Mosher Herron (daughter of John & Debora Mosher); Hannah Jacka (granddaughter of Al & Annette Jacka); **Family of Al Jacka**; Pam and Bob Keiman; Janet Lassiter (Joe Perry); Bob and Sharon Lyons and family; Bob Lyons; Jimmy Lyons (brother of Bob Lyons); Justin Martin (son of Mike and Susan Dillon); Al Finnie Mcann (father of Matthias Oliver); Mike (father of McKenna and granddaughter of Kathy and Jeff); Jim McDonnell (friend of the congregation); **Family of John Mosher**; George Nchotu (husband of Mabel Nchotu); Diana Nixon and family; Matthias, Jr., Jupiter and Ryan Rey Oliver (children of Matthias Oliver); Geraldine Long Parker (friend of Carolyn Anderson); Elsie Perkins (mother of Julie Fadden); MSGT André Perry (son of Joe Perry); Anne Pinkerton (friend of Carolyn Greene); Jeanette and David Rice; Judy Rehl (mother of Brian Harroff); Danny Richardson (Joe Perry); Dr. Lesley Richardson (daughter of Anne and Don Richardson); Yulia Richardson (mother of Sophia Richardson); James Riggins (friend of Dionne Byrd); Sherry Romulus; Ron (friend of Jeff Spivey); Jacob and Emilia Sama (parents of Mabel Nchotu); Eddie Schuchhardt (son of Al Schuchhardt); June Schumacher; Christie Secrest; Rachel Secrest; family of Dorothy Smith; John and Verna Stafford; Susan (friend of Kathy Kinney); Whitney Sumner (niece of Pennie Sipes); Danny Swain (friend of Trisha Coulson); David Tigges (brother-in-law of Joe Perry); Tommy and Ralph Turner (friends of Carolyn Anderson); Ukrainian Widows in Granby House and Suburban House; Ken, Helena and Carmen Vaughn (son, wife and daughter of Ken Vaughan); Lynn Inman Whitlock (niece of Anne Richardson; Ann Wright and family.

Our Men and Women in the Military: MSGT André Perry, (Ret.) (son of Joseph Perry); Specialist Hunter Blake Stackhouse (grandson of Bob Stackhouse); AT2 Joshua Stafford (Grandson of John and Verna Stafford).

We pray for those who have lost their lives to gun violence, and we pray for strength and courage as we seek God's guidance to be part of a powerful change. We pray for racial reconciliation with our sisters and brothers. We seek community with believers from all walks of life.

2024-2026 Ministry Teams

Deacons: Class of : **Class of 2024:** Debora Mosher and Lisa Harroff. **Class of 2025:** Carolyn Anderson and Pat Miskill **Class of 2026** Mable Nchotu Pennie Sipes **Moderator:** Pat Miskill; **Secretary:** Lisa Harroff
Session Elders: Class of 2024: William Redding III, John Keifer and Wilbur Bryant. **Class of 2025:** Karin Roberts, Diana Nixon and Sharal Halcomb. **Class of 2026:** John Stafford, Thomas Ambler and Anna Wactor **Clerk of Session:** Jill Keifer.