



## 18 November 2012 Announcements

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was a true time of worship as we did the work of the church. The major results are listed on the back.

To begin the National Week of the Bible we will be dedicating the new pulpit built by Bill Warman today. We also are blessed to have Dr. Gwynn Ramsey form the Gideon's.

We need volunteers to help make the Chrismon ornaments for our tree. Pat Brads has the patterns and the materials. Please see her to get both.

The Forest Area Churches Community Thanksgiving Service will be Tuesday Nov. 20th at 7pm @ Brook Hill Wesleyan. Tom is preaching.

We will prepare and decorate our church for Advent and Christmas on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November after the morning worship service. A Hanging of the Greens service will be on the First Sunday of Advent (2 December). As the first Advent in this building, we are looking for someone who feels moved to donate an appropriate tree topper or make a donation for one, please contact Pat Brads at [patbrads@hotmail.com](mailto:patbrads@hotmail.com).

The WELL will be ringing the Salvation Army bell at the Kroger in Forest on Saturday December 15th. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryant, Pastor 434.610.9703  
The Rev. Alan Hill, Assoc. Pastor of Evangelism 434.660.7341  
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## 2013 Congregational Meeting

### Results

1. Adoption of the 2013 budget.
2. Set IRS allowance for Pastor's housing.
3. Call of the Rev. Alan Hill as Associate Pastor of Evangelism
4. Approved hosting a Boy Scout Troop #3230. Billy Layne is the Scoutmaster and the meeting night is Tuesdays.
5. \$500 dollar gifts were given to support God's Pit Crew in their relief effort in the NE and to Parkview Missions in their work in Lynchburg!

Copies of the budget and the minutes are available for any who would desire a copy. They can be found at the Welcome Center.

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## Dedication of the Pulpit

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### RATIONALE

In Evangelical churches, the tradition has been to put the **Pulpit in the center** because of the centrality of preaching and the Word as a means of grace. It is the “foolishness of preaching” that Paul points to as the means of grace God uses to redeem and instruct his people. The Pulpit is not just a utility stand for the preacher to use to hold his notes, but a **weighty visual anchor** to point to the significance of the proclaimed Word itself (which is why some churches have favored massive pulpits). In fact, some churches have a big pulpit (with Bible) in the center that is used *only* for preaching, with a smaller lectern to the side used for other readings and worship leading. This is why Pastor Tom stands away when taking prayer requests, praying, announcements, etc. This is also why Jon and the other musicians/vocalists stand to the side.

In contemporary times, we’ve seen a reduction of pulpit size generally because of our culture’s increasing emphasis on the *person* doing the preaching. We don't want our preachers hiding behind a wall. We want to see them, and connect with them as people, not just with their spoken ideas. The emphasis has the pastor-as-rock-star and the chancel becomes a stage where a performance is watched and applauded. Somewhere the permanence of the Word is lost. Dedicating this pulpit reminds us all of truth of Sola Scriptura, or Scripture Alone!

### DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

Tom Bryant

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing. We have come together to dedicate this new pulpit. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive God's Word with faith. May our blessed communion, born of one baptism and nurtured at one table of the Lord, become one in heart, mind and as soul as we dedicate this pulpit in the Spirit as we gather in love.



\*LITANY OF DEDICATION

Pastor: With heartfelt gratitude we dedicate this pulpit to the glory of God and the faithful preaching of the Word.

People: We have done this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: We have dedicated this pulpit to the glory of God, who has called us by sheer grace: to the glory of Jesus Christ who loves us and gave himself for us: and to the glory of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us.

People: We dedicate this pulpit for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and exalted; and for calling us together around the Lord's Table.

Pastor: We dedicate this pulpit for the giving of comfort to all who mourn: strength to all who are tempted; light to all who seek the way.

People: We dedicate this pulpit for the hallowing of family life; for the teaching and guiding of the young; for the pulpit up of all who believe, and the perfecting of the saints.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THIS PULPIT

Al Hill

Dear friends, rejoice that God so moved the hearts of people that this pulpit has been built for preaching, teaching, praise and prayer. Let us now dedicate it for service and celebrate its holy use.

O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, you have promised your special presence whenever two or three are assembled in your name to offer praise and prayer. By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate this pulpit of your worship. Bless us and sanctify what we will hear from behind it and may we listen with eager ears ready to promptly obey, that this place may be holy for us and a pulpit of grace for all people. Guide and empower in this place by the same Spirit the proclamation of your Word and the celebration of your Sacraments, the pouring out of prayer and the singing of your praise, professions of faith and testimonies to your grace, the joining in marriage and the celebration of death and resurrection. AMEN.