

March 27, 2024 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

One Great Hour of Sharing brings hope and healing to the most vulnerable

By Emily Enders Odom
for Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — For Shawn Duncan, it’s the little things — like getting a birthday card — that mean a lot. Duncan, a military veteran living in Las Vegas, hadn’t had a mailbox in years. Or a home. The Michigan native had been struggling for years with homelessness and mental health issues — including PTSD — when a chance encounter on Facebook with his former youth pastor changed the direction of his life.

“I hadn’t talked to him in years, but he called me and said, ‘Hey, let’s talk,’” Duncan recalled. “And we prayed. That’s when he introduced me to Caridad and Merideth.”

Caridad Gardens, a Las Vegas-based nonprofit dedicated to helping and “humanizing the homeless,” offers job skills training and mental, emotional and physical wellness programs. Its founder, Merideth Spriggs, a former youth pastor, was once homeless herself. Spriggs started the organization in San Diego not long after the university where she had been employed laid her off. As a result, she lost everything, including her home.

“I realized if homelessness could happen to me, it could happen to anybody,” said Spriggs, who moved Caridad to Las Vegas in 2013.

The street-centered V.I.P. “conciierge approach” of Caridad Gardens is made possible, in part, through a grant from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, which is in turn supported by Presbyterians’ generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Continued on p.3



OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

CLICK ON THE LOGOS



Music Notes for Easter Sunday

This Sunday, we celebrate the Risen Lord! Both the Introit and the closing hymn for Easter Sunday are set to the same text. *The Strife is O'er*, originally in *Latin*, *Finita iam sunt proelia* (Now the battle is over), was published in 1695 as part of a collection of German Jesuit hymns. Almost two hundred years later, pastor Francis Pott translated the text into English, published in 1861 in the first Anglican hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The music for the Introit was composed by Melchior Vulpius (1570-1615), who included the tune GELOBET SEI GOTT in his volume of hymns *Ein Schon Geistlich Gesangbuch* (A Beautiful Sacred Songbook), published in 1609. The stanzas for the closing hymn were set to music by Renaissance master Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594), while the music for the “Alleluia” refrain was composed by William Henry Monk (1823-1899).



Vulpius.



Fortunatus.

The anthem for Easter Sunday, *Hail, Thee, Festival Day*, marries text by Venantius Fortunatus (530-610) with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). In the early 20th century, Vaughan Williams served as the musical editor of *The English Hymnal*, published in 1906. It contained four hymns for which he wrote original music, including the tune he called SALVE FESTA DIES.

Sunday's Easter service will conclude with the final movement of the *Symphony no. 5 in f, Op. 42, no. 1*, by Charles-Marie Widor. The Toccata is the French composer's most famous piece, played at the conclusion of scores of services, from feast days to wedding ceremonies.

227th General Assembly, continued

For 75 years, its purpose of helping neighbors in need around the world has remained constant, giving the PC(USA) and other Christian denominations a tangible way to share God's love. In addition to SDOP, One Great Hour of Sharing also supports the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The Offering will be received on Easter Sunday, March 31.



Scan to donate.

Offering improves the lives and livelihoods of women in Malawi

A world away in the southeast African country of Malawi, women like Tinenenji Kalamba also place a high emphasis on community, a guiding principle behind the Women's Bakery and Value Addition Centre. The program is a project of Kasupe Ministries, a registered nongovernmental organization in Malawi.

Kasupe was originally designed to address the shortage of nutritious and healthy foods in the Kasupe region by having women produce and sell a variety of baked goods and farm products. The bakery not only employed local women as bakers, but — before Tropical Cyclone Freddy struck in March 2023 — also bolstered the production of farmers and strengthened the economy. Kasupe Ministries in Malawi has launched community-based projects including the Women's Bakery and Value Addition Centre. (Contributed photo)

Kalamba was proving to be an exemplary leader when the devastating storm washed away the lives and livelihoods of thousands. This wasn't the hopeful future that the twice-widowed 42-year-old had pictured for herself when the bakery was first started in 2022 with funding support from the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Although Kalamba dropped out of school at the age of 12, she is widely acknowledged as the business-savvy woman behind the bakery's success. "I desperately wanted to lead," she said. "I noticed that this project had potential, and I wanted to be at the forefront. I can't lie; I also wanted to benefit since I thought I needed more of the money than the rest."

Kalamba is HIV-positive, requiring a regimen of antiretrovirals, which are not always available at no cost. She also has nine mouths to feed — herself, her four children, their two children, as well as two grandchildren from her late sister. She works to give them a better life.

"I want to make sure that my children go farther with school," she said. "I dream of them going to college, and I tell them never to be like me when it comes to the issues of school. I teach them to work hard, fear God and always face challenges head-on."

It is thanks to Kalamba's faithful leadership that the bakery operation survived the cyclone. And it is thanks to a grant from the PHP, made possible by Presbyterians' generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, that the humanitarian outreach of Kasupe Ministries can continue uninterrupted.

Valéry Nodem, PHP's associate for International Hunger Concerns, said that in the years he has worked with Kasupe, he is "always amazed at how much they can do with so little. What's unique about Kasupe is their approach, especially the way they relate to the community," Nodem said. "They are grassroots, not top down. They go out into the communities and find out what they need. Even if they don't have the money right away, they start the programs. They're making a big impact with what they have."

Although the rebuilding process after the cyclone has been hard for people in the villages, the women like Kalamba are still able not only to survive, but also to thrive in this hostile environment.

"Kalamba stands tall to be counted not just as a participant in community life, but as a leader," said Padoko.

Maundy Thursday

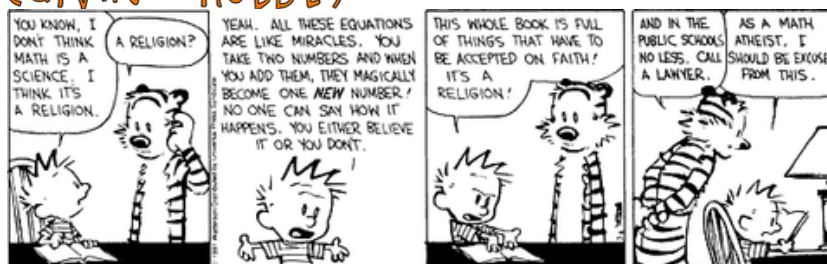


at FPC

Join us for a simple meal
and Communion, March 28, noon.



calvin and hobbes



This Week in History.

CARNEGIE = STEEL CO =

The Carnegie Steel Company is incorporated in New Jersey. Its capitalization of \$160 million is the largest to date.

March 24, 1900



The Vancouver Millionaires of the the Pacific Coast Hockey Association defeat the Ottawa Senators of National Hockey Association to win the Stanley Cup.

March 26, 1915



An Armstrong Whitworth Argosy II operated by Imperial Airways is lost after a passenger sets a fire on board.

March 28, 1933



The Italian city of Venice is founded with the dedication of the first church, that of San Giacomo di Rialto on the islet of Rialto.

March 25, 421



President Andrew Johnson vetoes the Civil Rights Act of 1866. His veto is overridden by Congress and the bill passes into law on April 9.

March 27, 1866



Congress authorizes construction of the first federal highway, the Great National Pike, better known as the National Road. When completed in the 1830s, it became the second U.S. road to use the process pioneered by Scotsman John Loudon McAdam, which employed crushed stones compacted with a binder to create rudimentary pavement.

March 29, 1806

1867 – Alaska is purchased from Russia for \$7.2 million, about two cents/acre (\$4.19/km²), by United States Secretary of State William H. Seward.

March 30, 1801