



## Dear Lamb Family,

I am grateful for all God has given us as a church, especially the unity He has given us in worshiping and following Him. I'm eager to see how he leads us in 2023. I am praying especially that we will continue to grow in our mission, abiding in Him as his disciples: invited to rest and compelled to love. I pray that our Sundays in worship, the work we all do in His service during the week, and our gatherings outside of Sunday mornings, will converge to make us deeper disciples of Christ. I pray too that the love of God would overflow from our life together, touching the lives of people who need Him.

Most of you know that my family and I are taking a sabbatical this Summer from May to July. I am thankful to the Vestry and to you for supporting this time for rest and spiritual rejuvenation. While it's strange to say, I find that taking time to rest is an act of faith. If my rest is not to be accompanied by anxiety, I have to believe that God is working while I rest, and He will care better than I can for the myriad things I worry over.



I am praying that God will bless our church in a surprising way leading up to, during, and following our sabbatical. Please pray with me for this. One of my prayers has already been answered. I prayed that God would provide consistent pastoral support while I am away. God has provided this in a better way than I could have imagined. Ben Sharpe, a pastor in our Diocese, is transitioning out of his role as rector at Christ Church in Winston Salem, NC. He has been pastor at Christ Church for about 15 years and is shifting into a missionary role in our Diocese, helping plant new churches in West Virginia.

While I am away, Ben will be in town most weeks from Thursday to Sunday and will be available to serve you as pastor. Some weeks his wife, Lisa, will be with him. I hope you will get to know them. Please think about inviting them to your home for a meal.

Ben will worship with us the first Sunday in February so that you can begin getting to know him. Thank you for your prayers and the many other ways you support the worship and ministry of Lamb.

Merry Christmas!

*Kevin*

Kevin Whitfield, Rector  
With Katie, Samuel, Charlie, Evangeline, and Lucy



*Rev. Dr. Ben Sharpe will support Church of the Lamb from May through July while the Whitfields are on Sabbatical.*

## January Events

1— First Men's Ministry Gathering  
They will meet on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 pm at Dan Velker's place: 3217 River Rd, Elkton.  
Contact dan@vacab.com.

6— Epiphany Mystery Dinners  
Contact zoe@churchofthelamb.org.

8— Baptism Sunday  
Contact Kevin to be included.

11 and 12— Spring Parish Groups begin. Details inside newsletter.

15— *To Be A Christian* course, our 5-week intro to Anglicanism and to Church of the Lamb, begins.  
Contact Kevin@churchofthelamb.org.



Next Work Day:  
April 22, 2023  
beginning at 9am

*Big Thanks!  
to Joe Martin, Jed Pascarella  
and Larry Ayers for the  
countless hours they have  
spent working on the the land  
and the barn.*



## Land Updates



A great deal has been happening at the Church Property this autumn, and the Land Team is gearing up for new developments in 2023. Here's some of what's been happening.

### Finishing the Fence

Alec Bauserman and a team of folks completed the electric fencing on the back half of the property, and the front half should be done soon. This will let us begin to add animals to our property to help restore it and to make it productive.

### We're Getting Animals

Speaking of animals, Church of the Lamb has partnered with a local farmer to graze cattle on the back half of the property, and we've been given some sheep too! The sheep will arrive as soon as we acquire a Great Pyrenees guard dog to protect them. We're also hoping to add meat chickens this summer, which will be rotationally grazed to restore the soil, clear weeds, and consume insects.

### Barn Renovations

The youth of Church of the Lamb and their workers have been working to renovate the barn into a space for social gatherings and parties. It will offer a covered area to protect us from wind and sun. It will also have pavers inside for a lovely space to sit and gather. We hope it's ready by the spring!

### Plotting an Orchard

Joe Martin and Jed Pascarella are helping to lay out an orchard to be placed at the southwest corner of the property (the front right as you enter the driveway). That area could support up to 60 fruit trees, or we could add other fruiting bushes (blueberries?) there. An orchard there would be beautiful to passers-by, provide some sound and visual barrier from the road, and would best utilize that hilly terrain.

### Tree Consultations

The Land Team consulted with Silver Run Forest Farm to develop a plan for planting other native trees on the property to protect the soil from erosion, provide shade, encourage wildlife, and direct visitors on pathways. We intend to plant additional trees along the creek during the spring workday.

### Farm Implements

We've got some tools to work the property! We now have access to a farm truck, a tractor with a bucket, and a zero-turn mower. These tools will help so much as we tend our land.

Thanks so much to all who have labored to make the land beautiful—a fitting home for our parish. Let me know if you'd like to pitch in!

*Ora et labora (pray and work),*

Daniel Zimmerman, Abide Project Director  
[daniel@churchofthelamb.org](mailto:daniel@churchofthelamb.org)



# Spring Parish Groups

## Current Groups

### Elkton

Home of Stephen & Leah Napotnik  
351 River Road Road, Elkton  
Thursdays, 6 p.m.  
Led by Leah Napotnik and John Hay  
Contact: [napotnik@verizon.net](mailto:napotnik@verizon.net)  
*Studying the book of Hebrews*

### Downtown Harrisonburg

Home of Ed & Ginny Kasch  
83 Maplehurst Avenue, Harrisonburg  
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.  
Led by Sam and Susanna Casteel  
Contact: [susanna.sewal@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.sewal@gmail.com)  
*Learning how to create a rule of life when you work a job*

### Crossroads Farm

Hosted and Led by Joe & LaVonne Martin  
240 Claremont Avenue, Rockingham  
Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.  
Contact Lavonne at  
[ldkmartin@comcast.net](mailto:ldkmartin@comcast.net)  
*Studying the book of James*  
*This group is currently at capacity.*

### North Harrisonburg

Home of Evan & Natalie Bowen  
1209 Old Windmill Cir, Apt A,  
Harrisonburg  
Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.  
Led by Katrina Didot. Contact her at  
[abowlofgood@gmail.com](mailto:abowlofgood@gmail.com).  
*Continuing through Scazzero's book*  
*Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*

## New group beginning January 11

### Lakewood

Home of Thomas and Gail Hayes  
3041 Lakewood Drive  
Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.  
Led by Scott Hansen.  
Contact him at  
[sth1norlander@gmail.com](mailto:sth1norlander@gmail.com).  
*Studying the book of Hebrews*



*The Downtown Harrisonburg Group consists of folks who all come to their Wednesday night meeting straight from work. They solved the dinner conundrum by having everyone bring their own dinner but still eat off of Ginny's fancy plates. It was the perfect solution for this group who wanted to eat together, but did not have time to cook. Notice Chris's sushi? Bougie!*

## Welcoming new members:

*Stefan and Rachel Novosel,  
Silas, Forrest, and Ada*



We are so thankful to be a part of the family here at Lamb! We moved from St. Louis, Missouri at the beginning of May pursuing a long-time dream to have a small farm in the mountains. Rachel having family in West Virginia and growing up mostly in Roanoke, led us to look around the Appalachians. The Lord provided a job for Stefan as an architect designing custom homes with The Stratford Companies, bringing us to Harrisonburg.

Recently, the Lord graciously blessed us with a beautiful little farm near Broadway. Rachel stays at home with our three children, Silas (6), Forrest (4), and Ada (2), as well as our new farm critters. We enjoy being outside, walks along the creek, pictures and photo albums, craft beer, reading books, digging in the dirt, playing trucks, building out of legos, magna-tiles, etc., riding bikes, and curling up by the fire.

Church of the Lamb was so welcoming to us when we first visited and folks went above and beyond the basic meet and greet of a typical church. We love that the congregation is multi-generational, and it felt like our whole family was welcomed with open arms. Though we are new to Anglicanism, Lamb quickly felt like home to us. You all have been a true blessing to our family and an integral part of us quickly feeling rooted in this new place.

Contact Zoe Hansen, Director of Spiritual Formation, for more info.  
[zoe@churchofthelamb.org](mailto:zoe@churchofthelamb.org)



# The Yellow Porch

by Zoe Hansen



Check out our updated online directory at [churchofthelamb.org/breeze](http://churchofthelamb.org/breeze) with a bunch of portraits that Ernie Didot was able to snag at our Annual Party. Thanks Ernie!



Not only did the Land Team get a lot of support on our Fall work day, but the children's ministry got a boost too. Thank you to all those who helped prepare Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources for our kids!



Church of the Lamb

(540) 713-8770

The yellow porch is more than a covered concrete area attached to the back of Ernie and Katrina's sunshiney-hued College Street house. It is a gathering place. For many years, the Didot family has welcomed friends, neighbors, small groups, co-workers, immigrants, and strangers to feast on excellent hospitality in this warm oasis in the middle of a bustling Harrisonburg neighborhood. But in recent months, the "Yellow Porch" has also served as a moniker for a group of aspiring artists who gather there periodically to show their latest creations and encourage each other in their work.

Similar in concept to C.S. Lewis's group "the Inklings", fellow academics who gathered to read excerpts from their latest writing projects, Yellow Porch attendees bring a sample of their latest work to share with the group. A big difference, however, is the variety of kinds of art represented. There never seem to be any two people representing the same art form. There is songwriting, music, painting, drawing, leather-work, poetry, jewelry, dancing, and more represented. Most of these artists are never going to have their own art show or concert or make any money from their creativity. But they crave a reason to create as they are inspired, and so give each other the gift of an appreciative audience.

Each gathering begins with a carefully planned meal, which itself is a work of art. Then someone leads with a devotional time that highlights the creativity of the original

Creator and how we are joyfully invited to co-create with Him. Then each person is given a few minutes to show (or perform) what they brought and receive appropriate appreciation and positive criticism.

The best part for many participants is that the Yellow Porch gatherings give them an incentive and a goal date to create something. They have taken nebulous ideas and concretized them at last. With each passing gathering, they grow in confidence and skill.

Do you have a creative skill that you would like to hone and share? Contact Ernie Didot ([ernie@didot.org](mailto:ernie@didot.org)) to find out how you can get involved.

Next Gathering: January 20, 2023

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Art is a reflection of God's creativity, an evidence that we are made in the image of God.

Francis Schaeffer

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362 Indian Trail Road, Penn Laird, VA | [www.churchofthelamb.org](http://www.churchofthelamb.org)