

Haymarket Herald

December 2025



The Gospel of Mark

Give Your Church a Christmas Present This Year!

This year I am asking each member of the church to give your church a Christmas present during the season of Advent. Additionally, I am being so bold as to suggest four possible gifts, though only asking each of you to give one of the four gifts. Each gift requires a bit of a sacrifice on your part—but the most meaningful gifts often do require a sacrifice by the giver.

Here are the four gifts I hope you will consider giving this year:

Gift #1—On Sunday, December 14, the Sunday of our Choir Christmas Cantata, park your car on the grassy portion of our parking lot. This will free up a paved parking space for one of the many dozens of guests who will worship with us that Sunday. They will appreciate your generosity!

Gift #2—On Sunday, December 14, sit in the Fellowship Hall and watch the Choir Christmas Cantata on the big 86” screen TV. This will free up a seat in the sanctuary for our guests to enjoy the choir’s presentation of the birth of Jesus.

Gift #3—For the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, park your car on the grassy area at the back of our parking lot. Last year, 135 people attended our Christmas Eve service, and they came in nearly 100 cars, which is more cars than can fit in our paved spaces. If 20 or 25 members park their cars in the grassy area, you will free up paved spaces so our guests can have those spaces.

Gift #4—Sit in the Fellowship Hall to watch the Christmas Eve service on the 86” TV. I know this is not as enjoyable as sitting in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, but it is a sacrifice that you can make to allow one of our guests to have your seat in the sanctuary. I believe Jesus Christ will be pleased with any of these four gifts, which each require you to make a sacrifice to bless your neighbor.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



Musings from A Musician's Perspective

Grace and peace to you in this blessed Advent and Christmas season!

As we enter December, our hearts turn again toward the miracle of Christ's coming—God stepping into our world with hope, light, and redemption. This season invites us to slow down, to listen more deeply, and to make room for the One who still comes to us in surprising and beautiful ways.

In our worship and music ministries, December is always a time of joyful preparation. Our choir, musicians, and ministers team have been prayerfully rehearsing, not simply to present beautiful music, but to help create a sacred space where all of us can encounter the presence of Christ. On December 14th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, our choir along with many other voices, including our Young Musicians, will join for a special Cantata. I am deeply grateful for their dedication and their desire to serve God with excellence and humility. I pray that our voices will speak to each of you during this time of reflecting on God's precious gift to us.

This month, you'll notice that our services are intentionally shaped around themes of anticipation, reflection, and celebration. Whether through familiar carols, Scripture readings, candlelight, or moments of quiet prayer, each gathering is designed to help us step out of the noise of the season and into the wonder of Emmanuel—"God with us."

I want to encourage all of us to treat this month not just as a busy holiday stretch, but as a spiritual journey. If you feel weary, ask the Lord to restore your joy. If you feel rushed, carve out moments of stillness. If you feel grateful, express that gratitude through acts of kindness and worship. Advent

reminds us that Christ comes to those who are watching, waiting, and hoping.

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you. It is an honor to minister in a church where hearts are open, faith is growing, and God is at work. May this season fill your home with peace, your heart with worship, and your life with the light of Christ.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas,

Pastor John



DEACON'S BENCH

The Greatest Gift: Jesus, Our Hope and Savior

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and
the government
will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one
and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but
have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

As we enter the month of December, a time filled with traditions, decorating, shopping, baking, cooking, gatherings with family and friends, and anticipation, let us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Let us remember that Christmas is more than just a holiday on the calendar

or a series of traditions; it is a time to honor and celebrate the greatest gift God has given us: His Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we receive the Gift of Salvation. Amid the hustle and bustle of the season, let us hold on to this truth and embrace both the joy and the significance of this special time.

I love hearing the story of Jesus' birth and all the familiar Bible verses we've come to cherish over the years, but the birth of Jesus is more than just a story we retell each December; it is also the story of redemption. Through God's mercy and grace, our Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save us, forgive our sins, and restore our relationship with God. Jesus invites us to repent, believe, and follow Him. We find peace by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior and nurturing a personal relationship with Him. When we focus on the Lord and seek His guidance every day, we can trust that He is always with us, no matter the challenges we face. What a wonderful feeling it is to know Jesus is always with us and that we don't need to be anxious or worried because God is always in control.

As our faith and personal relationship with Jesus grow, we learn that Jesus taught us to live by serving others, showing compassion, and trusting and obeying God. Jesus summed it up when He was asked, *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"* Jesus replied, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is: Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39) Imagine how wonderful the world we live in today would be if everyone followed these two commandments!

So, as we celebrate Christmas this year and exchange gifts with loved ones, let us take a moment to pause and remember that the greatest gift we have ever received is God's gift of His Son, Jesus. Let us reflect and embrace the true meaning of the Christmas season: Jesus Christ is the One who brings hope, peace, and salvation to the world. Let us live with grateful hearts, share Jesus' love with others, and keep our eyes on Him, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the

joy and peace of Christ fill your heart and home this season, and always.

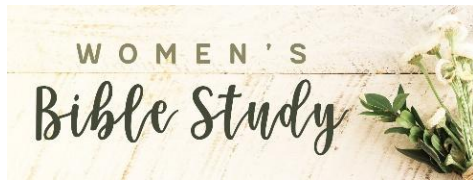
Karen King
Deacon of the Month



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 3	Robert Hickey
	Grace Payne
December 5	Betty Jean Payne
	Charles Riddle
December 7	Kai Cain
December 14	Carol Valentine
December 15	Susan Kaczmarek
December 16	Sherri Busick
December 17	Jay Mbeumo
December 20	Laurie Frasz
	Lisa Osborne
	Jake Wisor
December 22	Jim Jinks
	Lynda McVearry
December 25	Lowell Parkes
December 27	Bob Coffey
	Mason Elkins
December 28	Edith Kennedy
December 30	Robert Foster
	Jaime Larios





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Christmas season is fast approaching! Hope you and your family enjoyed Thanksgiving.

As we turn our thoughts to Christmas, may we first remember the reason for the season. The greatest gift we have been given – the gift of God's Son, Jesus.

Our Bible Study group will celebrate with our Annual Christmas Party at Jackie Fletcher's home in Warrenton. Jackie has been so gracious to host again this year. We will enjoy a delicious luncheon, fun times together, and have a Christmas exchange. Please let me or Jackie know if you plan to attend and sign up to bring a dish.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to all!
Bernie



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Women's Bible Study annual Christmas Party will be held on **Monday, December 15th at 11:30am** at Jackie Fletcher's home. Please sign-up and bring a dish (see Bernie). And, please bring an item (\$20) limit to play in the Christmas exchange.

There will be NO class that Monday so plan on

meeting at Jackie's house at the address below –
7588 Coopers Hawk Drive
Warrenton, VA
(540) 422-6196

There will also be NO class on Monday, December 22nd, but we will be meeting on Monday, December 29th.

Bernie Pearson



SEASON OF GIVING – JOY (JESUS, OTHERS AND YOU)

It is hard for me to realize we are entering the holiday season! Yet, as I look around our church, I see evidence that reminds me that gifts are being brought in already.

Tables are filling up with food items to be shared with those in our community who are struggling to put food on the tables this Thanksgiving, Christmas and even non-holiday days. Perhaps, you have thought about inviting an extra person or two to your table to enjoy the day.

Red and Green shoe boxes are being filled with items for children in all parts of the world. They will be waiting to see if they have a new toy, a game or puzzle, a new shirt or maybe a stuffed animal. Last month we collected new socks for all ages to give to needed school children in the county school system.

The Angel Tree is up with items wanted for children to help make their Christmas merry and bright. Take an Angel, fill the request, wrap it up and put it under the tree.

These are wonderful ways to put our faith and gratitude into action for what God has given us and to serve others. God's grace works! He calls us! We step out in obedience and He empowers us to use our gifts to help and serve others.

I used the word JOY in the beginning. We have covered the O (others) and the Y (you) and your giving to others. The first letter is J (JESUS). I pray we, as a community of believers, will begin the holiday season remembering that God gave us the ultimate gift – His Son Jesus. May we bring our tithes and offerings to Him consistently here at HBC to support God's work here and to help bring others to know Christ. Bring the firstfruits to Jesus. We are Stewards NOT Owners!

Bernice Pearson
Stewardship Committee Member



FOOD BASKET NEEDS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas we will provide Food Baskets for those in our community needing assistance. Please leave your donated items on the tables in the Overflow Room by **Wednesday, December 17th**.

Listed below are the food items that we need. **Please** do not donate items that are not listed. **Please** do not donate expired items.

- Boxes of Instant Mashed Potato Mixes
- Stuffing Mix
- Turkey Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Black-Eyed Peas

- Rice
- Canned Chicken and Tuna
- Macaroni and Cheese Mixes
- Soup
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Pasta such as Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Beefaroni, Regular and Individual Servings
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly, Regular and Sugar Free
- Hot and Cold Breakfast Cereal for Adults and Children
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Cake Mixes and Frosting
- Gelatin and Pudding Mixes, Regular and Sugar-Free
- Juices and Juice Boxes, Regular and Sugar-Free
- Canned Fruits and Fruit Cups, Regular and Sugar-Free



HAYMARKET HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Outreach Committee will once again have a table at the Haymarket Christmas Craft Bazaar. The event will take place on **Saturday, December 13th from 2:00 – 6:00pm**. Please stop by the HBC table and help us greet some of our neighbors in Haymarket. We can always use extra hands to help with the children's craft, too. It is always a fun event to attend, and it lets the community know of the wonderful Christmas events we have at HBC! If you can help or have any questions, please reach out to Wanda Leap, Chair of the Outreach Committee at (703) 727-0319.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks so much to everyone who filled shoe boxes this year. As a church, **HBC donated 76 shoe boxes.** The **HBC Preschool and Kindergarten filled 121 boxes.** Thanks also to those who assisted in loading the shoe boxes on November 17 and 22/23 in cars to be taken to the local collection point. A special thanks to Dan Valentine who helped transport the shoe boxes both times. Please be sure to pray for your boxes as they make their way around the world. They make a great impact on the children who receive them as well as their families.

Paul Sellers
Missions Committee



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Are you looking to do some Christmas shopping or enjoy an evening out? If so, don't miss our **Parents' Night Out** on **Friday, December 5th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Drop your children off for an evening of fun. While you enjoy a night out, your kids will enjoy pizza, drinks, crafts, music, and a movie. This event is **FREE**, but please **RSVP**, so we can make sure we have enough pizza and craft supplies.

Looking ahead to January, we will host **Game Night** on **Friday, January 23rd from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Mark your calendars – you won't want your family to miss it! More details will be shared in January!



WORSHIP FROM HOME

Are you unable to make it to church because of illness, transportation, or something else? Are you aware that every Saturday we email the bulletin and prayer requests to everyone and supply a link so that you can watch the service from home on your computer or phone?

If you aren't receiving the email, please contact the church office at (703) 754-8546, so that we can add you to our email list.

If you are unable to attend and would prefer a paper copy of the bulletin each week, please call the office and we would be happy to mail one to you.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Is your church directory outdated or are you new to the church? If you would like a digital copy or papercopy of the church directory, please email Laura in the church office at laura@my-hbc.org and she will provide you with the latest version.



JAMAICA LINK MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING

Traditionally at Christmas, members have been afforded the opportunity to donate to an international mission effort. As you know, we have been talking about the devastation in Jamaica from Hurricane Melissa and encouraging members to donate to *Jamaica Link* (<https://www.jamaicalink.org/>), an organization that facilitates Christian endeavors in Jamaica. This year we will provide funds donated by members and friends to Jamaica Link to use for hurricane relief. The information that follows comes from the *Jamaica Link* web site:

“Hurricane Relief for Jamaica”

At *Jamaica Link* ministries we come alongside many different organizations and churches to help them be successful in Jamaica.

All of these organizations have been severely damaged by the hurricane.

We are raising money to help rebuild these churches and organizations. Here is a list of some of the places in need –

Fairview Bible College
Fairhaven Ministry Center
Uprising City Church
Hillview Baptist
Faith Baptist
Black River Baptist
Nightengale Grove Church
Mount Stewart Church
McField Baptist
Rosemount Missionary
Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf
(<https://jcsdeaf.org/>)
Westhaven Home for the Disabled
Chance Rehab

Our goal is to raise money to help them rebuild and to assist to families involved in these ministries and those who they are ministering to.

This is a tangible way that you can impact people who desperately need help through your generosity.

Thank you for your support and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you for partnering with us to minister in this way. This helps us be the hands and feet of Jesus.

At the **Wednesday night Bible Study on December 3rd**, Mrs. Laurie Frasz, our Haymarket Baptist Church Preschool and Kindergarten (HBCPK) Director will share first-hand experiences in working with *Jamaica Link* and the preschools that HBCPK has helped establish in Jamaica. Note also, that there is a Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf that *Jamaica Link* supports.

Missions Committee





HBCPK PARTNERS WITH HBC TO AID JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF

Following the tremendous devastation to Jamaica from Hurricane Melissa, HBCPK (our preschool) was quick to want to help. The schools and communities they have worked with and supported over the past 12 years were some of the most seriously damaged! The preschool works with an organization called *Jamaica Link Ministries* in Montego Bay, with the organization president, Pastor Dave Falconer. This Christian organization works with groups in the US to link with organizations in Jamaica that need help. College kids, youth groups, teachers, church groups – all kinds of groups organize a trip to Jamaica and get set up with something that interests them – an orphanage, a disabled children's home, impoverished preschools, Baptist Bible College, old folks home, school for the deaf, etc.

One of the preschools that our preschool (HBCPK) supports is in the mountains about 1.5 hours from Montego Bay – it is very remote. The preschool there is destroyed. HBCPK put a lot of work into that school, so it is very sad to us...the elementary school next door, also was very damaged...but the community surrounding the schools were absolutely destroyed. They have no power, no water, no shelter, no food, no work...crops destroyed, farm animals didn't make it and it is so remote – no one has come to help as of yet. The other school, which is in a very impoverished area outside of Montego Bay called Flanker also sustained much damage, lost its water tank and the playground was severely damaged.

Mrs. Frasz learned of a container being packed for Montego Bay in Raleigh, NC and found out that others from *Jamaica Link Ministries* were working to fill it. After contacting the right people, HBCPK was informed that there was room in the container to help this area in the mountains called Cornwall Mountain. So, an effort began to collect food, medicine, tarps, hygiene items, first aid materials and clothing. The preschool parents at HBCPK donated in big ways financially, from an Amazon wish list, a signup genius and giving us gently used clothing. Volunteer staff and parents helped pack up 28 large heavy duty moving boxes and Mr. and Mrs. Frasz, along with a preschool dad took 2 vehicles to Angier, NC (near Raleigh) to begin their journey to desperately needy people. The container, projected to arrive on Monday, November 24th, will be offloaded at Fairhaven (JLM Pastor Dave's ministry place and now a relief center) and a team including Americans will oversee the unloading and distribution. The items for the schools are packed and labeled and a small truck is at the ready to take the things up the mountain! Once at the school, JLM will assess the damage to see what else we can do to support this remote community – an elementary school with bad roof damage and a preschool with the entire roof gone.

Mr. and Mrs. Frasz plan to travel to Jamaica in January, in conjunction with HBC's commitment to assist. The plan will be to purchase needed fresh water tanks for both schools and pay to have them filled. We will also grocery shop for needed food and health items and plan to give some financial 'love' to the school teachers who have been without pay this entire time. If we have enough money to do some minor repairs, we will do this as well or hire local craftsmen for things like doors, floors and windows. We will be assessing the damage to the interior of the school in Flanker to see what needs to be replaced or fixed due to damage. The school on Cornwall Mountain, as well as the surrounding community, has been told they will likely not get power back for 1 year. The local pastor and his wife (Dave and Nadine Falconer) have also sustained much damage to Fairhaven (the place that organizations and teams come to serve and stay) – so if we can help this amazing couple get their ministry back up and running, it would be a blessing to the future teams that come down to help.

The preschool working together with the church is such a significant blessing and we are so grateful to come together in the midst of such a disaster. If we think about not having power, water, food or shelter...a job, crops or lost livestock – the physical and emotional toll would be overwhelming. In the middle of it all – Pastor Dave's little church had 10 people show up that Sunday after the hurricane and met in a little alcove of the damaged church and sang 'It is well...with my soul...it is well, it is well...with my soul'. To sing praise to the Lord, literally in the storm – what a powerful and resilient message to us all!

Thank you for all you might consider doing to help all these children, their schools, the needs of *Jamaica Link Ministries* as they serve other impacted churches and homes, and a pastor, too!

With much appreciation,
Laurie Frasz, HBCPK Director and Paul Sellers,
Missions Committee



PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Hi Church Family,
Merry Christmas to all of you from your preschool! We've had such a blessed month, blessing others and celebrating the Thanksgiving season! We enjoyed participating in "socktoberfest" with many

parents participating in filling the box in the foyer. We also were thrilled to support the Thanksgiving boxes this year with the parents from our 2's and 3 yr old classes donating 261 items for this meaningful tradition. Not to be outdone, our 4 yr old students participated with the church mission of Operation Christmas Child and we are happy to report that we added 121 shoeboxes to the church's giving this year. Our kindergarten students had a special chapel about Lottie Moon, as they study China this time of year. The children will be doing chores at home to earn money for their mission project too! Our Thanksgiving Programs were a big success – with the children presenting many Christian songs about having a grateful heart, shining the light of Jesus to others and singing praises to the Lord for all the goodness in our lives. Every teacher did some kind of 'thankful for' activity. We enjoyed a Friendship Salad, a Fingerful Feast and a Corn Party – because little kids just love a celebration! We celebrated some dads on November 24th, too!

Upcoming, we have Christmas programs to practice for, we have gingerbread house construction and a pajama party...and in between all the festivities – we are doing lots of learning of Bible Lessons, letters, sounds, intro to reading, math concepts, science experiments, fitness classes and arts/crafts! Our kindergarten students are singing at the Haymarket Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 13th at 2:45pm. We all look forward to the Live Nativity each year – so that is on many school family calendars, too!

Registration for next school year begins Monday, January 26th for current families and Wednesday, January 28th for new families – both at 7:00am online. We have an open house on Saturday, January 24th at 10:00am if you know any families that might be interested.

Have a blessed Christmas season, celebrating our Savior's birth!

With love,
Mrs. Laurie Frasz
HBCPK Director





YOUTH RETREAT—TESTIMONIALS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div>December 2025</div>						
1 10:00 Women's Bible Study ^H 6:00 2025 Calendar Meeting ^H 7:00 Church Council ^H	2 3:00 Advanced ASL Class	3 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:00 Children's Choir 7:00 Cantata Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Adult Choir	4	5	6 8:30 Men's Bible Study	
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Deacon Meeting 9:30 Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:45 Praising Hands Class 11:00 Worship ^H – Dr. Olson 11:15 Children's Worship 3:00 Service of Remembrance 5:00 Youth Group	8 10:00 Women's Bible Study ^H	9 3:00 Advanced ASL Class 6:30 Stewardship Meeting ²	10 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:00 ASL Class 6:00 Children's Choir 7:00 Cantata Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Adult Choir	11	12	13 8:30 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Haymarket Holiday Bazaar and Tree Lighting
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:45 Praising Hands Class 11:00 Worship with Christmas Cantata ^H – Dr. Olson 11:15 Children's Worship 5:00 Youth Group	15 10:00 Women's Bible Study ^H	16 3:00 Advanced ASL Class	17 5:30 Living Nativity Petting Zoo 6:30 Living Nativity Live Performance	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 8:30 Men's Bible Study
21 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:45 Praising Hands Class 11:00 Worship ^H – Dr. Olson 11:15 Children's Worship	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:30 Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:45 Praising Hands Class 11:00 Worship ^H – Dr. Olson 11:15 Children's Worship	29 10:00 Women's Bible Study ^H	30	31 New Year's Eve	Key to Abbreviations Z – Zoom H– Hybrid (Zoom & In Person)		

SERVING THE LORD THROUGH THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER 2025

DATE	SECURITY OFFICERS	CHURCH GREETERS	USHERS	CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS	CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TEACHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	FLOWER COMMITTEE
Dec 7	Joseph Coppage	9:15am Wanda Leap 10:15am Bernice Pearson Ernestine Meyer	Brad Young (captain) Dan Valentine Wayne Pritchler Chris Shaltis	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Karen King <u>Youth</u> Vicki Bayol Drew Blincoe	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Sarah Atkinson Ernestine Meyer JAM Jed Atkinson Susan Kaczmarek	Heather Bayol Diane Weaver	Karen Frazier
Dec 14	Randy Anderson	9:15am Sheila Major 10:15am Linda Olson Kendall Frazier	Keenan Bayol (captain) Johnno Cain Susan Kaczmarek	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Leslie Pritchler <u>Youth</u> Vicki Bayol Johnno Cain	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Joannie Duckett Amber Terrant JAM Christy Wisor Kristin Olson	Heather Bayol Wanda Leap	Bernice Pearson
Dec 21	Joseph Coppage	9:15am Brenda Sellers 10:15am Linda Hankey Shannon Barham	Keenan Bayol (captain) Bob Coffey Jed Atkinson	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Sarah Atkinson <u>Youth</u> Vicki Bayol Drew Blincoe	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Brenda Sellers Aranka Montoro JAM Karen King Dinah Thompson	Heather Bayol Beryl Rabindran	Joannie Duckett
Dec 28	Joseph Coppage	9:15am John Burke 10:15am Sarah Atkinson Jed Atkinson	Jason Hudson (captain) Paul Sellers Karen King Keith Bishton	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Linda Hankey <u>Youth</u> Vicki Bayol Kathy Kennedy	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Johnno Cain Kathy Kennedy JAM Taylor Crickenberger Kris Crickenberger	Heather Bayol Ernestine Meyers	Cheryl Cox

DEACON OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER: Karen King (703) 795-9127

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