

# Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

## May 2021

### Pastor's Corner

Pastors Corner

Grace to you and peace!

What a beautiful service we all shared together on Sunday to mark the end of one season and the beginning of something new. Many of you probably don't know, but just about every time I went to Mitchells, I would take out my camera and snap a few photos. It just seemed that every time I was there the church or the surrounding grounds would look just a little different. Spring newness; rich Summer light; gorgeous Fall colors; or crisp Winter cold; the lighting always brought out something new; something that I had not seen before.



It became my obsession and it is a perfect metaphor for my time with you all because each time I would meet and visit with one of you, whether in person or on Zoom, or on the phone, I would see or hear something in a new and different light that I was able to capture, not with a camera but with my heart. Needless to say, you all made a lasting impact on me and for that I am eternally grateful.

The painting of Mitchells church was a perfect gift that we will cherish forever. Like I said on Sunday, Paul's words are TRULY our words as Tracie and I start our new season of adventure. *"We thank God every time we remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of our prayers for you . . . "(Philippians 1:3-4).*

Blessings upon blessings to each of you!

Pastor Mike

## **In-Person Worship Services Guidelines**

You are strongly urged to remain at home if you feel even slightly ill.

- Services will be held in the Sanctuary. Because attendees will be spaced farther apart than usual, there may not be sufficient seating. Any overflow will be directed to the Fellowship Hall whose speaker system has been upgraded so that attendees can clearly hear both the pastor and the music from the Sanctuary.
- Only two doors will be used:
  - The front door of the Sanctuary
  - The main Fellowship Hall entrance door by the Pastor's Office.
- Everyone is requested to observe social distancing.
- It is requested that attendees socialize outside and not gather in the Fellowship Hall for socializing.
- Except for the pastor and organist, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask. Attendees will be asked to provide their own masks, but some will be on hand for those who do not have one.
- Before services, the SSC will place a hymnal on each pew location where a person may sit. Ushers will ask attendees to choose a seat accordingly. A family unit of more than 2 may fill in between two hymnals.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrances.
- Bulletins will be available at the entrances.
- Instead of passing collection plates, a collection plate, including envelopes, will be placed in the Narthex. If the Fellowship Hall is needed for overflow, another collection plate will be made available there.
- If used, microphones should remain in their mic stands.
- The choir will be seated in its normal location and lead in the singing of hymns.

The SSC will be reviewing these protocols regularly so that restrictions can be relaxed in a timely manner when appropriate.

## **Session News**

1. Adult Sunday School will reconvene on May 16, 2021, at 9:45am in the Adult Sunday School Room. The Study will be a 40 minute 6-week, no homework Bible Study entitled "Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy", led by Becky Payette. There is enough room in the Sunday School room for social distancing and the wearing of mask is required at this time. This is the same protocol used for Worship Service and will be used until the Session decides differently. If you are interested in the study, please let me know as soon as possible so I can order the books. I look forward to returning to Sunday School and pray you will be moved to join me as we have been away far too long.
2. Children's Sunday School is scheduled to reconvene on September 12, 2021. There will be more information later.

### Summary of April Session Meeting

- Building and Grounds reported that work to repair/replace the fascia boards around the Fellowship Hall/Education building was progressing.
- The choir was granted permission to remove their face masks during Worship Service since all members of the choir have been vaccinated.
- Granted permission to the Christian Education Committee to restart Sunday School on dates that it determines to be the best.

Approved that the Pavilion Committee move forward with the plans to build the pavilion, with James Smith granted signatory authority on behalf of the corporation with Conley Wallace as a second signer, if needed, and that the Finance Committee will determine how best to fund the project.

## **Presbyterian Women**

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. There will be a devotional and then Vickie Wallace will lead us in Chapter 12, "Trusting God with the Whys" in our Woman's Guide, *Calm My Anxious Heart*. We will have a very brief business meeting. Bring your own drink and there will be no refreshments served for your safety, and we will social distance.

Asking God's blessings for each of you,

~Debbie Long-Smith, Moderator

## **Men of the Church**

There will be no Men of the Church meeting in May, June, or July. Stay tuned for August return.

## **Safety and Security Committee (SSC)**

Even though Pastor Mike is no longer our Covenant Pastor, all services will continue to be filmed from the balcony and posted on YouTube. They will be available for viewing on Sundays between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. In-person attendance is growing - on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> we had a total of 45 attending the Sunday service!

As a reminder, hymnals are placed on the pews to indicate where seating is available. They are placed in a pattern near the ends of the pews to maximize social distancing. Please take seats where the hymnals are. This arrangement allows family units of two or more to sit together. If needed, ushers will help you find seating.

While Session still requests that attendees wear masks, the choir and organist are all vaccinated and will not be wearing masks so that they can be heard more clearly and see better if they wear glasses. Seating has been arranged to provide a distance of 12-15 feet from the choir and pastor to the nearest attendee. The first pew in the center section and the pew behind the piano will remain empty.

Please recall that only two doors are to be used – the front door to the Sanctuary and the main Fellowship Hall door. The kitchen door will remain locked. If you must use this door, please re-lock it behind you.

## **Church Events/Information**

### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

Greetings to our congregation from the PNC. Our committee continues to work through the search process for the next Pastor for Mitchells Presbyterian. During the last two months we have often met several times a week as needed while we discern the best steps for MPC. We have held interviews with candidates, continued to review more applications, and have focused on the research required to review each candidate. This includes exploring their social media, listening to their sermons, and other options that allow us to learn as much as possible about each candidate.

We are confident that God will place the exact candidate meant for our church with us in His time. Please continue to "pray unceasingly" for candidates and the committee.

Peace and Blessings,

PNC

Brett Massey, Roxy Mitchell, Becky Payette, Mary Lou Phillips, Vicky Tidman, Jimmy Walker, and Vickie Wallace

### **Birth Announcements**

Roxy and Scott Mitchell are happy to announce the birth of a granddaughter Lydia Rose to proud parents James and Emily Potts on Friday, April 23 at 12:56pm. Lydia Rose weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces, and was 21 3/4 inches long.

Kemper and Wanda Hulvey were also blessed with the birth of a new granddaughter Amelia Jane born on Friday, April 23 at 1:28pm. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19 inches long. Amelia Jane's parents are Beth and Sean McCall of Lexington, SC.

### **Letter from Myrtle Martin**

My Dear Friends and Family,

This is just a note to friends and family to try to find the right kind of words to thank you all for all the wonderful things you all have done for me over the period of 30 years, or so, since Dot Faulconer asked me to come to church at Mitchells Presbyterian Church. I did as she asked and that was the beginning. Then Bill Lyon asked me to take over the Good Timers when he and his wife were going over to Hong Kong. I did and that was the beginning of my job with the Good Timers for about the next 20 years. When John came, we took him to Walton Mt., and there are pictures of him sitting on Pappa's copper still.

I must tell you how much I have enjoyed it for all these years. It's hard to believe, but I only had one complaint in all those years; everyone seemed to enjoy each outing. However, I do think it's about time to give it up, at 96 years. When it is time to get it going again, I will do anything I can to help. I still have places and who to talk to.

Now thanks a million times for all the nice things you have done for me like food, flowers, and cards with the nicest notes anyone could get. I was so pleased for my 95th birthday party and all the people that came. It was a delight I'll always remember. Thank you all again and again. "Let me get right behind Susan with a hug for everyone."

Love to you all,

Myrtle

### **Address change for Dot Faulconer**

Effective March 15, 2021, Dot is a resident of assisted living at The Culpeper. Visitors are allowed if they wear masks and pass a temperature check at the main entrance.

Dot Faulconer  
Main St. Room T11  
12425 Village Loop  
Culpeper, VA 22701

### **Worship Committee**

Until further notice, the choir will be singing on Sundays without masks.

Barbara Waters, Chairman – Worship Committee

### **Donations to MPC**

Any donations to the church can be mailed to:

Mitchells Presbyterian Church  
P. O. Box 98  
Mitchells, VA 22729

All mail is being picked up twice a week and deposits are being made by Ron Evans, the church treasurer.

### **Mitchells Presbyterian Email Prayer Chain**

The church has developed an online prayer chain. If you wish to be a part of this prayer chain, please send an email to [\*\*prayersofmitchells@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:prayersofmitchells@gmail.com) and your name will be added.

This prayer chain is being overseen by Patti Weaver. If you have prayer requests, you may email Patti at the above email address or call her at 540-547-9319.

Please note that this prayer chain is not to be confused with the Presbyterian Women's email chain. While the PW's email chain does include prayers, its main purpose is to keep the PW informed as to what is going on within their group.

The Prayer of Mitchells prayer chain is for prayers and will reach out to anyone wishing to be included.

# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Stephen Grotz	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Marty Stuart	12	13	14	15
16	17 Jonathan & Tabbitha Weaver Tommy & Michelle Cuccherini	18	19	20	21 Steve & Kim Hicks	22
23	24	25 Rob & Lou Preihs	26	27 Tom & Denita Cuccherini	28 Jacob Inskeep	29
30 Daniel Grotz Vicky & Graeme Tidman						

Scheduled Usher: Bill Miller

Scheduled Acolyte: Meredith Gyory