

# Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

## January 2022

### Pastor's Corner

As we go into the new year, it is important to keep a lot of things in our mind, and it can often be overwhelming. For example, I have been behind in getting this bit of the newsletter done for several days not (Kemper, again, I am very sorry for delaying your amazing work on the newsletter). We fall behind so quickly it seems in some aspects of our lives, but as we go throughout this new year let us strive to be better at a few things, to make a few resolutions that we can actually do and maintain. I believe that one that can guide us into a better life overall is the act of gratitude. It is something that seems to only occur when we are given or giving something, yet each day has things for which to be grateful.

2021 did not go quietly into the night, rather it seems like it went out swinging, and in the closing days we lost several icons of the world. Betty White passed away at 99, but she left these words about gratitude to guide us. "So, you may not be as fast on your feet, and the image in your mirror may be a little disappointing, but if you are still functioning and not in pain, gratitude should be the name of the game." —*Excerpt from her bestselling 2011 book, If You Ask Me (And of Course You Won't)*. It is all too often to focus in on what we have to complain about, and sometimes we need to complain. It's healthy to have people in our lives that we can complain to, and for those people I am so very grateful! But the gratitude for each sunrise and sunset, for the people that we see, and voices that we hear can make the hardships of life easier. The other icon whom the world lost at the end of 2021 was Archbishop Desmond Tutu. An activist in anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, he spoke often of justice and love through God and Christ. I highly suggest the *Book of Joy*, which is a recorded conversation between Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama. In the section on gratitude, Desmond Tutu offers this as a guide for us. Gratitude is fundamental to joy. It, quite literally, allows us to generate our own happiness.

"Gratitude, is the recognition of all that holds us in the web of life and all that has made it possible to have the life that we have and the moment that we are experiencing." It allows us to shift our focus from what we lack to what we have. If acceptance is not fighting reality, gratitude means embracing it, counting blessings rather than burdens.

Our minds have a naturally negative bias—after all, being able to point out what is wrong or dangerous is advantageous to survival. But we need to be conscious of this, and purposeful in our gratitude. Our time on Earth is limited. Why waste it by miring ourselves in negativity?

Gratitude also connects us to others. When we are truly grateful, we remember all of those who help make our happiness possible, who bring goodness into our lives. We, then, are able to recognize those people, and enjoy them and their differences.

In this way, we can be made joyful by the world and people around us, instead of finding ourselves filled with anger and despair.

I hope that these words, from these legends of the world are able to guide you into the new year as we seek to show our gratitude for each new day, for each blessing that we receive and for each child of God we meet. Happy 2022!

Pastor Patrick

## Session News

- Session examined Elders-elect and approved them for ordination and installation during the January 2, 2022 Worship Service.
- Approved the transfer of membership of Cindy Grotz to Kirk O'Cliff Church,
- Agreed to recommend the masks be worn inside the building.
- Missions & Outreach reported delivering 10 Thanksgiving meals and sponsored a senior adult angel tree.
- Construction will begin on the pavilion when the materials are delivered.

## Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet January 11 at **5:30 p.m.** at Luigis Restaurant. We will have dinner, there will be a devotional, and then Kim Hicks will lead us in Chapter 6, "Esther and Rahab, Unexpected Heroes of Faith" in *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. We will have a brief business meeting.

During the month of January, we will be collecting canned soup for the Culpeper Food Closet. If you wish to donate canned soup, please leave your Donation on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Security Room. Thank you to those of you that donated personal hygiene items during the month of December.

Thank you to those of you that purchased the 2021 Christmas Card designed by Janet Miller. Especially thank you to Janet again this year for your beautiful work of art. The ladies will decide at our meeting where to donate the profits.

We wish everyone a healthy and joyous 2022.

Debbie Long-Smith, Moderator

## Men of the Church

The Men will be taking orders for sausage beginning in January. Be on the lookout for order forms. Sausage is being sold at \$5 per pound. Pick up will take place in February. More information will follow.

The Men will meet at the church for dinner on Thursday, January 6 at 7 p.m.

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

Nothing new to report.

### **Church Events/Information**

#### **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.

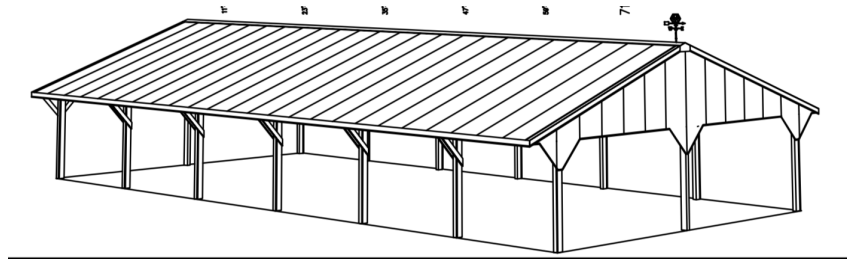
#### **From Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry**

Volunteers are to help take down the Chrismon tree are needed at 9:00 on Saturday, January 8. Please wear a mask.

Thanks Barb

#### **Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds**

First, thank you to all that have contributed or donated to the pavilion building fund over the Christmas season. Due to unexpected delays, Morton Buildings (building contractor) is running behind schedule. Any new updates will be announced.



A YEAR END NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

As we roll up on the year end for 2021, a couple of thoughts and sincere thanks to you all.

For lack of a better description, 2021 seems to be life imitating life. We lost a couple of old, dear friends; we hired a young, new minister that we all seem to be excited about; we continue to deal with a pandemic; and we remain a strong and committed church family.

The full financial report for 2021 will be presented as part of our annual meeting, but a couple of highlights:

Our budget for 2021 was approximately \$79,500 (based on not hiring a new minister); and we have collected to date \$122,828 in tithes and offerings; and have \$133,431 in total operating revenue to date.

Our budget for 2022 is \$130,057.

We received a brand new playground from an anonymous church family member. We have commenced on construction of a pavilion with an estimated cost of \$97,000 and we have already collected over \$43,000 for this project.

I certainly look forward to 2022, and sincerely thank you for all you have done and continue to do as the Mitchells Presbyterian Church family.

## 2021 Tree of Lights Donations

**Total: \$4,000**

**Donor**

**In Memory Of:**

**In Honor of:**

Donor	In Memory Of:	In Honor of:
Larry & Linda Brooks	Our parents	Our children & grandchildren
The Choir	Dot Faulconer	Mary Scott
The Cuccherini Family	Thomas John Cuccherini, Lawrence "Bert" Scott, beloved friends, grandparents	Parents, children, grandchildren
Roger & Hazel Eakin	Roger's parents & Hazel's parents	Our son and daughter-in-law
Ronald Evans	Madeline Evans, Janice Evans, Barron Family, Dot	
Chuck & Mary Scott Gyory	Loved ones	Our children & grandchildren, the Ex-PNC
Steven & Haley Whitlock Gyory	Robin Whitlock Smith	Luke & Meredith Gyory
Steve & Kim Hicks	Steve's parents, Sonny & Margaret Hicks; Kim's parents, Cecil Pickerele & Charlie & Dottie Elliott	
Bonnie Hitt	Dot Faulconer	Pat Payne, Pastor Patrick
Alice S. Hopkins	Jim Hopkins, loved ones, Dot Faulconer	
The Jaderborg Family	James E. Jaderborg, Dot Faulconer	
J. W. Jenkins	Margie Jenkins, Dot Faulconer	
Bill & Janet Miller	Ward & Ida Miller, Frank & Mary Lineweaver	Paul, Mindy, River Inskeep; Patrick Inskeep; Peter, Stephanie, Colton Inskeep; William Miller; Jonathan & Sarah Schmidt
Scott & Roxy Mitchell	Nick & Thelma Allison	Bill & Sue Mitchell
Becky Payette	John J. Payette, Jr., Dorothy A. Faulconer	Mary Scott Gyory and the Choir
Pat Payne	Dot Faulconer	
Mary Lou Phillips	Ian Phillips, Kathleen Orringer, Peggy Campana, Carter Saunders, Jim Campana, Dot Faulconer, Mary Sargent, Jan Evans	Mary Scott & Choir
Rob & Lou Priehs	John C. Priehs, Robert Y. Button, Flirt	
Coleman & Robin Rosen	Buddy & Joan Carpenter, Harvey & Elizabeth Carpenter, Margaret Carpenter	
Smitty & Debbie Smith	Family & friends	Security Team members
Phil & Marty Stuart	Torvi Jean Kapp, Jacquelynn Alexander	Hayden Kapp, Madelynn Hussey
The Tidman Family	Loved ones	
The Walkers	Carlin & Anna Ruth Inskeep, Jim & Peggy Walker, Tom Earles, Dot Faulconer, Myrtle Martin	
Conley & Vickie Wallace	Our parents	Our sons & grandchildren
Barbara Waters	Larry Waters, Eva Gnad	
Alan & Susan Wohlleben	Dorothy A. Faulconer; Janice Barron Evans; Myrtle Martin; Our parents, George & Lorraine Beard & David Wohlleben; Bob Somerville; Mary Sargent	Mary Scott & the Choir
Jean H. Wolfrey	Loved ones, Laura & Russell Hopkins, James R. Hopkins, Steve Hopkins	
Jolene Young	Robert Young, Dot Faulconer, Myrtle Martin	

## **Letter to the Congregation from Mary Scott**

*Dear Mitchells Church family,*

*I appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering me with a Christmas check. The choir and I worked diligently to return to the sanctuary for our worship services. After receiving our vaccinations, we began practice in mid-March and were ready when services resumed on April 11. We appreciate the support of Session in allowing us to participate as an in-person choir.*

*At least four of the individuals who filled the pulpit from the beginning of May through the middle of September publicly thanked the choir for being part of the services. These folks noted we were the only church they had visited that had a “live” choir back in action. We are all so proud of our talented and dedicated choir members who enhance our worship services each week.*

*With thanks for your continuing support,*

*Mary Scott*

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

Patti Weaver has agreed to monitor and maintain the prayer chain email account. Thank you Patti for your service to MPC.

If you would like to receive notifications of prayer requests via email, please send an email to:

[prayersofmitchells@gmail.com](mailto:prayersofmitchells@gmail.com)

Your email address will be added. This is open to members, regular attendees, friends, etc. Just have all requesters send an email and they will be added.

This prayer chain could be for major concerns, but also for things like “pray for my friend Sally; she’s going through a rough time,” or “my college daughter, Brenda, is taking her final exam in her major, please pray for her,” etc. You get the idea. Just anything that your heart seeks comfort over.

Prayer requests mentioned at church will try to be added, but it is best if you could just send them to the [prayersofmitchells@gmail.com](mailto:prayersofmitchells@gmail.com) email address.

### **Message from Heather Massey**

Thanks to all who have supported me through this journey as I start my career in law enforcement.

I completed the NC state exam on December 17<sup>th</sup> and PASSED! I still have a few more weeks of training before I officially become a Police Officer.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a formal Swearing-In Ceremony which I would like to invite anyone who would like to attend. Those interested can contact me (or mom & dad) for details.

Happy New Year,  
Heather

# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Smitty & Debbie Smith
2	3 Doug Ray John Graves	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Kemper Hulvey	13	14	15
16	17	18 Rob Preihs Brett Massey	19	20 Teresa Squire	21	22
23 Connor Massey	24	25 Betty Ann Howell Hazel Eakin	26 Patti Weaver	27	28	29
30 Ruth Button	31 John Clatterbuck Denise Golemb					

Usher: Patti Weaver

Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini