

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter August 2022 Pastor's Corner

One of the things that I have found that many people enjoy out of the Pastor's Corner is when I include or give examples of ways of praying. So, I figured that I would offer up another type of prayer that you can do alone, with folks, or with your kids/grandkids/great-grandkids 😊. Often times we see all around us age limits on items and events. You must be 3 plus years old to play with this toy, must be X age to do Y thing, but pray is something that has no age limit, and the form in which that takes has no limit either. It is one of the beauties of prayer. Therefore, don't let the name limit you from participating in this prayer, for it is a Lego Prayer. You can do this with a specific set, or just a pile of lego bricks. You can do it with just a few or with a 1000 piece set, as this is YOUR prayer and you can build it however you desire, for in the reformed faith there is nothing and no one that can keep you from communicating with God.

So the Lego prayer:

First, take a single brick (this can occur at anytime in your build) and use this brick to pray for yourself. Thank God for the blessings you have received, and ask God for help with any personal struggles that you may be facing. Mediate and pray with this brick for a minute or two.

Next, pick up another brick and count the number of bumps on it. You can pick one that has a few or a lot. For each bump on the brick you are invited to pray for a different family member or friend, asking God to surround that person with love and help throughout their lives.

You are then invited to pick up a brick that is a different color than the last one that you used. Look over this bricks color and differences as it relates to the last one you had. Then pray to God in thanks for the uniqueness of each person, creator and part of creation that blessed our lives, asking God to help us and all people appreciate the uniqueness of our differences, and that we are all divinely created.

Finally, as you build your structure (whatever that may be, let your imagination run wild if you so choose!) thank God for the way in which we are built up throughout our lives, recognizing that we may make mistakes in the building process but God will always snap us back together. Once your build is complete, thank God for bringing us together. For creating us, for bringing friends and family into our lives, for the community that is MPC. Ask God to continue to build us up, to help us work together and grow in our relationships as our Lego structures grew.

This is your prayer, and one that you can do over and over. Big or Small you can pray this, whether you are putting together a big Lego set, or simply connecting a Lego Mini Figure, I hope that you find this prayer useful and fulfilling.

Blessings upon you all! Pastor Patrick

Patrick Lane
Pastor
Mitchells Presbyterian Church
540-881-0201

Session News

- Session did not meet in July.
- Approved new forms and policies for Weddings and general use of church building and grounds.
- It was reported that the Eastern Orthodox Mission Church was not approved by their denomination to use MPC rooms for their worship services.
- Approved VBS dates of August 5-6.
- A new church directory is to be prepared during 2022

Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet at **5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall on August 9, 2022.

Kim Hicks will lead a discussion on Lesson 3, “Job’s Visitors” *in Grace for Every Trial* By Betty Henderson.

Please keep in mind as you clean out your unwanted items and as you begin knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry making or whatever your talents may be, we will have our rummage/craft sale on October 8, 2022 (rain date October 15). All proceeds will go to the Pavilion Fund.

Blessings to all, Debbie Long-Smith

Men of the Church

There will be no MOC meeting until September 1 at 7:00pm.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report.

Church Events/Information

Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds

The pavilion project continues to be a work in progress. Mitchells Presbyterian Church is so blessed and thankful with a beautiful Pavilion but we are experiencing a delay in getting the concrete floor poured and finished. Please join me in saying a prayer that the concrete work will be completed soon. Thank you, Smitty

Congregational Life and Ministry Committee

The “After Church Social” continues through the summer months. Thank you to everyone who signed up. Drinks are still available in the refrigerator so the host just needs to bring a plate of cookies or snacks.

Mitchells Presbyterian Church After Church Social Guidelines

The After Church Social will restart officially on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The following guidelines are provided to ensure we have coverage and that everyone is encouraged to sign up.

- Anyone can sign up to bring refreshments but suggest no more than two individuals per Sunday.
- Recommend individuals not sign up more than once a quarter.
- Keep it simple, suggest no more than three items, two savory and one sweet.
- Drinks should include coffee and water, but host(s) can provide another drink of choice.
- Sign-up sheet will be posted in the kitchen and monitored by the CL&M Committee.
- Cleanup is the responsibility of host(s) providing refreshments but help is always welcomed.

Thank You!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 10 for our first Steak Dinner since 2019. Time and details will be announced soon. We will be looking for volunteers, those who may have helped in the past and those who haven't but would like to. Stay tuned for that announcement.

MPC Spotlight

Spotlighting Larry Brooks

By Roxy & Scott Mitchell

“My grandkids refused to eat leftover tacos for dinner. Linda said to throw them out. I did, but have no clue what to do with the tacos.” Anyone who is friends with Larry on Facebook is certainly familiar with his sense of humor. From the tongue in cheek cartoons to the sometimes really corny Dad jokes, they are the highlight of our daily Facebook scrolling. The sense of humor, intelligence, and faith are just a few of the many facets of Larry Brooks. Larry and his wife Linda have been members of Mitchells Church for about 12 years. Unfortunately we have not seen Larry at church for a while due to his battle with Parkinson's. Those who know him, greatly miss his kindness and sense of humor which he always carries with him.



Larry was born at the Bluefield Sanitarium, in Bluefield, WV (ironically, the same hospital that Conley Wallace was born in, just at a different time). He was an only child and when he was 5, the family moved a few miles across the state line to Bluefield, VA. Growing up, he dreamed of being either a veterinarian, a preacher or a teacher. After watching a vet deliver a calf and giving a less than stellar youth sermon at church, he decided to make a career out of education. He spent the next 33 years educating, mentoring and guiding students and administrators across the state of Virginia.

Larry met Linda while he was attending Virginia Tech as a junior and she was a freshman at Radford. He crashed the Radford Freshman Mixer. He said, “I asked her to dance and the rest was history.” Together they have two sons, seven grandchildren and “two wonderful daughter-in-law's”. He said with a chuckle, if he had known grandchildren would have been

this much fun, he would have had them first. Their oldest son was a stand-up comedian for a while, quite possibly inheriting his sense of humor from his father.

Larry's career in public education has taken them from Bluefield to Blacksburg to Pocahontas to Poquoson in York County to Christiansburg to Rustburg, where their boys grew up, to eventually settling in Culpeper. Larry has been a teacher, personnel director, science supervisor, building administrator, assistant superintendent, budget director, superintendent and graduate professor. But out of all of these, he feels the most enjoyable job he had was teacher. He said you have to love these kids. Some of them come from really tough homes, some of them only have one parent. That's why he migrated towards those kids creating a kind of "Welcome Back Kotter" approach in the classroom.

Larry started his church life as a Baptist when his mother dragged him to church every Sunday. But, at 13, discovered that the social life for a youth was better at the Methodist Church. He said, with a chuckle, when he found out he could read, he became a Presbyterian. After his mother passed away in 2010, they decided to look for a church that was smaller and more personal and Mitchells fit the bill. Larry misses attendance at church, but he is really appreciative of Chuck taking the time to put it on You Tube. At Mitchells Church he has been a ruling elder, treasurer of the Cemetery Committee, member of the Missions Committee and Session representative to Missions.

Though Parkinson's has taken a toll on being able to enjoy his favorite things, such as motorcycling, fishing, reading, writing and his beloved Facebook page, he is not bitter or down. He feels there are others who have it a lot worse. John Grotz once asked him if he was angry at God about it. He said, "I thought, 'Why?' It's a disease. I don't think God singles out people and says you're good, I'm gonna do this for you; you're bad, I'm gonna do that for you. Good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people." Through all the struggles and difficulties however, these three things remain constant – his sense of humor, his faith and Linda, "the best wife and caregiver I could have ever had."

Worship Committee

Nothing new to report.

MPC Bible School

BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING BACK...YAY!!!

August 5th: Older youth overnight lock-in with pizza and fun activities (time to be announced).

August 6th: All day bible school with biblical craft stations, bounce house, water slide, cookout and a dusk movie (time to be announced).

More information to come at a later date!

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. Message from Ron Evans, Treasurer:

Treasurer's semi annual report:

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Family:

The budget approved by Session for 2022 was \$130,056.94. This represents the anticipated expenditures for the year and hopefully the collections in the form of tithes and offerings.

I would like to update you as to where we stand as of mid-year (June 30, 2022).

Based on the budget we would hope to have collected \$65,028.47 and to have expended that amount (1/2 of \$130,056.94). As of June 30, 2022:

Collections of tithes and offerings - \$55,256.13 – approximately \$9,800 less than the anticipated.

Expenditures - \$62,158.71 – approximately \$2,900 less than anticipated.

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me

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

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.

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 email address.

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Vera Somerville	2 Sarah Tidman Collin Cuccherini	3	4	5 Terry & Patti Weaver	6
7 Alice Hopkins Chuck & Mary Scott Gyory	8	9 Thomas Gregor Cuccherini	10	11	12	13
14 Aubree Powell	15 Tom & Kim Nixon Roger Eakin	16	17 Jon & Ruth Sousa Branson Chase	18	19 Conley Wallace Debbie Smith	20
21 Jolene Young	22	23	24	25	26	27 Tommy Cuccherini
28	29	30	31			

Usher: Pat Payne Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini