

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter January 2023

Pastor's Corner

As I write this morning, the chicken litter is flying across the fields beside the church. In agriculture chicken litter, defined by the all knowing Wikipedia, is a mixture of poultry excreta, spilled feed, feathers, and material used as bedding in poultry operations. It is a wonderful (*sarcasm*) sweet smelling fertilizer for the fields and the crops that will soon inhabit them. It is a smell that can not be confused with other smells, and it is one that can truly wake up your senses. To some it smells bad, to some it smells like money, and to some it smells like a job that needs to be done, but no matter what the smell is, the chicken litter is going to be the same day in and day out. Smelly nutrients for the soil that it is spread upon.

Now in my head, I am thinking of all the different ways to use chicken litter as a metaphor, but for this month's pastor's corner, the litter is just like the new year. It is there, and there's no stopping it. We may find ways of slowing down the spreading or the smell, but the litter and the new year are here. For some, it is an unwelcome sight/smell, as the new year brings forth new challenges in the midst of an already challenging grind of life. For some, the new year holds the hope for higher profits, wealth, new opportunities in life and professional success. For some, it's just a new year to enter into a new day with a job that needs to be done. We all know that each new year (and each new day) holds a vast amount of unknowns that are racing towards us with unstoppable smell power that could overwhelm the senses, yet we continue to take steps no matter the good, the bad, or the normal; because no matter how the new year arrives, we know that each season and time shall come and go in its own time. You may know Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, or the song Turn! Turn! Turn! by The Byrds, and as cliché as it may seem, it speaks truth to the new year, and the spreading of chicken litter.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the
heavens:

- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather
them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from
embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace



A time for the New Year and a time for the scattering of litter.

I pray that whatever the year 2023 holds, and however you may be approaching that time, you find comfort in knowing that no time lasts forever, and that God is always by your side. In the good, the bad, and the normal, we have a God, whom we just celebrated coming to be amongst us, that loves you just the way that you are, and is with you during all the times listed above, and all the times that are un-named. For in the new year (and in each new day) YOU are a beloved child of God, and nothing and no one can ever change that, or take it away from you!

Blessings!

Pastor Patrick

Session News

- Approved holding new Elder Ordination and Installation on Sunday, January 15, 2023
- Approved moving the January Session Meeting to Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. This will be the annual joint meeting with the church corporation Trustees.
- Building and Grounds reported that Conley Wallace, Smitty Smith, Alan Wohlleben, and Ron Evans associated with Handy Hearts, installed a ramp at Vera Somerville's home.

Were informed that Rev. Carole du Bois will be the supply preacher on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

Presbyterian Women

The Women of the church met December 13, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed our Christmas Celebration with a delicious covered dish dinner. Vickie Wallace provided a very special Christmas message, and then the fun and laughter of our ornament swap began.

We are so blessed with the sisterhood we share and invite all women of the church to join us. Our next meeting will be January 9th and we are planning to go out to dinner, more details will be provided.

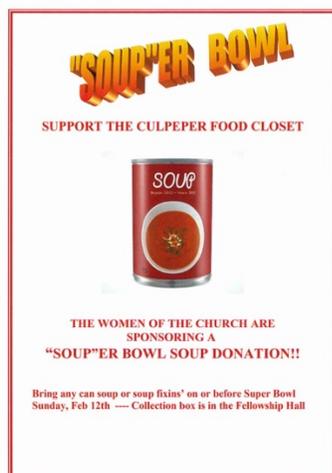
Our next community support event will be our annual "SOUP-ER BOWL"! Beginning January first we will be collecting cans of soup to be donated to the food closet by Super Bowl Sunday. You can place your donations on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Happy New Year to All!!

Kaye Inskip

Moderator

Souper Bowl Sunday



Men of the Church

The Men of the Church will hold their first meeting in 2023 on Thursday, January 5, 2023 with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The Men report having a very nice meeting in December at Headmaster's Pub and Grill in Sperryville. Eight men were in attendance as were five ladies (they were the wives of the men they accompanied). The group enjoyed a delicious meal and great fellowship.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report.

Church Events/Information

Pavilion – Buildings & Grounds

Nothing new to report.

Mission and Outreach Committee Report

Nothing new to report.

Congregational Life and Ministry Committee

The 155th Church Anniversary Celebration was held on Sunday, November 6 in the Pavilion. We could not have asked for better weather. We had a very nice luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, catered by Coopers Cookin and Catering. Many thanks to all those who helped make this day such a success. Special thanks to Pastor Patrick, Mary Scott Gyory and the choir, Chuck Gyory and the Security Team for setting up the sound system, men of the church who moved chairs, Carol Inskeep for the beautiful flowers in the Pavilion and the Fellowship Hall, Alan Wolleben for his great photography, and all those who helped in the kitchen. I especially want to thank Pastor Patrick and my Committee members, Kaye Inskeep, Becky Payette, Roxy Mitchell, Tabbithia Weaver and Debbie Long-Smith for helping to plan, organize and set up for this event.

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments this past year (2022) for the After Church Social. The 2023 sign-up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. I encourage anyone who is able and willing to please sign up. Everyone seems to really enjoy the after-church fellowship time together.

As an outgoing Elder and Chair of the Congregational Life and Ministry Committee, I want to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity to lead and work with such a great group of ladies these last few years to provide fun and fellowship for the larger church body.

MPC Spotlight

Spotlight Scott Mitchell

By Tabby Weaver

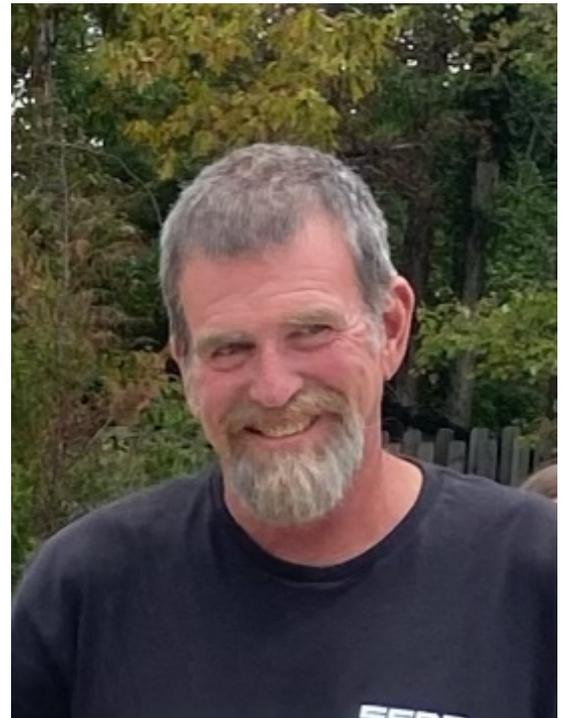
Scott Mitchell has been a member of Mitchells Presbyterian Church since 2019. While he and Roxy were dating they began looking for a church to call home and settled here when they married. This seemed like a natural location as his aunt (Mary Scott Gyory) and his grandmother (Sara Gallagher) are part of our church family. Quickly upon their arrival the couple became integrated into MPC. Scott has a saying, “I feel like you should give back as you can. Everyone needs to give a little something”, and boy has he given. Scott has been active with Buildings & Grounds, Security, assisted Congregational Life and Ministry with functions, filled the role of Usher, and he will be joining Session as a Ruling Elder in January 2023.

Scott began his career with Morton Buildings in 1989. It was challenging work that often took him from state to state, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Nebraska to name a few. This travel would keep him from his family for long periods time.

After 32 years it was time to take a break from the stress, travel and toll it was taking on his health. In August 2021 Scott went into business for himself and opened Montrose Construction. He is enjoying being home with his family along with the considerably reduced amount of stress.

When chatting with Scott you will find he admires strong character. Respect, loyalty and hard work were repeated numerous times during our conversation, with faith and family being at the center of his life. His father and grandfathers have been his inspiration throughout his life. I asked him what was the best piece of advice they gave him and he laughed stating “doesn’t matter – didn’t listen anyways. They led by example, as they were (and still are) well respected and decent men”. Scott hopes to lead by example and show the youth of today to give respect to others and work hard. “It doesn’t matter what you do, flipping burgers is okay, but work for what you have and want.” It seems to me he has done a good job instilling good values in his children. He beams with joy when he speaks about his daughter (Hannah, 28) and his son (Eli, 26). Hannah has her Masters in Social Work with a Minor in Spanish and is currently working in New York City primarily with immigrant women and children. Eli has built a home near his mother’s family farm in Hume and drives for his uncle at All Star Septic. He continued to grin as he brought up Roxy’s grandchildren, but that is a story for another article. Scott enjoys many things in life. History is one of his favorite topics, with the Civil War being a major era. He volunteers occasionally at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station, and in years past held a position on their board. He enjoys collecting military firearms and antique tractors (I joked with him that these are like chips, you just can’t have one), and he and Roxy both collect antiques together. Since meeting Roxy traveling is another joy in his life. They have traveled to Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, New Orleans, Alabama and New England. Both he and Roxy have visited sections of California separately, but would like to visit the state together one day. TV is not a major interest in his life, but he watches a few shows. He does enjoy a wide selection of music. Bluegrass, heavy metal, old rap, old country, there isn’t much he doesn’t enjoy.

In our conversation I asked him what one item he couldn’t live without. Scott stated there wasn’t a physical item he couldn’t live without and he only needs his family. Then he added “I am very thankful to God for all he has done for me and my family”.



A note of thanks from Caitlyn Weaver

I wanted to say thank you to everyone that has donated to Prayer Bears for my Girl Scout Gold Award Project! Also, a BIG thank you to everyone that stayed after Church last Sunday to help assemble the bears for distribution.

Thank you,
Caitlyn

A note of thanks from Mary Scott Gyory

My dear church family,

Thank you for your kind Christmas check. The heartfelt support from the choir and the congregation is what keeps me going after so many years.

All praise goes to our choir for their faithful service and beautiful music. Contending with the back row at choir practice each Wednesday night keeps me on my toes! Seriously, they know how to have fun as they "Make a joyful noise."

*With thanks and all good wishes for 2023,
Mary Scott*

2022 Tree of Lights Donations Total: \$3,160

Donor	In Memory of:	In Honor of:
Larry & Linda Brooks		Our sons & their families
Paul & Lynn Craycraft	Departed loved ones	Baby Jesus - the Son of God; Family & friends; Our granddaughters
Tom & Denita Cuccherini & Family	Daniel Thomas Cuccherini; Thomas John Cuccherini; Lawrence "Bert" Scott; Grandparents	Children; Grandchildren; Church Family
Hazel & Roger Eakin	Hazel's parents; Roger's parents	Son & daughter-in-law; Pastor Patrick
Ron Evans	Madeline Evans; Janice Evans; The Barron Family; Dot Faulconer; Mary Sargent	
Amber Gallahan		Dottie Clatterbuck
Chuck & Mary Scott Gyory	Loved ones	Children & grandchildren
Steven, Haley, Luke, & Meredith Gyory	Robin Whitlock Smith; Clyde Whitlock; Carlee Vaughn	
Patricia Hawkins	Wayne Hawkins; Buddy Carpenter; Riley Carter	
Steve & Kim Hicks	Steve's parents: Sonny & Margaret Hicks; Kim's parents: Cecil Pickerele and Dottie & Chuck Elliott	
Bonnie Hitt	Dot Faulconer	Pat Payne; Chuck & Mary Scott Gyory
Alice Hopkins	Jim Hopkins; Loved ones; Pearl S. Griffin; Dot Faulconer	
Carol Inskeep	Andy Lefevre	All grandchildren: Colton, River, & Savana Inskeep
Kaye Inskeep	Parents: Jack & Marguerite Barfield; Brothers & sisters: Tony, Eva, Ed & Anne	
Christiane Jaderborg	James E. Jaderborg	
Janet & Bill Miller	Parents: Frank & Mary Lineweaver, Ward & Ida Miller	Grandchildren & great-grandchildren: Paul, Mindy & River Inskeep; Patrick & Lucia Inskeep; Peter, Stephanie, Colton & Savanna Inskeep; Jonathan & Sarah Schmidt; William Miller
Scott & Roxy Mitchell	Nick & Thelma Allison	Bill & Sue Mitchell
Judy Norris	Joseph & Jean Lawson; Robert & Edna Norris	
Becky Payette	John J. Payette, Jr.; Dorothy A. Faulconer	Mary Scott & the choir
Pat Payne	Dot Faulconer	
Mary Lou Phillips	Family members	Family members; Choir
Rob & Lou Preihs	Jess Preihs & Bob Button	John & Jill Preihs
Bonnie Scott	Parents: John & Edna May Garrigan; Brother: Glenn Garrigan; Bert Scott; Danny Cuccherini; Minetta & Earl Probst; Sylvia Tobler; Jerry Rupard	
Crystal, Doug, & Kas Settle	Frances & Albin Settle; Kenneth & Sylvia Berry	Kas
Smitty & Debbie Smith	Sandra Ditchshle	Mitchells Security Team Members
The Tidman Family	Loved ones	Scarlett & Lily Tidman
Jimmy, Ann, & Carlynn Walker	James & Margaret Walker; Carlin & Anna Ruth Inskeep; Tom Earles; Jane Floyd; Keith Graves; Dot Faulconer; Myrtle Martin	
Conley & Vickie Wallace	Our parents	Bruce & Kay Wallace; Chris & Amy Wallace; Our grandchildren
Barbara Waters	Larry Waters	Children: Melanie & Jennifer; Grandchildren: Jeremy, Eli, Leah & Zoe
Alan & Susan Wohlleben	Janice Evans; Dot Faulconer; Bill Chase; Our parents	
Jean H. Wolfrey	James R. Hopkins; Steve Hopkins; Mr. & Mrs. Russell C. Hopkins	
Jolene Young	Robert Young; Myrtle Martin; Dot Faulconer	

Worship Committee

Nothing new to report.

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

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.

January 2023

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				

Ushers: Amber and Warren Gallahan

Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini