

# Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter April 2023

## Pastor's Corner

As our new month kicks off with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter and the following Easter-tide season, we get to prepare ourselves for all that the season brings. An end to our Lenten journey in the wilderness, and the heavy hitting season of yellow pollen coating everything begins. The snow (which we haven't had \*knock on wood\*) melts to reveals new birth of flowers and wildlife, and a time in which all of us are able to enjoy the outdoors again without layers and layers of clothes keeping us warm, as shown by *The Christmas Story* pictured



The seasons changing always brings joys and challenges, it is the duality of the world that we live in, and that way of being seems to be apart of everything that surrounds us. I recently finished reading the book titled *Mythos* by Stephen Fry. It is the re-telling of the Greek myths that have been infused throughout our society, language, and almost all that makes up our artistic culture. The myths highlight the way in which humans see the world as something that is made up of many mysteries, and hard to explain experiences in nature. One of the ways they explained the changing of winter to spring is that the goddess Persephone, who is the daughter of the goddess Demeter (she controls all the growth of vegetation on earth), returns from the underworld where she spends 6 months of the year with Hades. Persephone's return cause Demeter great joy, and thus the world is thrown into celebration via new growth and flowering. Persephone and Hades are two of the main characters in the Broadway musical *Hadestown*, where the seasons changing plays a pivotal role in the narrative. (I highly suggest seeing this musical if you get a chance!)

While we do not worship the gods of ancient Greece, we can find ourselves in the stories that the ancient Greeks' used throughout their society. The celebration of spring warrants myths and festivals as we leave the cold and cyclical death of fall and winter behind us for another year. There are festivals throughout the world that celebrate this time of year. A few of my favorite would have to be Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake, where participants race down a steep hill -- known as Cooper's Hill, near Gloucester, England -- as they vie for the day's ultimate prize: a round of Double Gloucester cheese; and the Songkran, known as the Water Festival by visitors, this annual festival in Thailand falls shortly after the spring equinox and acts as the traditional New Year's Day. Along with visiting elders and going to a Buddhist monastery, festivities include throwing of water -- which means it is basically a nationwide water gun fight.

And we, as a church, celebrate the resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ. Many times we focus our attention on the cross and the fact that Christ died, yet that is only half of our story. For if all we had was a great teacher and prophet who died upon a cross, I dare to say, we would not have a Christian religion. The fact that Christ was taken down from the cross, placed in a sealed tomb, and by the power of God was released from death's grasp is



where our joy, hope, and faith is able to lay. Spring, Holy Week, and especially Easter day, serves as a reminder that while the cross may stand at the front of our sanctuary and is a major symbol for our faith, it is only a representation of half our reason to celebrate. As spring brings new life, as it brings forth resurrection, we celebrate with the faith that our savior lives, and that we get to move from the cross to the new life, just as the seasons move.

Blessings!

Pastor Patrick

### **Session News**

- The audit of the financial accounts of the church was completed and all records found to be in good order.
- The mugs to be sold to support the pavilion building campaign have arrived and are to be sold at \$10 per mug.
- Session gave approval for the Building & Grounds Committee to repair or replace the HVAC system in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Presbyterian Women**

*The women of the church met Tuesday March 14th in the Fellowship Hall. There was a wonderful group present and we enjoyed visiting so much we have decided to have a social time prior to starting our meetings. Kim Hicks lead our Bible Study, Grace for Every Trial Lesson 6 More Words at the Dump.*

*We discussed our local Missions and are continuing our donations. Currently are collecting Easter items for baskets to be donated to the "Loads of Love Project". We will meet March 31st at 11 a.m. to start assembling the baskets, please come join us.*

*Our Women's Retreat is in the planning stage. Jojuan White, Pastor of Wallers Baptist Church, Partlow Va. will come and speak to us regarding her retreat programs. We have selected mid August for the time and more information will be announced. This is for all the Women Of Mitchells Presbyterian Church...bring a friend or family and enjoy this special day of fellowship!*

*Our next meeting is April 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Kim Hicks will lead our Bible Study Grace for Every Trial Lesson 7 Yet Will I Trust Him.*

*God Bless our Fellowship*

*Kaye Inskeep  
Moderator*

## **Men of the Church**

The Men of the Church thank everyone who came out to the Pancake & Sausage supper and to those who purchased sausage. The net proceeds will go towards the pavilion building campaign.

There will be no Men of the Church meeting in April since it falls on Maundy Thursday.

The May 4 meeting will feature Cedar Mountain Board of Supervisor member David Durr. Everyone is invited to attend the dinner and hear what Mr. Durr has to say about what's happening in Culpeper County. If you wish to attend, please let Steve Hicks know by April 30.

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

CCTV system upgrades needed to provide coverage for the pavilion area have been completed. New cameras, a second TV, and a second network video recorder were installed, and everything is now fully functional. The upgraded system allows for larger images with more detail making it much less tiring for the CCTV operator.

## **Church Events/Information**

### **Pavilion – Buildings & Grounds**

Work on the pavilion is back on track. Ten LED ceiling lights have been strategically mounted throughout the pavilion. Wiring the electrical for the lights, receptacles, and accessories is a work project in progress. A six-foot perimeter around the concrete has been filled with topsoil, seeded, and covered with straw to present a beautiful addition to our historic Mitchells Presbyterian Church.

### **Mission and Outreach Committee Report**

The Mission and Outreach Committee did not meet in March.

For the month of March- 138 meals we're serving.

A donation of \$1250 was made the Culpeper Manna Program in March.

Respectively submitted

Carol Inskeep

"Flowers are nature's way of smiling"

### **THE GOOD TIMERS**

The Good Timers group resumed their monthly get-together on Thursday, March 23, at O'Brien's Irish Pub in Warrenton. After 3 years of Covid precautions, we were once again able to enjoy good friends, good food, and good conversation. We had 20 in attendance as we celebrated a late St. Patrick's Day with the "wearing of the green" and eating some hearty Irish Stew, Shepherd's Pie, Fish and Chips and more. It was a fun time for all!

Our next outing will be Thursday, April 27 and we will be going to The Silk Mill in Orange. More information will be coming and a sign-up sheet again will be in the Fellowship Hall. Check your schedules and hopefully you can join us for another "Good Time"!

## **MPC Spotlight**

### **SPOTLIGHT BONNIE HITT**

By Crystal Settle & Mary Lou Phillips

Bonnie was born in Stanley. Stanley is a small town in Page County, Virginia, located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley just minutes from Luray. She is one of 13 children. There were two sets of twins in the family. Bonnie was blessed with a twin brother now living in Harrisonburg. Bonnie has three children, Denise, Mitch and David.

She moved to Culpeper in 1975, with her first job being on a pig farm. She was introduced to Mitchell's Church and has been a member for 40 years! There are many stories of mischief and love for the children here at Mitchell's over the years - Halloween Parties, parading as a clown, going sled riding, being on the Church softball team. Her love of working with Vacation Bible School and always there on hand serving the children with cookies and kool aide and many other blessings she has shared over time with our church family.



She was PTO President at Pearl Sample School for 5 years and during that time she worked with the school and county to accomplish a playground built for handicap children.

She says she is a home body, never to interested in traveling, loves her Dalmatian, country music, especially blue grass gospel music. But working with children and sports has been her true passion for many years. She is an inspiration to youth & community. On February 7, 2023 she received the "Culpeper Colonel Award", Culpeper County's Citizen Service Award! For going above & beyond the call of citizenship in service to Culpeper County and its residents. Following is an excerpt from her award presented in February for those who may not have seen the article in the paper or on line. It is truly worth repeating.

## **Congregational Life and Ministry Committee**

See flyer below for details of the upcoming church dinner.



MITCHELLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# DINNER AT GRANDMA'S

**5TH SUNDAY  
GATHERING**

**APRIL 30TH  
5PM-7PM**



**BRING A DISH THAT YOU'D  
HAVE AT YOUR  
GRANDPARENTS FOR SUNDAY  
DINNER**

- April 30th – 5th Sunday Gathering – Dinner at Grandmas
  - 5pm – Bring your favorite family dish that you eat/ate for Sunday dinners! All are welcome, so bring some friends!
- May 21st – End-of-School/Graduation Luncheon
  - Following worship on the 21st, come and celebrate our graduate (Caitlyn Weaver) and enjoy the start of summer and the ending of the school year!
- June 10th – Church outing to Riverside Theatre to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat – 5:30pm dinner with a 7pm show
  - It will be dinner and a show, and sign-ups can be found in the fellowship hall. Feel free to invite friends! Tickets are \$70 dollars each, which includes dinner, the show, taxes, fees, and gratuity for the staff. We are currently working on carpooling information so stay tuned!
- July 30th – 5th Sunday Gathering – Cookout in the Pavilion, followed by a movie under the pavilion
  - 6pm – All are welcome, so bring some friends!
- August 5th – Church Outing to FredNats Game
  - Game starts at All are welcome, so bring some friends! 6:05pm – sign-ups can be found in the fellowship hall. Feel free to invite friends! Tickets are \$17 dollars each.
- September 9th – Annual MPC Steak Dinner
  - 5pm-7pm – All are welcome! Feel free to invite friends!

#### **Address Correction for Bonnie Putnam**

Address correction (new apartment number) for Bonnie Putnam:  
 10231 Brittany Commons Blvd., Apt. 219  
 Spotsylvania, VA 22553

#### **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](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.

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.

# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Linda Brooks
2 Jill Preihs	3	4	5	6	7 Nancy Pannill Denton Brett & Kathy Massey	8
9	10 Kathy Massey	11 Posey Howell Roger & Hazel Eakin	12	13	14 Amanda Kapp	15
16 Patricia Somerville	17	18	19	20	21 Libba Chase	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Matthew Sousa Charlie Cuccherini						

Usher: Doug & Kas Settle    Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini