

JUNE 2023

INSIGHTS

The Newsletter of Mitchells Presbyterian Church

Looking ahead:

June 10--Riverside Dinner
Theater

June 18--Pavilion Worship
Service

June 18--Session Meeting

July 30--5th Sunday
Cookout/Movie Night

August 5--Fred/Nats Game
August 12--Womens Retreat

Sept 9--Steak Dinner Fundraiser

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THE PASTORS CORNER

by Pastor Patrick

Here is my first newsletter as a newly wedded man. There's a shiny ring on my finger, and a legally binding document headed to the courthouse in Culpeper. It kind of feels like it's a birthday. A celebration, but the next day doesn't feel all that different from the unmarried days. Perhaps that's what happens in the modern world in which some things are not as taboo as they once were, or maybe the celebrations of weddings and birthdays and other such celebratory occasions have lost their vigor in the hustle and bustle of our society. Studies have shown that our attention span have continually decreased over the last 30 years, and we are now down to averaging 8-10 seconds, not a good trend for someone building a livelihood that includes talking for extended periods of time. Whatever reason that today and tomorrow and yesterday feel more or less the same, pre/post wedding, the reality is that a lot of this is different than I thought it would be. 'What do you mean by that?'

Continued on pg 2.



Pastors Corner Continued:

Well, I'll tell you, random narrative voice, life has continually not gone the way I thought, and my life "characteristics" are different from what I expected. "That makes no sense..." Give me a second to explain, random narrative voice! You see, I was raised with strong parents, but also in the Deep South, which led me to expect my life to turn out a certain way. I'd go to school, get a higher education, find love at said higher education, get married directly after that education, start work, buy a house, and be set to have kids all before I turn 23 or 24. It is very obvious that this is not the only way to live a life, and by no means does it come close to the way "it's supposed to be". It definitely isn't the way that my life has turned out, yet it's what I expected it to be. I'm 27, just married, I got the house and higher education, but not quite set for the kids part: it's all a bit different than I thought it would be. The growing up education also led me to expect to be "THE Man of the House" (whatever that actually means), and to financially support the family. Yet, I am not the bread winner of the household, and God knows I am not "the head of the house". Again, it's different than I thought it would be.

Matthew 6:25-34 has always been a segment of the gospel that has constantly comforted me, although I confess to you that it is a quickly forgotten passage in times of stress. Do not worry. That is the summary of the message. Do not worry about about your food or your body. God cares for you even more than the birds and the lilies, yet one does not grow it's food and is fed and the other does not clothe itself but is beautiful. Do not worry about when or if the kids will come, or if you are behind some made up life timeline. Don't stress out about the stock market and the bills and the etc.etc. (Talking to myself here [and maybe to you]). It's always easier said than done to not worry about what's to eat or which bill is due. It's always easier to say don't worry than to avoid the personal and societal pressure we place on ourselves. Life may be different than you thought it would be, but the words that I often need to hear, and maybe you do too, is 'do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today' (Matt. 6:34). Our lives are our own, and we are each enough for God in our own ways, because God loves each of us, and that is something that is always the truth and the reality, no matter how different things are than you thought they would be.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Patrick

*****Blurb about MPC being a Harvest Host Location*****

Following the spring session retreat, one of the big goals that came out of the meeting is the desire to expand MPC's openness to the community and how to increase traffic to our wonderfully maintained (thank you to those who keep MPC beautiful) and historic church/property.

With this in mind, and based on suggestions from members, the church has now become a Harvest Host location.

Harvest Hosts is a program that connects RVers with a network of unique and welcoming locations across North America. It offers a refreshing alternative to traditional camping by partnering with wineries, farms, breweries, churches, and other attractions that allow RVers to park overnight, free of charge, with the expectation that products be bought, or a donation be made. From waking up to picturesque vineyards to exploring lush farms or immersing oneself in local culture, Harvest Hosts provides unique travel experiences. The program promotes sustainable and responsible travel, encouraging members to support local businesses and communities. Feel free to ask any questions that you may have about this program and MPC's participation in it. There are several RVers in our congregation and I know that they have used this program so feel encouraged to seek them out and ask them all the questions that you may have ❖❖

Pastor Patrick

Session News

April 16, 2023 Meeting: Approved collection of the Pentecost Special Offering through May.
Approved the following property uses:
October 20 & 21, 2023-- Wedding of Julie Locher & Tony Litka
August 25, 2023-- Janet Miller for family reunion

It was reported that a new HVAC system was installed in the Fellowship Hall area.
Session reviewed its retreat checklist of things to focus on during 2023.
Agreed not to hold a Session meeting in May.

Presbyterian Women

We met Tuesday May 9, in the Fellowship hall. Our Bible Study was led by Allison Thorpe, Lesson 8: Words Weary and Wondrous from our study book Grace for Every Trial.

It has been many years since we have had "Retreat". We have a very special day planned. All women of the church are invited and please feel free to bring guests. Please join us for this day of fellowship!

Women's Summer Retreat: Saturday August 12th 9 am - 4 pm --The Chipped Cup--Pastor Joquan White
Morning refreshments-Bag Lunch from Steak N Cheese----Chipped Cup Craft and lots of Christian Love
RSVP by August 4th

Our next meeting will be June 13th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Kim Hicks will lead the Bible Study,
Lesson Nine - I Shall Come Back As Gold

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church invite everyone to attend their meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2023 with dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m. to hear David Durr, Cedar Mountain District Supervisor. With all that is happening in the county, now would be a good time to get your questions answered. Please call Steve Hicks by Tuesday, May 30 by noon to make your reservations.

The Men will not hold meetings in July or August. Next meeting will be September 7.

Worship Committee

Session has approved holding outside services in the Pavilion once per quarter. The dates for services will be:

June 18 - Fathers Day
August 6 - Back to School
October 8

All the dates are weather permitting. If it is determined that the weather will not be suitable, services will be held in the sanctuary.

Safety & Security Committee (SSC)

No Report

Missions & Outreach

No Report

Buildings & Grounds

The Pavilion is looking great! Thanks to everyone involved! The newly installed lighting put a shining light on the congregation under cloudy skies during the April 6th Maundy Thursday Worship Service. The installation of ceiling fans will begin within the week. As you can see, the electrical is moving right along. As a farmer would say, "we are getting in the short rows" on the pavilion project!

Congregational Life & Ministry

Here's what we have coming up in the next few months:

June 10th – Riverside Theatre to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Carpooling is available, please let Pastor Patrick or a member of Congregational Life Committee know that you'd like to ride. Bus will leave MPC at 4PM sharp.

July 30th – 5th Sunday Gathering--6pm

Cookout, followed by a movie under the pavilion.

All are welcome, so bring some friends!

August 5th – FredNats Game-- 6:05pm--Tickets \$17

All are welcome, so bring some friends! – sign-ups in the fellowship hall.

September 9th – Annual MPC Steak Dinner 5pm-7pm-- All are welcome, so invite friends!

Also, starting 6/4, the after church Coffee Hour will change name and location: Summer Social Under the Pavilion. We'll be offering cookies and lemonade under the shade of the pavilion. In case of inclement weather we will move it back to the Fellowship Hall.

Treasurer's update:

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Family,

The budget approved by Session for 2023 was \$143,990.62.

This represents the anticipated expenditures for the year and hopefully the collections in the form of tithes and offerings. I want to update you as to our status through the first quarter (January through March):

- Based on the budget we would hope to have collected \$35,997.66 and to have expended that amount (1/4 of \$143,990.62).
As of March 31, 2023:
- Collections of tithes and offerings and various other revenue (poll rent, investment revenue, miscellaneous collections)- \$32,152.40 - which is \$3,845.26 less than the anticipated.
- Operating expenditures - \$33,211.22 - which is \$2,786.44 less than anticipated.
Therefore, we are looking at a net shortfall of \$1,058.82 (\$3,845.26- \$2,786.44) as far as meeting the budget/anticipated expenditures for operations.

***Please note that we have sufficient reserves to absorb the anticipated shortfall, but obviously we would much rather keep any reserves intact.*

I would like to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support.

Good Timers

The Good Timers had their second get-together since Covid on Thursday, April 27 at Silk Mill Grill in Orange. This has always been one of our favorite places in the past and to revisit after 2+ years was a wonderful event. There were 24 in our group and so much laughter and conversations were shared by all. Many not only enjoyed their meal, but the blackberry cobbler dessert was really good!

Following the meal, ten members scooted over to Dogwood and visited with Vera. She was sitting in the doorway waiting for us and we had such a good visit. Yes, she cried, but they were "Happy Tears"! The end to a very special day!

**Mark your calendars for June 22. Reservations have been made to go to Clearwater Grill on Rt. 3. We can all get together with friends, eat good food, and share in the FUN!

THANK YOU

To everyone for all the cards, phone calls and emails I received at the time of my mothers death.

Pat Payne

Dear Mitchells Church family,

Thank you very much for the abundant and generous support offered throughout Dad's illness and in the weeks following his passing. There have been so many calls, cards, prayers, and gestures of love we cannot sum it up in this note. An additional thank you to all the various groups who worked to make the service and luncheon so beautiful and successful. Bless you all for everything. Dad loved Mitchells and enjoyed serving among you.

With much love,
The family of Bill Alexander

Contact update: Crystal no longer has an email address, so, please contact them via thier cell phones:

Crystal Settle -- 540-764-0041

Doug Settle -- 540-229-6590

CONGRATULATIONS CRYSTAL ON YOUR RETIREMENT!!!!!!!!!!

Ushers for the month of June:
Scott Mitchell and Perry Kinsey
Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini

Help us
GO PAPERLESS:
Email your request to receive
your newsletter electronically.

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Doug & Diane Ray MENS MEETING	2 Mary Lou Phillips Tom Nixon	3
4 Stephen & Lara Grotz TRINITY SUNDAY	5 Conley & Vickie Wallace Allyson & Kathy Thorpe	6 Alan & Susan Wohleben	7 Vic Squire	8 Crystal Settle Posey & Betty Ann Howell	9 Vicky Tidman	10 Virginia Pannill Lael John & Dottie Clatterbuck RIVERSIDE THEATER
11	12	13 Warren Gallahan WOMENS MEETING	14 Larry & Linda Brooks	15	16 Ronnie & Debbie Settle	17
18 SESSION MEETING FATHERS DAY	19 Eloina Gibson	20	21 SUMMER BEGINS	22 CLEARWATER GRILL	23 Denita Cuccherini Roxy Mitchell	24
25	26	27 Elizabeth Nixon Marshall	28	29	30	