



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 1: Issue 1

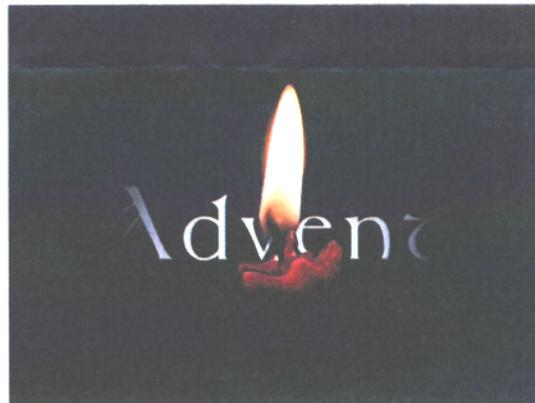
December 2019

It's Back.....

Well, the *Clifton Messenger* is back for now. We are attempting to get you the news each month as to what is taking place at the church. While we may be old fashion in this hard-copy printed version of a newsletter, the goal is to get this information on the website and email form for you eventually. This is going to take a little bit of time to get it all coordinated, and much will be dependent upon you and your help.

For the Messenger we need reports and sharing from all the various groups of the church. Does your Sunday School class have something special to say? What about the choir or the circle groups or any other groups of the church? Maybe there is a need for an invitation or announcement. This is a good place to get the word out there. It all is up to you as we try to put this together each month. **The deadline for submissions will be the last Sunday of the month.**

The format of this letter will change as it develops as this is just an early version of what to expect. It will evolve over time and with your help. For now though, we are back.



The Advent Season is upon us, and each Sunday we shall in Worship lighting the Advent Candles and doing some special readings along with an Advent Candle Song. Various member of the church will lead in this service. On the 1st Sunday (Hope Sunday) the Choir will lead the lighting service; on the 2nd Sunday (Peace Sunday) the Kashefian Family will lead; On the 3rd Sunday (Joy Sunday) the Meadows family will lead; and on the 4th Sunday (Love Sunday) the Blake family will lead. Come and be a part of Advent with us. Let us prepare for a great Christmas Season through the process of taking part in the Advent Worship Service.

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Office Ramblings

Well the first attempt to get you a Newsletter has started again, and please excuse the newsletter at the moment. It will improve as all of us take an interest in seeing that news is included, and reports are sent to the office.



I love the month of November. It is the time of excitement in the church as we move through the end of the Church year with Christ the King Sunday into the Advent Season of the church. There is the great Thanksgiving event and of course Black Friday. Our family has always in the past used this Black Friday for a bonfire, soup and fireworks night as we have prepared to turn on our Christmas Light show. Unfortunately this year we are not able to get this done due to time and illness in the family. But there is always next year....

That is the joy of our faith really. While we do not know what the tomorrows might hold for us, we do know that we have been promised that the "the Lord is our Shepherd", and through the cold valley of the shadow of death we are not deserted and left alone. With that thought in mind it becomes a great way to look forward to the celebration of the Advent and Christmas Season.

I know that there is great uncertainty in our faith community here at Clifton at this time due to illness and waiting for the proper Pastoral leadership, but I tell you that there is great hope for us because of the promise the Good Shepherd is with us.

It is an exciting time for Clifton Presbyterian in my opinion. We are moving into a new day, and we shall do so with great assurance that the Lord is with us in the journey. The Crossroads Committee is meeting and working; the Session is strong in its leadership; our financial picture looks good; we have a great relationship with our sister churches in the area; and there is a great caring spirit in the church. I am excited for this church and what the future might hold.

More later.....ron



Advent Bible Study



Join us for our Advent Bible Study this season. There are two times available for the study to make it easier for all of us. The first time will be on Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm before Choir Practice, and the second time will be on Thursday Mornings at 11:30 am.

We will be doing a study in Matthew as we think of what it means to be a Matthew kind of people. We shall be following the Advent Gospel Lessons from Matthew.

DATES & TIMES

*December 4 at 6:00 pm
December 5 at 11:30:00 am
(Study Matthew 24:36-44)*

*December 11 at 6:00 pm
December 12 at 11:30 am
(Study Matthew 3:1-12)*

*December 18 at 6:00 pm
December 19 at 11:30 am
(Study Matthew 11:2-11)*

Come and be a part of this special time of Study. Bible Study is good for our heads and good for our hearts and good for our church. It is always a good study when we have your participation.

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated November meeting on Sunday November 13, 2019 at 12: 20 p.m. in the Conference Room of the church. Those in attendance were moderator, Larryetta Ellis; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: Kereshmeh Kashefian, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Carol Hoover, Larry Davis, Venetta Wright and Houston Arbuckle, clerk of session. Teresa Bostic and James Meadows were excused.

The financial report for October was received: The General fund showed an excess income of \$5,323.04 The General now has a balance of \$190,949.01. The Memorial fund received \$200.00 from park donations. It paid out \$125.00 for Park expenses to leave a balance of \$45,664.14 Cents-Ability offering was \$109.60 Stone Soup fund received \$125.00 and paid out \$300.00 for gas cards, leaving a balance \$3,569.04.

Average Worship attendance for October 2019 was **44**. Clifton will celebrate the Lord's Supper on December 1st, first Sunday of Advent. **Larry Davis** was elected Commissioner to the November 21st Presbytery Meeting.

Jim Miller, Chair of the Property Committee reported that the church's organ needed repair and recommended the payment of needed repairs. This recommendation was approved. Jim reported that due to his health, Buddy Baker would need help with the church's maintenance. The session approved a motion to authorize Jim Miller to hire a substitute for Mr. Baker.

Suzy Meadows, Co-Chair of the Education and Congregation Care Committee reported that she and Rev. Miller will plan an Advent educational program.

Carol Hoover, Chair of the Fellowship Committee reported that Julie Gillilan and Evelyn Thomas have joined the Fellowship Committee. She also reported that the after worships fellowships were going well and thanks all who have helped. The Fellowship and Worship committees have planned the "Thanksgiving Dinner" for November 24th and the "hanging of the greens" for November 30th. Soup will be served for lunch.

Stewardship and Finance Committee, Chaired by James Meadows reported that Clifton will receive the "Joy Offering" again this year.

Venetta Wright, Chair of The Worship Committee that the Worship Committee will

complete the planning of the Advent worship services.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported the Mission Committee had approved a \$300 donation from its 2019 budget to each of the following local organizations: **Family Refuge Center; Children's Home Society of West Virginia; Greenbrier County Committee on Aging; Greenbrier County Communities in Schools; Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Locker; Lewisburg's Martin Luther King Day Celebration.** This makes a total of \$3,650.10 local donations and \$1,800 global donations for 2019.

Kereshmeh Kashefian, Chair of the Outreach Committee reported on the cards she sent for the Session. She also reported on Clifton's face book page. The Outreach Committee recommended that Clifton wait until 2020 before making changes in our computer system to deal with the outdated "windows 7".

Larry Davis reported for the 2019 Nominating Committee(Dr. Larry Davis, Suzy Meadows, Lewis (Buddy) Baker, Alice Roth, and Nima Shahab Shahmir) the following nominations: **Class 2021 Elders:** Lynne Bostic, Jim Miller, R. Houston Arbuckle, Dr. Larry Davis; **Trustee—term ending 2022:** Jim Miller; **2020 Nominating Committee:** Dr. Larry Davis, Suzy Meadows, Buddy Baker, Alice Roth, Steve Malcolm.

The session call set December 8, 2019 as the date for the Annual Congregational meeting. Officers will be elected at this meeting. The elected elders will be examined at the December Stated Session Meeting on December 8, 2019 and the service of Ordination and Installation will be part of worship on December 29, 2019,

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and Larryetta Ellis adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

Prayer Concerns

Sue Wyman, Carolyn Arbuckle, Buddy Baker, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Becky Godby, Jennifer Skaggs, Crossroads Committee, Earl Roth, Clifton Presbyterian, Edgewood Presbyterian, & Spring Creek Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

The following times are for Christmas Eve Services. Pick the service best for you and your family, or just feel free to take part in all.

7:00 pm-Festival of Carols, Candles and the Christ.

A traditional service of readings and singing and sharing with a candle lighting service. A peaceful way to worship the Christmas Day. After the service is over you may join in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, hot chocolate or coffee. There may even be some eggnog.

11:30 pm-Come and Go Communion.

A service where you come to the church any time after 11:30 pm to have a quiet time of meditative prayer. Whenever you wish you may come to the front of the church and take Communion by Intinction. You may then stay in prayer if you wish, or you may depart whenever you wish. At Midnight the Church bell will be peal stating to the community that Christmas has arrived and we celebrate the Birthday of our Christ.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Joy Offering

A Perfect Gift this Advent Season

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

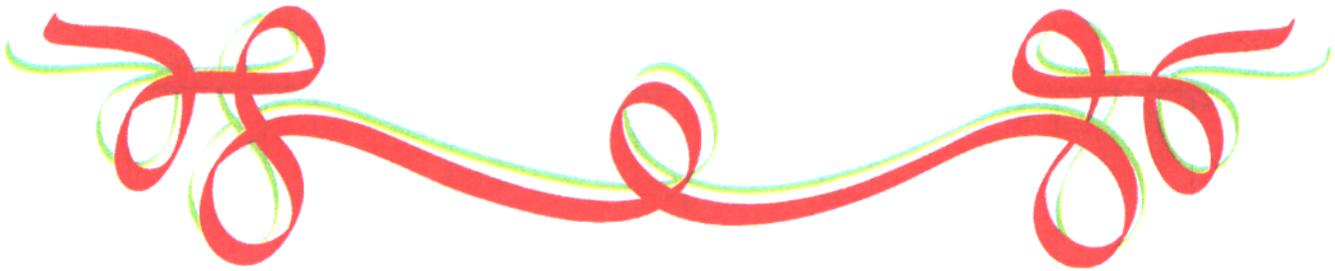
For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

Please give generously when we receive this offering on December 22, the last Sunday of Advent.

December 2019 Clifton Presbyterian



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HOPE 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1st Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's 6:00 pm Crossroads Comm.	7:00 pm-Circle #4-Carolyn Warren's Home	6:00 pm Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Choir Practice	Advent Bible Study-11:30 am		
PEACE 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2nd Sunday of Advent Annual Cong. Mtg Session Stated Mtg	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's		6:00 pm Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Choir Practice	Advent Bible Study-11:30 am		
JOY 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3rd Sunday of Advent	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's		Circle #1-1:00 pm 6:00 pm Advent Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Choir	Advent Bible Study-11:30 am		
LOVE 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 11:30 pm Come & Go Communion Service	Christmas Day			
1st Sunday After Christmas New Officer Training	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's					
	29	30	31			



Coming January 2020

January 6

Epiphany

January 12

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Celebration of Communion

January 19

Christian Unity Sunday

Speaker-The Rev. Jeffery Allen, WV Council of Churches

January 20

MLK Celebration in Lewisburg

..... More News in Next Newsletter.....

See you at the Church



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