



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 3: Issue 1

January 2021

New Committee and New Technology



The 2021 Session is now in place and new areas of concern are being given to each of the Elders in their areas of responsibility for this church. The new Elder chairs will be released in the next newsletter after the first meeting.

A new committee developed for the Session this year is the Communications and Outreach Committee. The committee is a continuation of what Kereshmeh Kashefian, started as an Elder on the Outreach Committee. The new aspects of this committee will be dealing with not only the outreach by cards and letters and web page and Facebook and You Tube, but it will also include the Newsletter, the upgraded worship presence on the internet, and various other methods of bringing our church and its services outside our structural walls into the community. It is a continuation of the work being done in Missions and in Education, and it is an exciting time to be at Clifton as we share the mission of our church into the future with new methods of communications. Already we are tapping into the talents and skills of Nima Shahmir, Paul Jacoby Victor Shahmir, Kereshmeh Kashefian, and so many others. We shall be recruiting others to work on projects with this committee too.

Look for the new look in our Communications and Outreach. Look at what we are doing and share ideas of new ways we can continue to improve.

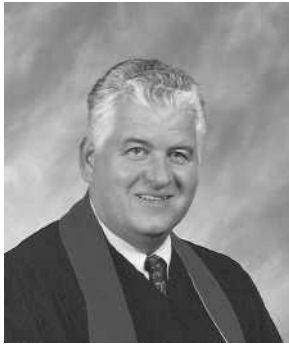


We are a Matthew 25 Church!!!

A great thank you goes to the Clifton Session as it voted to help fund the Pandemic Parables program on December 21 along with Bream Memorial Presbyterian and First Dunbar Presbyterian. The Program with storyteller Geraldine Buckley was not only a great way to have the last Sunday of Advent, but it was a wonderful way to know how we as a Matthew 25 church makes a difference during this pandemic. Great job done.

Office Ramblings

Happy New Year.
Welcome to 2021, and maybe the year we might start moving back to a new normal. Not sure what that will be, but at least we can hope and dream for the best. I am ready to believe that 2021 will be better.



On Sunday, January 10 The Clifton Session will meet to approve my contract as Temporary Supply Pastor for the Clifton Church. I have agreed to renew the contract for another year with the understanding again this year that the church is continuing the process of finding a pastor. That searching task has been difficult this past year due to Covid-19. The Crossroads Committee though continues to work toward that direction. My job is to try to maintain some continuity of work at the church. I am not here to do lots of things that a full-time pastor will do, but I will try to keep our worship efforts and activities moving forward.

I sure hope that you had a good Christmas. This year our Christmas Eve Service was recorded with the new production equipment. While we had some problems due to technical issues, the service did finally make it on Facebook Live after power failures and other issues. It may also be running on local cable TV also. A huge thanks goes to Nima, Larry, Julie, Tim, Catherine, Jim, Andrew, Brandt, Heather, Houston, and any others who made this happen from our church. Also thanks goes to Joe Sharp for coming to the church to run our new equipment for us in the production and to Darren McGuffin for helping us to get everything set.

Hope all goes well in 2021. Stay safe in this dangerous pandemic time. Remember to Socially Distance; Wash your Hands; and Wear a facemask. Get the vaccine when it is safe or time for you to do so. We so want to worship and celebrate with each other in 2021. We need to start planning that when this is over we shall have a great celebration of coming together. All for Now-Ron

Martin Luther King Day-January 18



Last year was the annual huge Martin Luther King Celebration in Lewisburg. There was the usual march from the courthouse to the Lewisburg United Methodist church; there was the great meal directed by Lisa Carter; there was the music and stories (a great essay read by our own Andrew Blake) and of course the wonderful keynote address by Dr. Joseph Evans.

2021 will be different. Due to the Pandemic there will not be the march or the meal or the gathering. There will be some videos played to watch, and it is hoped that a speaker may be able to address people virtually. It is a different year. It is a difficult period of time.

Nevertheless the role that Dr. Martin Luther King played in our nation and in the world is still worthy of us honoring and celebrating. Here at Clifton on the Sunday before MLK Day we shall take time during the morning worship service to remember and to honor his work and ministry.

Prayer Concerns

Natalie Wade, David and Linda Schmidt, Bedford McClintic, Brownie Dunn, Sue Wyman, Becky Hogan, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Margert Hedrick, Charles & Jean Moody, Wilma Reynolds, Mary Elmore, Sue Larson, Jenny McClung, the Fleming family, Jacob Heffner, Covid-19 infections, the children and teachers and staff of schools, Our church, The New Session, and other illnesses and despair and sickness

Session Report for December 6, 2020

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated December meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 12:10 p.m. Those present in Clifton's fellowship hall were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell, temporary pastor, Ron Miller and session members: Larry Davis, Jim Miller, Carol Hoover, and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Also present in the fellowship hall were: Heather Blake, Heather Gillilan, and Shannon Warren, who were elected as session members for 2021-2022 term. Those present by telephone were session members, Teresa Bostic, Venetta Wright and Lynne Bostic. Kereshmeh Kashefian, and Suzy Meadows were excused.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the November 8, 2020 stated session meeting were approved.

The class of 2021-2022 session members, Heather Blake, Teresa Bostic, Heather Gillilan and Shannon Warren shared their faith journey and answered in the affirmative the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. These elected session members were approved along with Suzy Meadows who was examined and approved on December 20th.

The session set January 10, 2020 during 11:00 a.m. worship for the service of ordination and installation for Heather Blake, Heather Gillilan and Shannon Warren. Teresa Bostic and Suzy Meadows will also be installed for the new term in this service. **All ordained elders are asked to send a "cut out" of their hand for a symbolic "laying on of hands" during this service.**

The financial report for October 2020 was received: The General fund took in \$8,474.82 and expensed \$5,607.50 showing an excess income of \$2,867.32. The Memorial fund received \$475.00 from donations for use of the park. The fund paid out \$260.00 to leave a balance of \$46,503.77. The Cents-Ability offering for September was \$68.00. The Peacemaking offering was \$615.00. \$154.00 of that offering is to be use locally. The Mission Committee will decide the use of this money. Stone Soup fund donated \$1,000 to help a member and now has a balance of \$1,589.33.

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for November was **21** and the average number of Facebook viewers was **158**.

The Per Capita Assessment and Shared Mission Pledge request was received form the Presbytery WV. The session voted to meet the Shared Mission pledge request. For the year of 2021, the Presbytery of West Virginia's Per Capita assessment is \$2,133.55 and the Shared Mission pledge is \$2,410.00.

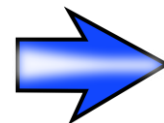
Larry Davis acting as part of the "Matthew 25" Committee requested \$250 to come from the Christian Education budget to sponsor, along with the Bream and Dunbar churches, a Geraldine Buckley Zoom event "Pandemic Parables" on the afternoon of December 20, 2020. The motion was approved.

Carol Hoover, Chair of the Fellowship Committee reported that the Fellowship Committee would keep orange juice and some "sweets" in the church's refrigerator for emergency use by diabetics.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported that Clifton's Mission Committee would again, this year, sponsor a "Helping Hands" program with the money given to be used area schools to help students when they encounter a time of great need. Last year's donations were given to Creighton, Frankford and Lewisburg Elementary Schools.

Venetta Wright, Chair of the Worship Committee recommended that the church building not be open for a Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service nor offer communion at a 1:00 p.m. service as had been planned. The recommendation was approved by the session. The committee hoped to broadcast a Christmas Eve Service and to have the Sanctuary open for a few hours for prayer and meditation. Larry Davis agreed to organize a "Caroling" event if possible.

(Session Report Continued on Page 4)



DAVID
THE
KING

J. K. COETZEE

fellowship hall to consider more about King David.

PLEASE NOTE

Helping Hands Mission Project



into the community by the Mission Committee to help where there is the greatest needs. Thanks to all who have made this a wonderful Holiday Success from the Clifton Church in our ministry to the community.

Houston Arbuckle Chair of the Crossroads

Ron Miller, Pastor reported that some “Matthew 25” churches were using road signs to thank “front line workers” during the Pandemic. He has the equipment needed to make the signs and the session voted to participate in this project. As pastor Ron requested permission to invite Rev. Elizabeth A. (*Betsy*) Walker, pastor of the St Thomas Episcopal Church, *White Sulphur Springs, WV* to speak on “Unity Sunday”, January 24, 2021. The session invited Rev. Walker.

In Old Business the Session The session reviewed the Active Roll and Roll of “Other members and participants” of the Clifton Presbyterian Church, made changes by consensus, and excepted the them as rolls of Clifton Presbyterian at this time.

The Stated January Session meeting was scheduled for January 10, 2021 in the fellowship hall following worship. Conference calling will be available.

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and **Susan Sharp Campbell adjourned the meeting with the prayer.**

A Note from Carol Hoover....



This is a big thank you to all of you who helped me with fellowship hour for the past 2 years, (of course as of last March, due to COVID-19, sadly we had to discontinue Fellowship,) but you told me if you were needed to just call.

You made refreshments to more is a feast instead of a mere snack. YUM!!!!

THANK you to my committee, that no matter what, you were there to help: Evelyn Thomas, Julie Gillan, and Lois Lindsay. Also thanks to all of you who brought food or drink by to see if we needed it, and we did with great appreciation.

Thanks to all of you who came back to fellowship and ate it made it worthwhile.

Thanks again to all!!!!

Have a wonderful and blessed New Year,

Carol Hoover

Editor's Note: While Carol is thanking all of the people who were a part of helping her as she served as the Fellowship Chair, it is really all of us who are offering our thanks to her. Carol not only made sure that there were plenty of supplies for the After Church Fellowships, but she planned the Easter Breakfast; the Thanksgiving Dinner; the refreshment times after special events; dinners at the church for funerals and such; and the list goes on and on. We thank Carol for a great job done.



Natalie Wade

(Report from Amy Wade)

Natalie starts treatment soon on a cancer that has metastasized to her lungs (they found 7 nodules that have appeared since the last scan in late October), therefore they want to do chemo first and then radiation. The chemo is so harsh that she will be hospitalized for 5 days while they administer it (to monitor that it doesn't affect her heart) and then we will have a 5 day break. at which time the plan is for us to return home for five days. Then we will go back for another five days in the hospital, and so on and so forth for four weeks at which time we will reevaluate and rescan and see where we are.

Instead of giving you the hospital address it is probably easiest to give you the address of my cousin, where I will be staying most of the time, so if anyone wants to send cards they won't need to worry about them not getting there while she is still there. I will take all cards to her daily when I go in to sit with her.

The Address is ...

Natalie Wade

c/o Neta Davis

2386 Abington Dr.

Charlottesville, VA 22911

Cards always brighten her day and lift her spirits. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we start a new part of this difficult journey. We have a strong faith and know that God will never give us more than we can handle (although sometimes I look to the heavens and say "really God you must be kidding").

Editor's Note: Let's keep those cards and notes and prayers and love flowing for this wonderful young lady. We will miss her at church but let her know that we are with her in this journey.

Meet A Church Family

(Developed by Lynne Bostic of Congregational Care Committee)

This Month's Family-The Roth family:

(Pictured Left to Right)

First Row: Jay and Elizabeth (Roth) Ford, Lisa and Caitlin Roth, Lynne (Roth) Bostic, Allison, and David Bostic

Back row: Marsha and Neal Roth, Larry Roth, Earl and Alice Roth, Nick, Ashley (Bostic) and Noah Eisenberg

(information provided by Lynn Bostic & Alice Roth)



1. What brought your family to this area?

Earl was offered a job as manager and a partnership in Greenbrier Lumber Co. In Feb. of 1964. He took the job and moved to Greenbrier Co in March and stayed at the Hotel Neely in Lewisburg until the children and I moved down in June. We were living in Valley Bend at that time and Larry was in first grade so didn't want to move until he was out of school. Neal was 3 years old and Lynne 7 months old when we moved.....So Greenbrier Valley has been home for us ever since.

2. Where else have you or your family lived?

Before we were married Earl had lived near Oakland, MD, Kansas, PA and Horse Shoe Run, WV. I had lived near Aurora, WV, Kingwood, WV and Westernport MD.

Since we have been married we have lived in: Riverside, California, Morgantown, WV, Westover, WV, Valley Bend, WV and Renick, WV.

3. What is your family's favorite food?

Our family likes about everything. Two things that are always special for Christmas is panned fried oysters and mincemeat pie.

4. Where does your family like to vacation?

Our favorite vacation spot has been the Outer Banks for years. We went to Duck and stayed in the same house each year for 20 years with Earl's brother and his family and ours.

Now when just our family can go we go to Hatteras. It is not as crowded and is closer to their fishing. Doug Martin has been taking our family out fishing for years--In fact 3 generations!

5. What is your favorite family tradition?

Our family Christmas when we all get together sometime in December. Covid-19 didn't stop us this year. We had our get together by Zoom. It wasn't the same but we had a good time visiting.

Also in July we have "Family Chicken" when we all get together with the nieces, nephews, Earl's sister, and my brother in Preston County for the day with lots of good food and fellowship.

6. Where Have you Traveled?

Earl & I have been fortunate enough to travel to 49 states together. He has been to all 50, but I have not made it to Hawaii. Our favorite trip was Alaska. We traveled over 10,000 miles and was gone for 7 weeks.

7. Blessing in Life

We have been very blessed with 3 children, 4 granddaughters and their husbands and wives.

8. Favorite Scripture

My favorite scripture is the 23rd Psalm.



- February 17-Ash Wednesday
- February 21-Beginning of Lent
- March 28-Palm Sunday
- April 1-Maundy Thursday
- April 2-Good Friday
- April 4-Easter Sunday
- May 9-Mother's Day
- May 23-Pentecost

Jan. 1



Happy New Year

Jan. 3

Cents-ability Sunday

Jan. 6



Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 10



Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Celebration of Communion
Ordination and Installation of Elders
Session Meeting

Jan. 17

Start of Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity

Jan. 18



Martin Luther King Day



Laying on of Hands

As part of our installation of new Elders in our church there is the “laying on of hands” by ordained persons as prayer is offered. The new Elders will become Ordained Elders at this time. What does it all mean?

“Luke describes the laying on of hands as both a sign of being called to a specific task (Acts 6:6) and as the physical action that signifies the Holy Spirit passing from apostle to believer (Acts 8:17). In 1 Timothy, the work of ministry receives ecclesial blessing and is described as the gift “given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders” (1 Timothy 4:14).” (written by Dr. Thomas Currie in The Presbyterian Outlook, published Aug. 14, 2015).

The “Laying on of Hands” is part of our tradition of signifying that this person being ordained is being sent forth in ministry as a special part of the church. (Not room here to discuss the whole theological and ecclesiastical reasons). It is a very important part of our denomination and tradition.

During this time of Covid-19 the question is how one brings Ordained Elders of the Church forward to be part of this special service for the ordaining of new Elders. A highly creative and special solution was found. The Ordained Elders would simply trace their hands, and that would be used for the service. It makes the service capable of being done safely for all.

On Sunday, January 10 the Clifton Church will ordain a new class of Elders, led by The Rev. Susan Sharp-Campbell, and many of our Ordained Elders will be present in a virtual fashion.



Next Issue February 2021

Feb. 7-Souper Bowl of Caring

Session Meeting

Feb. 14-Transfiguration of the Lords Sunday

Valentine's Day

Feb. 16-Shrove Tuesday

Feb. 17-Ash Wednesday

See you at the Church (or On-line)



Clifton Presbyterian Church
PO Box 200
16512 Seneca Trail North
Maxwelton, WV 24957