



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 2: Issue 10

November 2020



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

On December 26, 1941, Congress passed a law declaring the Thanksgiving Holiday the fourth Thursday of November. Up until that point it had been celebrated on differing times in November, and even in different months a few times. Now it is always on the 4th Thursday. This year that date is on November 26. For the church, every day should be a day of giving thanks for that which we all have, but this difficult year it is especially important to give special thanks on the day. Bow in prayer as you remember not just the difficulties of 2020, but also all of the wonderful ways in which you have been blessed this year. As the song says, “*Count your blessings and name them one by one.*”

Due to Covid-19 the church will not have their annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year on Nov. 22. We are sorry to miss the dinner, but we would rather not have the fellowship this year so that we can see you next year for the dinner. We will miss the work of the Fellowship Committee under the direction of **Carol Hoover** as they put this event together, but we know that it is better to be safe.



On Sunday, November 1 the Clifton Church will meet for their annual church business meeting. The following report will be submitted for the congregation to vote. 25 voting members must be present for this vote.

Nominations for Elders (Two Year Terms)

Heather Blake, Teresa Bostic, Heather Gillilan, Suzy Meadows, and Shannon Warren

Nomination for Board of Trustees

Jim King

Nominations for the Nominating Committee

Buddy Baker, Lynne Bostic, Larry Davis, Donna Nickell, and Alice Roth



We are a Matthew 25 Church!!!

Office Ramblings

Now let's see, -hmm, where did October go? For that matter where did anywhere go this year. Can you believe that we are now writing our November newsletter? My-oh-my did this month just zoom on past us. I hope that you remembered to set your clocks back an hour on November 1. It will not really slow down the time, but maybe it will help to get that extra hour of sleep.



As most of you know my Mother died on Sunday, October 18 after a long fight with COPD and other things. Her funeral was held on Wednesday, October 21, which also happened to be the 42nd Anniversary for Cindy and me. We found the day bittersweet. We were saddened in the loss of a Mother, but we were so happy to have an anniversary celebration with all of our children present. We knew that Mom was at rest, and it gave us peace in having the time to share with family. We do want to thank the many prayers and warm wishes from the church during this period. You also have been our family during this journey.



As this newsletter goes to print it will be Election Day in our country. This has been a very harsh election year with strong feelings by most everybody. I will be glad to see the election finally come to an end. I am tired of phone calls and text ads and mailings and social media attacks of people against people. I am ready to see and receive less on my phone and TV and computer.



One of the joys of getting older is everything in your body seems to need fixing. On November 4, I have to have cataract surgery on my left eye. Everyone who has had the surgery says that it makes a great difference in their vision and how they are able to function. It will be nice to be able to see at night again better than I can at the moment.



On the first Sunday of November we honored four people on All Saint's Day who were members of

our church, or who had been active in the life of our Church. **Melvin Bostic, Steve Malcomb, Carolyn Arbuckle and Hale Arbuckle** were the four names given and a candle lit. Sharing in stories besides myself were **Carol Hoover, Venetta Wright, Teresa Bostic, Houston Arbuckle and the Rev. Susan Sharp-Campbell**. It was nice to remember and to honor.



Don't forget that on Saturday, November 28 we will be decorating the Church for the Advent and Christmas Season ahead of us. While this may be a different kind of year, it can be made special if we work to make it great. I look forward to a great celebration! How about you? -**Ron**



FALL BIBLE STUDY

This was tried to get started on Oct. 25, but it failed due to technical issues. It has been scheduled to start now on November 11 at 7:00pm. The Schedule is being developed, but here is the general outline of the schedule:

Nov. 11-Reformation and the Church Today

Nov. 18-Reformation and the Church today

Nov. 25-Thanksgiving Thankfulness

In December we shall do an Advent Study about traditions of the season. All of these studies will be done on Zoom.



A Matthew 25 Event

On November 1-3 the three churches in WV doing the Matthew 25 Project, Bream Memorial, 1st Presbyterian of Dunbar and Clifton had a season of prayer for all that is taking place around us during this

pandemic. Each night following various times of prayer during the day, the different churches led a virtual prayer service for all as we lifted in prayer various aspects of this difficult time.

Thanks goes to **Larry Davis and Suzy Meadows** for putting our service together and on-line. It is so good to work with other churches in West Virginia as we move toward ministry in our various mission points.

Session Report for October 4, 2020 by Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated October meeting on Sunday October 4, 2020 at 12:00 noon. Those present Clifton's fellowship hall were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: **Jim Miller, Carol Hoover, and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Those present by telephone were Larry Davis, Venetta Wright, and Lynne Bostic. Kereshmeh Kashefian, Suzy Meadows and Teresa Bostic** were excused.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the September 27, 2020 called session meeting were approved. The minutes of the stated September 13, 2020 had been approved on September 27th.

The financial report for August 2020 was received: The General fund took in \$10,093.59 and expensed \$5,883.58, showing an excess income of \$5,210.01. The Memorial fund received \$215.00 from donations for use of the park and paid out \$260.00 leaving a balance of \$46,438.03 The Cents-Ability offering for July was \$68.48. Stone Soup received \$120.00 from the 5th Sunday Offering and paid out \$400.00 for gift cards leaving a balance of \$2,589.29.

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for August was **17** and the average number of Facebook viewers was **203**.

Houston Arbuckle, Co-chair of the Administration Committee reported that he Administration Committee is working with Suddenlink to get strong Wi-Fi all through the building and a phone jack in the Fellowship hall. This is to help with the on-line meetings and classes that may be necessary as we deal with covid-19.

Suzy Meadows, Chair of the Christian Education Committee and the "Matthew 25" Committee reported that **Ron Miller, Larry Davis and Suzy Meadows** participated in a Zoom meeting with people from First Presbyterian Church Dunbar and Bream Memorial Presbyterian

(Charleston) on Tuesday, September 29th. These three churches have now formed a "Matthew 25 team" and the enthusiasm at this meeting was inspiring. The first joint activity, the prayer event November 1-3, was planned by representatives of each church, Dawn Adamy (Bream), Terri McDougal (Dunbar) and Suzy Meadows. We hope you were able to participate.

Venetta Wright, Chair of the Worship Committee reported the follow committee members were present at the September 20, 2020 Worship Committee Meeting: **Venetta Wright, Ann Davis, Jim Miller, Terrie King, Carol Hoover, Ron Miller, and Julie Gillilan**. The committee recommended the following schedule:

- Communion Schedule:
 - **October 4, 2020-World Communion**
 - **November 29, 2020-Advent**
 - **December 24, 2020-Christmas Eve**
 - **January 10, 2021- Bapt. of the Lord**
 - **April 4, 2021-Easter**

The session approved the proposed Communion Schedule.

- On November 1st, All Saints Day, Hale Arbuckle, Carolyn Arbuckle, Melvin Bostic, and Steve Malcomb will be honored during morning worship.
- Nov. 22 is Christ the King Sunday.
- There will be no Thanksgiving dinner.
- Nov 28, 9:00 a.m. will be the Hanging of the Greens.
- Jan. 9 at 9:00 a.m. is the time set to remove the greens.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported that October 17, 2020 was the day for Clifton to help with the food distribution at the Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Locker. The following persons represented Clifton at the Food Locker: **Larry Davis, Jim Miller, Ryan Blake, Andrew Blake, Houston Arbuckle, and Tim Holbrook. (Con't. on Page 5 Clerk's Report)**

Clifton Mission Committee Report-Larry Davis, Chair

Here are two of many thank-you cards sent to Clifton Presbyterian Church for donations and service along with the logos for three of the other humanitarian programs that we have recently contributed to.



Card from the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway



Family Refuge Center



Card for our Greenbrier Health Care Center Singers



Long-Term Recovery Commtee

Presbyterian Disaster Relief

Not shown above are Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Feeding Seniors, Shepherd's Center of the Greenbrier Valley, Lewisburg/Fairlea Food



Locker, and Doctors Without Borders, and individuals benefitting from the Stone Soup Fund.



The Shepherd Center will be finishing their Adventures in Learning on the first week in November. There may be a few make-up classes, but most will be done. Now it is on to planning for the Spring session.

Of course as the staff will tell you, there work is not just the Adventures in Learning. Throughout the winter the work of the Shepherd Center continues. Check out their web page as to the things that you can do as you minister with them in this community.



The "Seekers' Sunday School Class to Resume

The "Seekers' Sunday school class plans to resume meeting in the **fellowship hall** of Clifton Presbyterian Church on Sunday, **November 15, 2020**. Houston Arbuckle will lead a discussion class, which is intended to allow for the Spirit to teach through ideas shared by our classmates. **Our plan is for those who would prefer not to be present physically to be able to join the class with Zoom.**

The studies will begin by considering the Biblical Characters: Abraham, David, Elijah and Jacob. The curriculum was prepared by "The Thoughtful Christian" which is maintained by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, an agency of PCUSA and is used by many denominations. Because we hope to spend most of our time together in discussion, we will need to read the background literature and do our Bible study before the class meetings. **If you are interested in joining the class, let Houston**

Arbuckle know so he can **send you the class literature**. You may see Houston at the church; phone him: 304 645-6597; or e-mail him at: rharbuckle@suddenlink.net. You will receive the information by picking it up at church, e-mail, or regular mail. E-mail will be the easiest, if you will send your e-mail address.

As now planned, the classes will begin at 10:05 on Sunday mornings starting on November 15th. If you plan to join by zoom, the web site is: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81653323584>. (that is Zero 5). If you need a passcode it is: 654321. When you want to join by telephone, dial: 1 646 558-8656. The ID is: 81653323584. There is no individual ID, just hit #. The passcode is 654321.

I am looking forward to studying together,
Houston Arbuckle

Prayer Concerns

Natalie Wade, Helen Fleming, Bedford McClintic, Brownie Dunn, Sue Wyman, Becky Hogan, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Margert Hedrick, Becky Godby, Charles & Jean Moody, Wilma Reynolds, Mary Elmore, Sue Larson, Jenny McClung, Covid-19 infections, the Nation at this time, the children and teachers and staff at schools, Our church, The Crossroads Committee, and others illnesses and despair and sickness

(Clerk's Report con't from Pg. 3) Pastor Ron Miller's report included: his plans for a guest speaker for Christian Unity Sunday; an announcement that he is teaching an online Bible study about the book of "Revelation" for the Shepherd Center; and that he is working with the Christian Education Committee to plan an online adult study for Clifton for this fall.

The Stated November Session meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2020 at 12:00 noon in the fellowship hall. Conference calling will be available.

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and **Ron Miller adjourned the meeting with the prayer.**

Electronic Services

We continue to reach into our world with our electronic services on You-Tube and Facebook Live. As such an active part of our outreach as a church we are making strides to improve our work.

One of the things we did was to install wi-fi throughout the church. It is now possible to stream over the internet with much greater service (though we are still having some problems with connections and passwords). It is hoped that when we finish getting these problems resolved our ability will be greatly improved.

Through the work of **Kereshmeh and Victor and Nima** our sound quality has gotten many times greater for the electronic services. Kereshmeh has also expanded our reach into many pockets around the world throughout the world with the use of the web page and electronic services. Now we have folks from various countries and states worshipping with us every week.

The newest discussion is improvement and ease of how we do the services at the moment. How can we make everyone who watches our services to feel that they are a part of the service taking place. With that there are other directions we must explore as a church. More on that exciting possibilities as we research and develop the possibilities.

For now, thanks for staying with us on-line and through the phonelines as we develop. It will be an exciting future for all of us. Please let us know if you use the electronic work that we are doing. Comment on Facebook-Live or drop us a note.



Every Sunday Morning on Facebook Live and also on You Tube. Join us on-line if you cannot make worship in person.

Congrats

On October 11, 2020, **Suzy and James Meadows** were proud to announce the birth of their latest grandchild, Rhet Wyatt Rodavich, son of **Emily and Brian Rodavich** and brother to Harper Rodavich of Washington, Pa.

While 2020 has been a hard year for most, this makes the year a real joy. Congrats to Suzy and James and to Emily, Brian and Harper. Good excitement and good news.



Hanging OF THE Greens

Chrismons, greenery, candles, poinsettias, banners, stars, and so much more are all symbols of the joyous season for the church as we prepare through Advent to celebrate the wonders of the Christmas season.

Join **Carol Hoover** on Saturday, November 28 as she directs an industrious group of volunteers to bring the church sanctuary into its seasonal beauty with the annual Hanging of the Greens. What a great time of fellowship this has been over the years.

This year will be different as the work crew will observe social distancing and the wearing of face coverings during the work. There will not be a lunch provided this year as in the past, but still the fun still is present. Come and be part of the Hanging of the Greens Team.

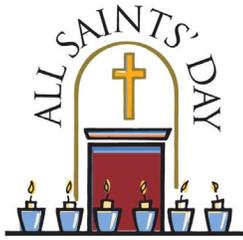
Sunday November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

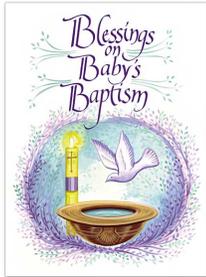
On this first Sunday of Advent the church will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as we start a new church year, and as we start preparing for the Christmas Event. Come prepared to worship with us as we celebrate this service in a safe and social distancing way.



Nov. 1



All Saints' Day



Dedication & Baptism Service

Nov.3-Election Day



Nov. 8

Session Meeting at 12:00 Noon

Nov. 11-Veteran's Day



Nov. 22-Christ the King Sunday



Nov. 26-Thanksgiving Day



Nov. 28-Hanging of the Greens



Nov. 29-1st Sunday of Advent



First Sunday in Advent

Christmas Is Coming



We are waiting on your ideas. We are wanting to create an opportunity for an exciting time of ministry for our church. Get those creative thought gears turning. We are seeking your ideas for the Christmas Season. Is there a way that we can celebrate the Advent Season and Christmas Events in a different and safe fashion for us all? Are there ideas that we can try is new and exciting? Think about those ideas and share them with the Worship Committee or the office. This could be our greatest Advent Christmas celebration ever!!

Next Issue December 2020



Dec. 6-2nd Sunday of Advent
Dec. 13-3rd Sunday of Advent
Dec. 20-4th Sunday of Advent
Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Event
Dec. 25-Christmas Day

See you at the Church (*or On-line*)



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