



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

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March 2020

On February 16th we began our worship service at Clifton Presbyterian by participating in a kick-off celebration for becoming a Matthew 25 church. **Suzy Meadows**, chairman of our Christian Education committee, read the opening sentences and also gave an introduction to the Matthew 25 initiative.

During the Lenten season, we will be using *Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 journey to the Cross* for a self study. The children of Clifton eagerly helped hand out these devotionals to the congregation. We will also have group Bible studies during Lent as well as other Matthew 25 activities in the months ahead.

Next a group picture was taken by **Nima Shahab Shahmir** of our congregational members displaying **We are a Matthew 25 Church** flyers (*photo on Page 4*) and the celebrant held our Certificate of Commitment. A Matthew 25 Church litany of congregational vitality, which will be our focus point, was also read followed by the remainder of the worship service.

A festive fellowship followed with a Valentine/heart theme making our kick-off celebration a memorable one.



MATTHEW 25

Time To Start Thinking of Camp

Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center is reminding all that it is time to think about camp for this summer. Now is a great time to start planning and thinking for the children in our church and our community of having a fun and learning time at camp.

Bluestone Camps & Retreat list 6 reasons why they believe that camp can be important for all:

- 1. At Camp time is spent being physically active**
- 2. At Camp all experience success and become more confident.**
- 3. At Camp all unplug from technology.**
- 4. At Camp there is free time for unstructured play.**
- 5. At Camp true fiends are made for life.**
- 6. At Camp there is a nonjudgmental place to strengthen ones relationship with God.**

Our job as a church is to help find the campers for this year. It is not just the people from our congregation, but it can be from our whole community. Maybe we can partner with other churches in finding campers. Maybe we can simply donate to Bluestone as they offer financial assistance to others who wish to go to camp. There is much we can do.

By the way if you are looking for a Summer job, there are opportunities at Bluestone. Go to www.bluestonecamp.com for more information. It is not too early to start planning and thinking about Camp. It is not just for kids either. There are lots of camp and retreat possibilities.

40 Days of Lent Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 26

Impressions of the Winter Presbytery Meeting

By Larry Davis

For me, the best part of the meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia at the Riverlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans on February 15, 2020 was the installation of the new Moderator of the Presbytery. Andy Rice, pastor of the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro (***Suzy Meadows told me that she and James got married in that church in Hillsboro with the copper roof that can be easily seen from the top of Droop Mountain***) was installed as the new Moderator.



The Rev. Andy Rice installed as Moderator for WV Presbytery
(photo by Larry Davis)

The Presbytery meeting is a good opportunity to meet people and swap tales of our experiences as members of different churches. For instance, Linda Boone of the Frankford Presbyterian Church rode with me to the meeting, and gaps in our conversation were practically nonexistent. She has been to lots of Presbytery meetings.

The Presbytery's Mission Committee offered us a splendid opportunity to make progress as a *Matthew 25 Church*. We could be one of the churches to host visitors from the Nyeri Presbytery of Kenya in

August. Inviting strangers in and offering them something to eat and drink fits right in with the good deeds of Christians specified by Jesus in the last few verses of Matthew 25. Our church's Mission Committee is looking into this possibility right now. The West Virginia and Nyeri Presbyteries have been linked in a covenant of understanding since 1998. Coincidentally, our church donated to support Nyeri Presbytery projects last year.

Sarah Specht gave a most excellent and energetic presentation about the programs at Bluestone Camp (see story on Page 1 about Camp). She introduced a young man who spoke ardently with about how he had been a Bluestone camper and then a counselor for many years. We could easily see how much of a positive impact those experiences have had on his life.

The worship service before lunch put us all in a good state of mind and the food that was provided afterwards put us in an even better one. Another thing provided was plenty of posters with presbytery activities. Check out our bulletin board and take note of the new ones. That includes the one announcing the **Festival of Faith at the First Presbyterian Church on March 25th in Charleston.**

Office Ramblings

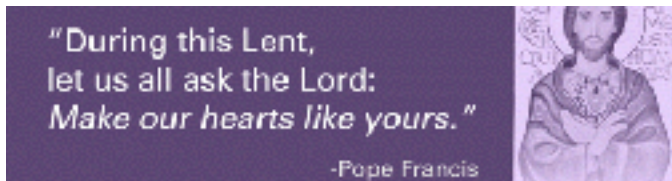
Well in just a few short days the Winter will officially end, and it will be Spring. What a great time of the year. Pastures start to green, and the daffodils push through the cold ground to remind us that growing continues.



In many ways that is what Lent is all about for our faith. Starting the first of March and continuing until the Great Easter Vigil, Lent is a time to prepare

us for the growth ahead. As a Matthew 25 Church we shall be looking at how we do ministry and mission for our local and global community. For Lent we shall study and pray and prepare. On Resurrection Sunday we shall burst forth the cold just like a daffodil.

Are you ready? -Ron



Contributors of Articles and Pictures to the Clifton Messenger

Larry Davis
Houston Arbuckle
Nima
Suzy Meadows
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The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated February meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 12: 30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the church. Those in attendance were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: Venetta Wright, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Carol Hoover, Larry Davis, Lynne Bostic, Kereshmeh Kashefian, and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Teresa Bostic was excused.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the January 12, 2019 stated session meeting were approved. Due to the early meeting date, the financial report for January 2020 will be available for the March stated meeting.

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for January 2020 was **46**. The next Presbytery meeting will be February 15th in St. Albans. **Larry Davis** will serve as Commissioner. The next celebration of the Lord's Supper will be **February 23, 2020**, Transfiguration Sunday, **with Rev. Ed Thompson presiding**.

Suzy Meadows, Chair of the Education Committee reported the process of becoming a "Mathew 25 Church" is complete and we are now the **second church in West Virginia to become a "Mathew 25 Church"**. The kick off for the Mathew 25 initiative will be Sunday, February 16th. The session approved the purchase and use of PCUSA "Mathew 25" devotional and study materials for the Lenten season.

Carol Hoover, Chair of the Fellowship Committee reported that fellowship for February 2nd was designated as "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" and the money collected is be used by the Mission Committee for area youth. She also reported that

Lois Lindsey is now as member of the Fellowship Committee.

Lynne Bostic, Chair of the Congregational Care Committee reported **Heather Blake** and **Jean King** will be helping with the Congregational Care Committee. She plans to update *Clifton's Directory* as one of the Committee's first projects.

Venetta Wright, Chair of the Worship Committee presented the following list of Dates for the celebration of communion: January 12, 2020—Baptism of the Lord; February 23, 2020—Transfiguration Sunday; April 9, 2020—Maundy Thursday; April 12, 2020—Easter; May 31, 2020 Pentecost; October 4, 2020—World Wide Communion; November 29, 2020—first Sunday of Advent. The Session approved Communion for each of these dates.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported committee members: **Joanne Persinger, Teresa Bostic and Houston Arbuckle** had agreed to continue serving on this committee and he hopes to get some additional members. **All committee Chairs are looking for new members** to help in the coming year.

Kereshmeh Kashefian, Chair of the Outreach Committee plans to update the Church's website page. She is using our Facebook page to communicate with both members and the community.

Pastor Ron Miller reminded us that he is working on the third newsletter and always needs material. He believes we need to look for ways to "*tell the Clifton Story*". He thinks we have a great history and some great programs and need to tell people. He would also like to find better ways to

follow up with visitors and be sure they know how to join our church.

In **NEW BUSINESS** session produced and **approved the budget for 2020**. Clifton's Manual of Operations will be reviewed at the next session meeting on **March 1, 2020**.

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

Prayer Concerns

Brownie Dunn

Sue Wyman

Carolyn Arbuckle

Buddy Baker

Marie Reynolds

Max Gibson

Becky Godby

Jennifer Skaggs

Sue Larson

Doug Arbuckle

The Crossroads Committee

and the Matthew 25 Church emphasis.

The celebration of worship as a *Matthew 25 Church* took place on Sunday, February 16 as the church kicked off a great emphasis for the future. (See the story on Page 1). The day was led by **Suzy Meadows**, Chair of the Christian Education Committee. We are one of two churches in West Virginia who have signed to be a Matthew 25 Church. Clifton could lead the way for all small churches.



Children's Church Group filling a pew. (photo by Steve Malcomb)



Matthew 25 Church Celebration. (photo by Nima Shahab Shahmir)

Children are the future of our church. We are proud of our full team of Acolytes who serve every Sunday; we are proud of those who attend Church School; we are proud of those who part of Children's Church; and we are always proud of the ones who are part of our Children's Moments. It is good to fill a pew every Sunday with the smiling faces of the children of our church. They have an excitement that needs to be caught by us all.

OFF TO CHURCH I GO

A picture captured of **John Blake** at church on a cold February Day. He was actually on his way home from church, but a good day had been spent at the church. Sunday School, children's worship moment, children's church and the After-Church Fellowship. A pretty busy day.



Every Sunday is pretty full at Clifton. (photo by Steve Malcomb)

Charleston Bound and New Experiences Found



Kyle King is pictured at the West Virginia Legislature as a Page for Delegates Lavender-Bowe and Campbell. This is always a good experience as one watches and works on the floor of the Legislature as actions concerning the State happens every moment.





Ready to get out of the house after the cold winter weather? The Spring 2020 Session of Adventures in Learning classes are going to start soon!

**When: Thursday, February 27th
and continuing through Thursday,
April 2nd**

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

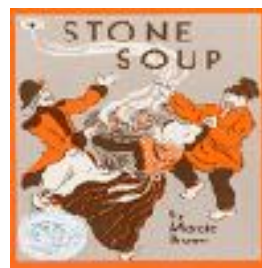
**Where: Lewisburg United
Methodist Church**

There are classes for everyone! Some favorites are still on the schedule: Currents Events with Cleve Benedict as moderator, Appalachian Lore with John Wyatt, 'The Appalachian', Book Group for those who love to read, Creative Writing with Willa Izzo for those who show their creativity through writing, and more. Newer classes include a gardening class with Brenda and Linda Spencer, a cooking class with Rich Lohmeyer - our Community Service Award recipient this year, Baby Boomer class to test our memories of past years, and so much more!

If you would like a brochure of our classes and registration, you can call the Shepherd's Center office at (304) 645-4196 or let **Teresa Bostic** know! Come join us for lots of fun and good food!



The Stone Soup Fund at Clifton Presbyterian Church has been around for several years, and it serves to deliver aid to members of our church and other people in our community whom we know are in dire need of help due to unexpected challenges to their wellbeing. Everyone is encouraged to help the Mission Committee find out who should receive portions of Stone Soup Fund offering collected every time there is fifth Sunday in a month. The name, Stone Soup Fund, is derived from the folk tale describing a village that comes together by individually contributing small amounts of ingredients to a soup pot that initially contains only water and a stone. The added vegetables and seasonings make for a delicious soup. It just so happens that Sue Hollandsworth told this story to all the people at the Presbytery of West Virginia Meeting last November using the illustrations from the following book published in 1947.



Everyone is encouraged to let the Mission Committee know of people they think are in situations that warrant their receiving help from the fund. Any kind of discrete communication with the Mission Committee Chairman Larry Davis will do. He regularly checks what serves as the Stone Soup Fund suggestion box. That beautiful box was fashioned by Otis Miles, and it is located on the table in the narthex.



Stone Soup Suggestion Box (photo by Larry Davis)

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT & 2020 BUDGET

(Given by Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session)

2019 Giving: \$103,961.00 to the general fund; \$7,208.00 to the Memorial Fund; \$676.00 to the Stone Soup fund; and \$2,982.00 to special offerings; for a total of **\$114,827.00**

Program Expenses (for all committees except Mission): for 2019--\$1,088.00; *budget for 2020--\$ 3,490.00*

Facilities Maintenance: General fund 2019--\$7,535.00; *Budget for 2020--\$6,000.00*; Memorial Fund for 2019--\$15,547.00 (*this includes two capital improvement projects, replace roof on steeple and upgrade elevator for a total of \$9,309. Also the maintenance for the park comes from the Memorial Fund. The park users donate more to the Memorial Fund than needed for maintenance.*)

Utilities and Operating Expenses: for 2019--\$17,627.00; *budget for 2020--\$23,995.00*

Church staff: for 2019--\$ 17,413.00; *budget of 2020(calculated as if we have Rev. Miller for 6 months and a full time pastor for 6 months)--\$39,350.00*

Minister's Allowances: for 2019—\$0.00; *budget for 2020(calculated as if we have Rev Miller for 6 months and a full time pastor for 6 months)--\$15,000.00*

PCUSA Apportionment: for 2019--\$2,001.00: *budget for 2020—\$2,477.00*

Total Mission:

Money distributed by:	General fund 2019	General fund 2020 budget	Shared mission 2019	Shared Mission 2020	Stone Soup	Pentecost & Joy Gift	Cents-ability	Helping Hands
PCUSA	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,230		\$ 638	\$ 1,235	
Local	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,500			\$ 700		\$ 412	\$ 697
Total	\$ 5,450	\$ 5,500	\$2,083	\$ 2,230	\$ 700	\$ 638	\$ 1,647	\$ 697

Total Mission: for 2019 = \$ 11,215

