



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 2: Issue 8

September 2020

Final Vesper Service in the Park

September 9

7:00pm

This is the last Vesper Service in the Park for the Summer of 2020. It is a protected service, and a safe service as everyone stays in their own cars or space. There is singing and reading and praying and a sharing through Worship. (See the Story on Page 4 about the last Vesper Service in August.)

Invite your friends and other churches to be a part of this C-19 Worship Festival in the Park. We will be safe in distancing and practice. It will be a great Summer worship event.

A Matthew 25 Event.....



As a Matthew 25 project, Clifton Presbyterian held its first free clothing give-away. The event was held on Saturday, August 22nd from 8:30am to 2:00pm. During the 2 weeks prior to the event, clothing donations were dropped off at the church. On the day of the give-away, tables and racks were placed in the front parking lot and were loaded with wonderful items, free for the taking. Many individuals left with bags full. Though not requested, some of the clothing recipients made donations to Clifton. These donations have been given to the mission committee to be used towards a food related charity.

The leftover clothing will be taken to local thrift stores. The coats will be given to a coat drive this winter.

In a rain filled summer, the weather this day was perfect. From a Covid-19 standpoint, being outdoors seemed to be the safest environment for everyone. All the volunteers wore masks and practiced safe social distancing.

I am so grateful for the generosity of those making clothing donations, lending supplies, bringing us lunch and donating their time & effort to make this event possible. The volunteers on the day of the event were: Heather Blake, Heather Gillilan, Carol Hoover, Litz Jarvis, James Meadows, Suzy Meadows, Cindy Miller, Jim Miller and JoAnne Persinger. I would like to think that we were a glimmer of hope to our community. As people drove by that day, they hopefully were inspired by us too. It was a good day. Thanks everyone!-*Suzy Meadows*

Office Ramblings



Well the gardens are starting their final sputter of growing for Summer. I have planted much of my Fall Garden as I have time; and I am getting ready for much cooler weather. The Summer of 2020, like the Spring of 2020, has been a brutal time for us all.

Every Summer for most of my life has ended by the State Fair. Autumn usually begins now for our family with the Frankford AutumnFest and our Haunted farm. All of these activities have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Of course there are many other events gone for the year too, including many within our church. Life is different, that is for sure this year.



The Church continues with its work. There is planning on Education and Matthew 25 Projects and how we worship and how the upcoming holidays will change at the church. We always know that the church is more than the decorations and the events and programs, but these traditions and activities that we do are important to us. I believe that in some ways we are sort of going through a time of grief as we can presently no longer practice such activities.



You do not want to miss our last Vesper's in the Park in September. It is a good time for enjoying worship outside and away from others while still seeing those around us. It will be a good final time in the park before the cold of Fall and Winter descend up us.



I am working on a fall Bible Study for our Church at this time. I hope that during the month of October we can have a study which can be in-person and on-line. More of that later.

I am also going to be doing a Bible Study for the Shepherd's Center series of classes in October. I

will be leading an on-line study of the Seven Churches of John's Revelation. Join us. More information will be coming soon about our church study. Check out the Shepherd's Center site for information about the classes there.



For now enjoy the end of Summer. Socially distance; mask and stay safe. It will change soon, and for that we are all going to be grateful. Never one to wish away life, I will be happy to say goodbye to 2020.-Ron



DO You Know These Two People?



It was Saturday, October 8, 1955, and the weather was nice. WVU and VMI were playing football at Mitchell Stadium in Bluefield (WVU won 47-12), and Marshall won at West Michigan. The President of the United States was Dwight D. Eisenhower, Pope Pius XII was leading the Catholic Church. The number one country song was *I Don't Care* by Webb Pierce, and the Number One Song in the National Charts was *Love is a Many Splendor Thing* by the Four Aces. *Oklahoma!* was one of the most viewed movies released in 1955 while *The House On Nauset Marsh* by Wyman Richardson was one of the best selling books.

A young Couple (pictured above) got married on that day. Can you guess who they are? After 65 years they are still together raising family and being a part of this church. **The answer is found on Page 6.**

SESSION NEWS and NOTES

By R. Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated July and August meetings on Sunday, July 5th and August 2nd. The July meeting was a conference call meeting and the August meeting was held in the fellowship room of the church with some members attending by telephone.

At both meetings moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The financial report for May 2020 was showed the following: The General fund had **expenditures in excess of income of \$1,431.77**. The Balance of the General Fund is \$202,601.08. The Memorial fund received \$1,500 and paid out \$325.00, leaving a balance of \$46,571.98.

The financial report for June 2020 showed the General fund with an **excess income of \$5,420.94**. The Memorial fund received \$30.34 and paid out \$260.00 leaving a balance of \$46,342.32. Cents-Ability offering for June was \$113.00. Stone Soup now has a balance of \$2,869.25.

The Clerk reported for the record, the death of long-time member, Claude Stephen (Steve) Malcomb on July 16, 2020. The average worship attendance in the sanctuary for the two months was 18 and well over 350 views on Facebook.

The Session approved from a request form LeAnn Montgomery to allow the Lewisburg Farmer's Market to set up a mobile farmers market in the Clifton parking lot this fall and next spring.

The Session also approved a request from Misty Boggs for use of Clifton's Sanctuary on October 10, 2020 for her wedding.

Jim Miller, Chair of the Property, reported that Buddy Baker's health has improved and he has resumed some of the church's maintenance. Jim has found that the community groups using the park seem to be doing a good job following the rules and cleaning the area. The manse appears to be in good condition following the winter.

Suzu Meadows, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, moved to sponsor a free clothing giveaway prior to back to school on Saturday, August 22nd. This motion was approved. The Christian Education Committee is considering several teaching options (in person, mail outs, phone, etc.) plus possibilities for study materials for the upcoming Sunday School year. No decisions have been made at this time but the committee hopes to place an emphasis on Matthew 25. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the kick-off for Sunday School will probably be delayed until the later part of September.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported that the Mission Committee had met by Conference Call and approved the following expenditures from the Mission Committee's budget: a **\$400 gift** to the **Family Refuge Center**; a **\$200 donation** to the **Lewisburg/Fairlea Food locker**; a **\$200 donation** to the **Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway, WV**; and a **\$400 gift to Doctors Without Borders**. The Mission Committee also approved a **\$400 donation** in the form of gift cards to a community member from the **Stone Soup Fund**.

Lynne Bostic, Chair of the Congregational Care Committee reported that the Congregational Care Committee is working on a Church Directory at this time and considering different ideas for the future.

Venetta Wright, Chair of the Worship Committee reported the Worship Committee met by conference call twice to plan the worship at Clifton. Venetta Wright moved to have "attend in or by car" **vesper sevice in Charley Mackey Park** on July 15, Aug.12 and Sept.9, 2020. The motion was approved. Lieselottee Heil will perform at the August 12th event in park (fiddle and vocals) and Tim Holbrook will sing at worship from time to time. The session approved the **baptism** of a grandchild of Brenda Blake--**Beau Asher Byrd**, son of Barrett and Raelyn Blake Byrd.

Kereshmeh Kashefian, Chair of the Outreach Committee reported at the June meeting that in order to share the Good News around the world, she joined Clifton's Facebook page in different Christian pages. Before this doing this Clifton's Facebook page had 257 "likes" and 278 followers, it now has 357 "likes" and 388 followers. From June 14th through July 5th Clifton's Sunday worship service was viewed by an average of 538 people on Facebook and 9 people on You Tube. **People from 22 states and 17 countries saw the Facebook posts**. The people we are engaging with on Facebook are mostly 65 and over. The Outreach Committee is always looking for ways to improve Facebook live.
(---Con't. on Page 5-Session Rpt.)



Vespers in the Park

JULY-AUGUST- SEPTEMBER

(Written by Larry Davis)

The three vespers in the gazebo area of Charlie Mackey Park were wisely scheduled for three Wednesdays during the 2020 summer of our discontent. These outdoor services in the twilight of the day are perfectly suited to be a respite from the anxiety-generating coronavirus pandemic. Subsequent reading about vespers gave me an appreciation of their role in the life of Christians for centuries.

Services of evening prayers held by Christians originated as early as the fourth century, and the time for them corresponded with sunset. As the dusk begins to fall, there are prayers of thanks for the day and praise to God. The name adopted for them was vespers which comes from the Latin word for evening. Bible readings and singing have also been included. The Presbyterian Church is one Protestant denomination which on occasion continues this practice of having vespers.

Despite the presence of dark clouds covering the sky as the time for vespers on August 12 approached, all was ready in the Charlie Mackey Park gazebo with our pastor and musicians protected from possible rainfall. Eager attendees with their printed descriptions of the service were located in cars forming a semicircle in front of the gazebo. They were ready to sing the hymns without worrying about the possible transmission of the novel coronavirus.

The scene in the park established a particularly peaceful mood for the service. The coming of darkness when most

creatures settle down to rest put our minds at ease. The light rain that had fallen in the late afternoon had created a cleansing, life-giving, and refreshing aspect to the vespers that evening.

The first vesper service on July 15th was accompanied by a beautiful sunset in the direction of Weavers Knob, and perhaps there will be another on September 9th when we gather again for vespers. On that occasion, the sunset will take place a full 40 minutes earlier than it did on August 12th.

Incidentally, the setting for August 12th vespers brought to my mind the origins of the Presbyterian Church. The green grass, green trees, and grey skies were much like the tree-lined fields around John Knox's childhood home of Haddington near the east coast of Scotland. Likewise, listening to the fiddle music between Ron Miller's readings from the bible reminded me of the bagpipes being played by Don Dransfield at our Scottish Communion services in the picnic shelter for many years. He is shown below on a Sunday in September of 2009 playing his highland pipes as part of the Scottish Communion service on another cloudy day.





Greetings from Shepherd's Center! It is that time of year again! Classes to go to, luncheons to prepare for, but not this fall! Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to meet in person for the Community Service Award event that was to have been in the spring. We are having a LIVE Facebook event to honor our 2020 Community Service Award recipients – Rev. Rich and Judy Lohmeyer – on September 15th at 1:00 pm on our Facebook page. Go to our website:

www.greenbriershepherdscenter.com for instructions on how to attend this event. You will get to 'meet' the Lohmeyers by way of the wonderful video highlighting their lives of service. Please join us for a great time with Rich and Judy!

Our Adventures in Learning classes will be virtual this fall. We will be using a Zoom format and will be a learning experience for all of us! We will be having history classes, exercises, Current Events, and more! Call our office or go to our Website:

www.greenbriershepherdscenter.com to register for classes that will be starting on September 29th!

If you have never connected online for a class or presentation, no worries. We will be having practice sessions to help those who are new to Facebook or Zoom to get connected and be able to participate. We want as many as possible to be able to join our events and classes and will be there to help all along the way!

If you need help or know of someone who might need help, especially during this time, please call Shepherd's Center at 304-645-4196 for help. We provide transportation to medical appointments, pick up groceries and bring them to your home, give you a phone call just to check on you and make sure you are doing OK, take care of a small repair around the house, etc. If we cannot help you, we will try and help you find someone who can!

We thank Clifton Presbyterian Church for their continued support throughout the years! Thank you for participating in our events, helping prepare Gwen's meals, delivering those meals, providing volunteers for numerous tasks and lastly financially.

We couldn't do what we do without your continued help and support. Thank you again!

Teresa Bostic, Executive Director

304-645-4196

Sarah Polk, Administrative Assistant

Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley

PO Box 54, Lewisburg, WV 24901

(Ed. Note: We will be trying to keep you informed as to the work of the Shepherd Center each month in our Newsletter as we as a church are a very active supporter of this ministry. Not only is the Executive Minister a member of our Church and Session, but we as a church have supported this ministry from early in its development. It is a part of our mission as a church.)



Preparing Gwen's Meals as part of the Shepherd's Center Outreach

(Session Rpt. Con't) Houston Arbuckle, Chair of the Crossroads Committee, announced an informational meeting with **Maureen Wright**, Stated Clerk, and Associate for Congregational Support of WV Presbytery, in Clifton's sanctuary on **August 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm**.

Pastor Ron Miller suggested that our committees need to consider the possibilities of upgrading our video capacities, begin long term planning for our Church's outreach and consider our relationship with WV Osteopathic School.

In **Other BUSINESS**, the problems and possibility of electronic meetings were discussed. No action was taken. The September Stated Meeting will be a "conference call" meeting on September 13, 2020.

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and Ron Miller adjourned both meetings with prayer.

The Question from Page 2: Do You Know these Two People?



The answer is, “Of course You Do!” This is a wedding picture of **Earl and Alice Roth** who will be celebrating 65 years of marriage on October 8. During this age of C-19 you may not be able to share cake and time with them, but you can certainly send them a notice of congratulations. Their address as provided by their daughter (Lynn Bostic) is:

Earl and Alice Roth

26668 Seneca Trail North
Renick WV 24966

Congratulations to them both on the many years of marriage, and on the raising of a fine family. They have done well.

Prayer Concerns

Alma Faulkner, Sam Romano, Brownie Dunn, Sue Wyman, Buddy Baker, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Margert Hedrick, Becky Godby, Doug Arbuckle, Tammy McGraw, , 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 a schools, Our church, The Crossroads Committee, and others illnesses and despair and sickness



Our on-line ministry from the church to the world continues with the work of the Outreach Committee lead by **Kereshmeh and her family**. Our sound has improved with new mics for the recordings and our presence has extended to You Tube. We are looking at more cameral possibilities, and we are seeking the ability to do some switching to different cameras during the service. Much taking place, and much to do to continue to improve the service online.

A special thanks to the Outreach Committee for the hard work they have done in planning and investigating the various possible methods for our outreach using social media. While this has been a necessity during the pandemic to keep folks viewing our services, it will become an expectation in the world following the pandemic. We have many who watch the service from all over this nation and the world.



A

September

Calendar

Church Office Hours each Thursday
9:00am – 1:00pm
(Unless announced Otherwise)

Sept. 6

Cents-ability Offering
Season of Peace (through Oct. 4)

Sept. 7

Labor Day

Sept. 9

Vespers in the Park

Sept. 13

Session Meeting
(On-line)

Sept. 15

Shepherd's Center Community Service
Award
(on-Line)

Sept. 20

Church School Kick-Off
Worship Committee Meeting
(On-Line)

Sept. 21

International Day of Peace

Sept. 27

Evangelism Sunday

Sept. 29

Shepherd's Center Adventures in Learning
(On-Line)

Everything continues to be scaled back as we wait until there is a solution to the pandemic. These are historic times.

Our Sunday School program is on hold right now as it has been done in the past. We are going to be looking at various options to present to the Session in the near future. Stay-tuned for more information on that.

The Circle Meetings have also halted at the present time. There will be announcements concerning such meetings in the next few weeks. Watch the morning service for announcements about such.



Contributors and Help on September Newsletter

Larry Davis

Houston Arbuckle

Lynn Bostic

Suzy Meadows

Teresa Bostic

Alice Roth-Once again prepared our Newsletters to be mailed..





Next Issue October 2020

Oct. 4

Cents-ability Offering
World Communion Sunday

Oct. 16

World Food Day

Oct. 25

Reformation Sunday

See you at the Church (or On-line)



**Clifton Presbyterian Church
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