



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

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May 2021



Join with us on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 as we not only look at the Birth of the Church at Pentecost, but we shall travel down the lane to understand a bit more of our own rich heritage here at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Let's make this a wonderfully special celebration in this year of the Pandemic. Worship at 11:00am with an emphasis on our Spiritual Heritage. Communion will be served in our Special Covid Safe Method.

Office Ramblings

May flowers. I always love the sound of the month of May. It becomes garden season and flowering season and the full blooming of Spring. I have to say that Spring is always my favorite season of the year. I am ready for some warmer weather.



A big thanks goes to all who contributed so strongly to our special One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday. Our total this year went over \$900. During this pandemic time that is a wonderful indication to all that we are a strong church of mission direction. We are a Matthew 25 Church from our very heart.

A reminder from our Mission Committee that May 15 is our time to help with the Lewisburg Food Locker. We are partners this time with St. James. See **Larry Davis** for information concerning this project.

Susie Meadows and Houston Arbuckle were recent participants of a podcast from the Synod of the Trinity concerning our church during the pandemic. We were one of the three churches in the Synod for this podcast. Job well done!

In May we are looking forward to many of the activities for the summer ahead. We still have High School Graduation, Mother's Day, Pentecost, Heritage Sunday, & Trinity Sunday before the summer programming begins. Most of the extra of the summer months take place in the park. Enjoy this month. That's all I have for now.-Ron



Heritage Sunday

On May 23 we will not only celebrate Pentecost, but we shall also celebrate and remember our heritage as a denomination and as a church. The Clifton Church has been part of this community for over 120 years, and we have a rich heritage of

accomplishments in this community. This church was at one time the largest rural church in West Virginia, and there have been many leaders come from this congregation spiritual, education and community realm. We will try to remember them on this day.

We are a Matthew 25 Church, but that simply continues to clarify what we have been doing for the last 100 years anyway. We are a strong mission-minded church, and our projects prove that. Prepare for a celebration on May 23.

Prayer Concerns

Frankie Bostic, Mary Alice Beard, Earl Roth, Buddy Baker, Natalie Wade, David and Linda Schmidt, the McClintics, Brownie Dunn, Sue Wyman, Becky Hogan, Max Gibson, Margert Hedrick, Maria Reynolds, Charles & Jean Moody, Wilma Reynolds, Mary Elmore, Sue Larson, Jenny McClung, the Jones family, the Spinks family, the McMillion family, Covid-19 infections, the children and teachers and staff of schools, Our church, and other illnesses and despair and sickness



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - FRANKIE BOSTIC
- 2 - DAVID YOST
- 9 - LITZ JARVIS
- 11 - RICHARD ELMORE
- 11 - BILL JARVIS
- 15 - VELMA BRACKENRIDGE
- 15 - MARY ELMORE
- 15 - JULIANNA GILLIAN
- 15 - DAVID GRAY
- 20 - LANE JACKSON
- 21 - VIVIAN GIBSON
- 23 - PAUL JACOBY
- 23 - JANE LEWIS
- 24 - OPAL RAY
- 26 - KEVIN PERSINGER
- 29 - RODGER BAKER

May Anniversaries

- 10- Pearl & Paul Jackson



MATTHEW 25

We are a Matthew 25 Church!!!

Session Report for April 11, 2021 by Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated April meeting on Sunday April 11, 2021 at 12: 10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Those present in the Fellowship Hall were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell; session members: Teresa Bostic, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Heather Blake, Heather Gillilan, Shannon Warren, Lynne Bostic, and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Session member, Larry Davis was present by Zoom. Pastor, Ron Miller was excused for Rick Spinks' Funeral Service.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the March 7, 2021 stated session meeting were approved.

The financial report for February 2021 was received: The General fund took in \$7,954.70 and expended \$6,441.39 for an excess income of \$1,513.31. The General fund has a balance of \$224,729.94

The Memorial fund received \$1,015.35. This gives a balance of \$45,289.82. Cents-Ability offering was \$73.55. Stone Soup received a donation of \$500 from one church member, Donations of \$920 was received from the Souper Bowl Offering for a balance of \$2,084.38

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for March was **20** and the average number of Facebook viewers was **218**. For the **Easter Services**, on April 4th; Sunrise Service had **10** attend and **214** viewers; the 11:00 Service had **21** in attendance and a viewing of **218**.

Jim Miller, Chair of the Property Committee, reported that the water is now on at the park and the church has obtained the services of people to clean the park restrooms and mow the grass. The **Charlie Mackey Park is ready to be used**.

Suzy Meadows, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, reported that Children's Sunday School class will meet at the park on April 18 and hope to meet again on May 23rd. The Christian Education Committee now is considering a new curriculum, Follow Me: Biblical Practices for

Faithful Living. It is for all ages and will be available in July. The Christian Educations wants to honor the **graduation of Josh Gibson from Greenbrier East High School** with a sign in the yard at Clifton.

Suzy Meadows reported that the **Matthew 25 Committee** to provide a "Blessing Box" at the church and the session approve having one built. Suzy report that several WV churches expressed interest in talking with our Matthew 25 group, following the Feb. 20th Presbytery meeting, to learn more about the events we've hosted. Our Matthew 25 committee has decided to offer a panel discussion via Zoom to interested churches. Clifton's Matthew 25 Committee will meet to finalize plans for panel discussion on **Tuesday, April 27 @ 7 pm** and the panel discussion with other churches will be **Thursday, April 29 @ 7 pm**.

The Worship Committee chaired by Heather Blake recommended, and the session approved, holding **one service on Sunday mornings** during the summer, **at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary**; and holding monthly **Vespers** in Charlie Mackey Park on the **third Wednesdays** in June, July, and August.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee reported that **One Great Hour of Sharing** was the sole mission focus for March. There were "Minutes for Mission" messages for three Sunday worship services, a Clifton Messenger article, an illustrated "prayer chain" email telling about it, Ron Miller's announcements from the pulpit and bulletin notices for three worship services, and his full-page Lenten Devotions pamphlet notification. A Great Hour of Sharing poster was displayed and two worship service bulletin inserts were placed in the pews.

The Fellowship Committee chaired by Heather Gillilan and Shannon Warren, provided ham biscuits and brownies to be picked up after the Easter services.

The Congregational Care Committee chaired by Lynne Bostic is working on "Let's get to know our church family" project for the church's new letter.

(Session-Con't. on Page 4)



May 2-Next Regular Session Mtg

Cents-ability Offering

May 6-National Day of Prayer

May 9-Mother's Day

May 23-Pentecost

May 23-Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

Worship Committee Mtg.

May 30-Trinity Sunday

Stone Soup Offering Received

May 31-Memorial Day

(Services on Facebook Live and in-person. Safe Covid-19 protocols are practiced in all live events.)

(Session Cont.. from Page 3)

Communication and Outreach Committee chaired by Heather Gillilan & Houston Arbuckle is planned to meet on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. The committee has been working to improve the consistency and quality of Clifton's broadcasts.

Crossroads Committee chaired by Shannon Warren & Houston Arbuckle is scheduled to meet Sunday, April 18, 2021 in the fellowship hall after morning worship.

In OTHER BUSINESS, the session designated the Worship Committee as a commission in considering changes to Clifton's covid guidelines for worship. As we move, hopefully, toward normal, this will allow us to respond to the recommendations of WVDHHR without calling special session meetings.

The next regular session meeting was set for **May 2, 2021** at 12:00.

Susan Sharp Campbell adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

Children's Sunday School



The children's Sunday School class will have a gathering at the Charlie Mackey park for a special activity on May 23 at 10am. **Any questions, please contact Suzy Meadows.**

Farmer Struggle Sunday-Recognition of an American farmer



The PC(USA) noted the struggle of farmers on Saturday, April 17 as a denomination, and

we at Clifton the following day heard from one of the farmers of our congregation. **Ralph "Chub" Warren** spoke on the plight of the American Farmer from the perspective of a farmer. He told of the struggles and the work involved, yet how they continue as a people who believe in what they are doing. While he talked of the struggles, he reminded us that it is a journey of faith and a love of the land enabling them to do what they do.

At one time much of the Clifton congregation were farmers or connected to the farming industry in some fashion. Today there are only two families in the church who truly farm, and possibly a few still connected to the farm industry. It was a good reminder to the church that we are all in this mission together in working together. It is part of the mission of the church to connect to the community and what it is and does.

*Worship with Us—
In-Person or On-line*





**By Theresa Bostic, Executive Director
Shepherd's Center Greenbrier Valley**

We are pleased to announce our latest expansion of Gwen's Meals to the Alderson area! Brian and Kathleen DeRouen (co-directors of the Alderson Hospitality House) have volunteered to prepare and deliver home cooked meals to area older adults. We will be starting with 20 recipients and grow from there. We were all excited to start the program in Alderson and hope to possibly offer classes and seminars there in the future.

Shepherd's Center has just completed our Spring Adventures in Learning session virtually on Zoom. We are going to plan our Fall session soon and hope to be able to meet in person for those upcoming classes. For those who are still unable to meet in person, several of these classes will also be available on Zoom. If you have any ideas for classes, instructors, etc. please pass on that information to Teresa Bostic. We are always looking for new class ideas and new instructors (I know some of you have wonderful hidden talents you want to share!) to keep our sessions new and exciting!

During the summer we will be continuing our 'Coffee Talk' and 'Book Group', alternating every Thursday. We will be having some speakers, some of the sessions will be meeting outdoors, some on Zoom, etc. This is a great way to meet some of our Shepherd's Center folks and get to attend a one-time class/session without having to make a 6-week commitment. Come join us! If you have any questions, please contact Sarah or Teresa at the Shepherd's Center office: greenbriershepherdscenter@gmail.com or call at 304-645-4196. We are always on the hunt for new volunteers! We could not do what we do without our wonderful volunteers! If you would like to volunteer to transport an older adult who is no longer driving to a medical appointment, to get their hair done or maybe deliver Gwen's Meals, think about signing on with Shepherd's Center! There is no pressure on anyone. Think about it! We would love to have you join our Shepherd's Center family

Cemetery Fence Refurbished



On the weekend before the Easter Sunrise Service in the cemetery here at the church, **Mr. Frank Wade** had the fence cleaned and refurbished.

The fence had become darkened due to residue from the trees and various forms of lichens and such. Frank Wade had the fence cleaned and repaired of any problems, and for Easter it looked like a new fence. Thanks for the job done!



On the 23rd of May we shall celebrate Pentecost Sunday.

While we always talk about the Holy Spirit on this day, in many ways it is a day that is really the beginning of the mission direction of the church. It is this

day that we recall and celebrate the descending of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles as they began their mission as followers of Jesus.

It is through the mission of the Apostles that we have found that the church developed and grew. Today the church is alive because of that Spirit. We celebrate because the Apostles were willing to be on mission by the power of the Spirit of God.

At Clifton on the 23rd we shall celebrate the joy of Pentecost with worship and the observance of the Lord's Supper. We shall also celebrate our life as a church as we explore our heritage (*see Pg. 2*).



Meet A Church Family

(Developed by Lynne Bostic of Congregational Care Committee)

This Month: The Houston Arbuckle Family



Houston and Emily Arbuckle and Mary Galford

I am the only child of Fil and Betty Arbuckle who were lifelong members of Clifton. My wife Beverly Arbuckle was also an only child, and we had only one daughter, Emily A. Arbuckle. However, it is only recently that I realized that I was part of a small family. What seems like not so long ago, the members of Clifton included my mother, father, my wife, and a dozen or so aunts, uncles, and first cousins. The congregation also included many more of my relatives, though not as close kin, still family.

The members of Clifton were not only my “church family” they were for the most part “my natural family”. Now, I am a widower and most of my “family” have either left this earth or this area.

My “small family” includes myself, my daughter, Emily, and my mother-in-law Mary Galford. Emily lives on the same farm as I do, and she shares in the farm work. She loves her Highland Cattle, her cats and her Border Collie-Trix. Emily has obtained training in many areas—from a B. S. in Ag. Business to truck driving. At this time, she is working at Greenbrier Valley Airport and farming. She prefers a different style of worship than we do at Clifton.

My mother-in-law, Mary Galford, loved her husband and loved helping him on his farm in Green Bank, WV. She is now 95 years old and still lives at her home, however, she does need someone with her at all times

I have a Dachshund, who is getting quite old; a house cat; three horses; two goats and I also claim some of the Highland cattle.

As you might have guessed from the names on the roads, my family helped move the Native Americans out this area. Matthew Arbuckle, the first Arbuckle in Greenbrier County, is the villain in a play about Cornstalk that is sometimes shown in Ohio.

I am a “meat and potato” man, but I like desserts more than I should.

As strange as it may seem, my favor vacation is at the State Fair of WV. Until 2020, I had only missed two or three days of the fair since I was about three years old.

When asked about traditions; Christmas is what I love best. I love all the celebrations that go with it: the worship, the music, the decorations, the tree, and the dinner—if you have nowhere to go for Christmas dinner, come join me—there are now too few people at my table to help me celebrate.

I was a drummer in the high school band but not even very good at that.

I think my favorite scripture verse is Luke 12:32; “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

I have not seen a movie that depicts my life—maybe someone should make one—It would not have much of a star, but it would include a lot of interesting characters.

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY

Sunday, May 9 is the day that we celebrate Mother's Day. As most know this celebration originated in West Virginia in a Methodist Church in Grafton, WV. At Clifton we shall honor all women on this Sunday.



At the last Worship Committee Meeting the plans were started for the Sunday in the park Services starting on June 6. While the plans are being worked it is hoped that one of the features each month will be a "Telling of the Clifton Story". While there will not be a dinner on those nights due to Covid-19, there will be singing and sharing and entertainment. The first event will begin at 6:30pm. Bring the family and friends.

Also on each month of the summer we shall once again have the Vespers Services on one Wednesday night a month as the sun is setting. Please watch next month's newsletter for more information.

2021 Greenbrier East Graduate



Congratulations to **Josh Gibson!** Josh is a Senior and will be graduating from Greenbrier East. He is the son of **Katherine Gibson** and the great grandson of **Venetta Wright**. Josh has been an active member of Clifton for many years where he has been a part of the youth group, served as an acolyte and as an usher. He plans to attend college at North East State in

Tennessee majoring in accounting. Please wish Josh well in his future endeavors.



Last month for the *Family of the Month* it was mentioned a favorite food that the Davis family had with a recipe from their Son-in-Law. What a wonderful tradition in our church to start recording each month-a *Recipe of the Month*. This church is known as a church of wonderful cooks and fine fellowship events, so maybe we need to start sharing some of those recipes with our "Fellow Clintonites" and the rest of the community. We of course have a delightful cookbook that has been published in the past, but maybe we can expand that list of good "eats" to other readers. Try to include a story with that recipe when submitted.

This month the first Recipe comes from Venetta Wright. Venetta has served on many committees of the church, and she continues to be active in Sunday School; a Worship Committee Member and as a Church Shepherd. Here is the story and the recipe:

"This was a favorite cake for every picnic at Lewis Chapel (a former mission point of Clifton) for Sunday School. In 2000 when Clifton was 100 years old we had a service and picnic at Lewis Chapel, and this cake went as quickly as it was sliced.

I tried the recipe out for a Circle Meeting one time before the 100th Birthday using Strawberry Jam. Emma Neely said that it was almost perfect, but it had to use blackberry jam. That is what we did for the picnic." -**Venetta Wright**

Old Fashion Jam Cake

½ Cup Butter	½ tsp. Nutmeg
1 Cup Jam	1 tsp. Cinnamon
1 Cup Sugar	1 tsp baking soda
3 Eggs Separated	¼ Cup Sour Cream
2 Cups Sifted Flour	1 tsp Salt

Cream Butter and sugar, beat in egg yolk.
Stir in Jam

Sift flour and Spices alternating with Sour Cream
Beat after this addition until well blended.

Beat egg whites and fold into mixture

Pour into a well greased tube pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

Next Issue



Sunday, June 6-Fellowship in the Park

Wednesday, June 16-Vespers in the Park

Saturday, June 19-Juneteenth

Sunday, June 20-Father's Day

Sunday, June 20-WV Day

Monday, June 21-1st Day of Summer

See you at the Church (or On-line)



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