



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 3: Issue 3

March 2021

The Season of Lent

40 Days of Preparation

We are in the middle of the Season of Lent. As this Newsletter comes to you on this first week in March, we are headed for the 3rd Sunday of Lent. It is in this period that you prepare in prayer and confession and remembrance of what our Christ did for us. It enables a us to celebrate very special Easter day, which in this year will take place on April 4.

Just a reminder that the Lenten Devotional Guides are available for any who so desire. Each week they are printed for that week with a devotion; prayer concerns; and an action to be considered. Make sure this is a time of prayer and repentance and preparation..

As we move through the Season of Lent, know that the Worship Committee is working hard on how we are going to come back for the celebration of Easter this year. We know that whatever we do it will be done safely and with determination to provide us with the opportunity for great worship. For now though let us prepare for the Easter event in Prayer and Repentance and Profession.

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY SUNDAY, MARCH 7



We are a Matthew 25 Church!!!

See the Matthew 25 information on the inside of the newsletter. On page 6 there is information about the upcoming Matthew 25 Book Discussion on March 14. On page 7 there is an article about the Presbytery Meeting where the Matthew 25 direction for churches was the primary discussion. See also in that article the events of last month concerning Matthew 25 projects.

Office Ramblings

Ahh...it is March. This is the month of transitions. Remember the old saying that "March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb." Well I am



uncertain if it is this lamb or lion weather. I just know that it is a bit nippy here at the farm as I write this column on the first of March. Good news for those of looking for such is that March 20, Spring arrives.



In case anyone might forget, Daylight Savings Time starts on March 7. You are to turn your clocks forward on Sunday at 2:00am. Just think we will gain more daylight in the evenings, but we are going to lose an hour of sleep. I almost forgot to remember this year.



Easter arrives on April 4 this year which is an early date. We are working on the Easter schedule as you read this Newsletter. We will have an Easter Sunrise Service, though it might be a small service, and we are working on a safe Easter Service inside the church. It is an improvement over last year in that we missed in-church Easter Sunday due to the pandemic. I so look forward to Easter. We have decided as a family that it is still too early for us to gather for a family Easter Dinner, but we are looking ahead to Mother's Day for that to happen.



There have been so many people who have kept our church on pace throughout this whole pandemic-Thank You. While it is not over yet, and we still must be careful, it does feel as though we are moving toward the tail of the disease. Things will be different when this ends for good, that is for certain. We must as a church examine what we can do to make sure that everyone gets back to church for worship and service and mission. There are so many things to be done in our community. There are changes we will make even in our church, but the future is ours if we let our visions soar as to what we can do. It can be a nervous time, but it can also be a time of great excitement.

All for Now-Ron

Prayer Concerns

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

Super Souper Day Sunday



On Super Bowl Sunday the Clifton Church took a special offering for the Stone Soup Fund. The Hospitality Committee decided that they would offer Soup and goodies to take home for the day as people might want to donate on the way out of church. Maintaining safe distances and safe measures with masks and such, the Super Bowl Souper Special was served.

A big thank you to the Mission Committee and the Hospitality Committee (Shannon Warren & Heather Gillilan) for this event. As of the printing of the Newsletter the Stone Soup Fund had received over \$900 for that day of caring. The greatest thanks though goes to all of you caring enough to make this such a huge success.



4	HEATHER BLAKE
5	DAVIS ARBUCKLE
10	MARIE REYNOLDS
11	ANNIE JEFFUS
17	CINDY MILLER
18	JAMES MEADOWS
21	KERESHMEH KASHEFLIAN
21	ETHAN MEADOWS
28	HENRY HAMRICK
29	MELVIN HOOVER

Session Report for February 7, 2021 by Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated February meeting on Sunday February 7, 2021 at 12: 10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Those present in the Fellowship were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: Teresa Bostic, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Heather Blake, Heather Gillilan, Shannon Warren and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Session members, Larry Davis and Lynne Bostic were present by Zoom.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the January 10, 2021 stated session meeting were approved.

Due to meeting on the first Sunday of the month, the financial report for January will be received at the Stated March meeting.

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for December was **16** and the average number of Facebook viewers was **214**. The Clerk presented the **2020 Church Statistical Report** to be reviewed and approved before being submitted to PCUSA.

Jim Miller, Chair of the Property Committee, reported that the person whose accident destroyed the roadside caution light had been located and her insurance would pay for the light.

Suzy Meadows, Chair of the **Christian Education Committee**, reported that children's Sunday school classes in the park are being considered for summer.

Suzy Meadows also reported for the **Matthew 25 Committee** that the Matthew 25 team (Bream, Clifton and Dunbar) have planned the following events: Zoom speakers for Black History month will be Joan C. Browning on Friday, February 12, 2021 and Henry Pickens on Friday, February 19, 2021. A Zoom book discussion is plan for Sunday, March 14, 2021 about "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom.

Heather Blake, Chair of the **Worship Committee**, reported that the Worship Committee met on Sunday, January 24, 2021, following worship. In attendance were Heather Blake, Ron Miller, Jim Miller, Carol Hoover, and Julie Gillilan. Ann Davis, Venetta Wright, and Terrie King participated by telephone.

The Committee planned the Ash Wednesday Service. The service will be held online, but those interested may pick up ashes at the church prior to Ash Wednesday. Ashes can also be delivered, if requested, and will be available at the church. The congregation will be given the opportunity to donate flowers for the alter. Arrangements can be in honor or in memory of a loved one. The Worship Committee will supply arrangements from time to time throughout the year with funds to come from the Sanctuary Décor line item.

Larry Davis, Chair of the **Mission Committee** reported that the Mission Committee met on January 27, 2021 with Houston Arbuckle, Teresa Bostic, JoAnne Persinger, Ron Miller, and Larry Davis participating. The committee approved donations of \$400 each to Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Locker and Mountaineer Food Bank and \$300 donation to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund of the World Health Organization. The committee also approved a \$500 distribution from the Stone Soup Fund to a family in the church to help with a medical catastrophe.

Houston Arbuckle reported for the **Communication and Outreach Committee** chaired by **Houston Arbuckle and Shannon Warren**. The Committee met on February 4, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom available. The following members present: Heather Gillian, Nima Shahab Shahmir, Paul Jacoby, Shannon Warren, Teresa Bostic, Houston Arbuckle, and Ron Miller. Darren McGuffin has agreed to organize the church's communication wires as previously approved by the session and add a good router which is needed to maintain the church's Wi-Fi. There is an opportunity to broadcast on the "Greenbrier Valley Channel", channel 5, of suddenlink on Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. at a cost of \$100 per week. This was considered as part of the budget, however no decision was made.

Lynne Bostic, Chair of the **Congregational Care Committee** reported Heather Blake, Teresa Bostic, Ann Davis, Evelyn Lewis, Donna Nickell, Joanne Persinger, Alice Roth, and Shannon Warren, have agreed to be members of the Congregational Care Committee. the committee met by Zoom on January 31, 2021 with the following members participating: Heather Blake, Donna Nickell, Joanne Persinger, Alice Roth, Shannon Warren and Chair, Lynne Bostic. Alice Roth will oversee the **(Con't. on Next Page)**

(Con't. from Previous Page) "Shepherds Program". Cards and stamps will be provided for the "Shepherds" to help with correspondence with members. Current Shepherds are: Teresa Bostic, Larry Davis, Alice Roth, Jean King Venetta Wright, Joanne Persinger and Evelyn Thomas. Shannon Warren, Heather Gillilan and Joanne Persinger plan to delivery "grab and go bags" after the "grab and go" fellowship on "souper bowl" Sunday.

Heather Gillilan and Shannon Warren, chairs of the **Fellowship Committee**, reported the "grab and go" fellowship for "Souper Bowl" Sunday was successful.

Shannon Warren reported that she is planning a **Crossroads Committee** meeting.

Pastor, Ron Miller reminded the Session that it is time to begin planning for the Easter season. In **Old BUSINESS** the session became a committee of the whole to prepare the 2021 budget. The budget as approved is below.

The next regular session meeting was set for **March 7, 2021** at 12:00.

Ron Miller adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

Note: In "Administrative Expenses": "Church Staff" is assuming Ron Miller is our pastor for the year, however "Minister's Allowances" is budgeted as if we have a "called pastor" for the year. Rev. Miller does not receive these allowances. If you have questions, Clerk of Session, Houston Arbuckle will try to answer them.

Worship with Us— In-Person or On-line



dates
to
Remember

March 28-Palm Sunday

April 1-Maunday Thursday

April 2-Good Friday Service

April 4-EASTER SUNDAY

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2021 BUDGET					
PROGRAM EXPENSES			ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	2021 BUDGET	FOOD & FELLOWSHIP	2021 BUDGET	CHURCH STAFF/SERVICE	2021 BUDGET
Adult Education	\$500.00	TOTAL	\$500.00	Minister	\$24,000.00
Camps & Conferences	250	OUT REACH	2021 BUDGET	Guest Minister	\$500.00
Confirmation Class	\$0.00	General	\$700.00	Music Director	\$5,000.00
Graduation Gifts	\$100.00	Channel 5	\$5,200.00	Crossroads Committee	\$600.00
Sunday School Curriculum	\$350.00	TOTAL	\$5,900.00	TOTAL	\$30,100.00
Sunday School Supplies	\$100.00				
Youth Fellowship	\$0.00				
Nursery	\$100.00	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$15,715.00	MINISTER'S ALLOWANCES	2021 BUDGET
TOTAL	\$1,400.00			Pension/Insur./PCUSA	\$9,100.00
		OPERATING EXPENSES		Social Security	\$1,795.00
		FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	2021 BUDGET	Manse Equity Fund	\$250.00
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	\$300.00	Church	\$4,500.00	Continuing Education	\$750.00
		Manse	\$3,000.00	Professional Expenses	\$0.00
MISSION	2021 BUDGET	Park	\$200.00	Utilities Allowance	\$1,705.00
Local	\$4,000.00	TOTAL	\$7,700.00	Mileage Allowance	\$1,400.00
Global	\$2,000.00			TOTAL	\$15,000.00
TOTAL	\$6,000.00	OPERATING EXPENSES	2021 BUDGET		
		Accounting Services	\$4,200.00	EMPLOYER TAXES	2021 BUDGET
WORSHIP	2021 BUDGET	Church Electricity	\$3,500.00	WV Worker's Comp.	\$0.00
Choir Supplies	\$150.00	Church Fuel Oil	\$7,500.00	TOTAL	\$0.00
Guest Musicians	\$150.00	Church Tele./Internet	\$2,500.00		
Hand Bells	\$0.00	Church Water	\$300.00	BENEVOLENCE	2021 BUDGET
Music Conference	\$0.00	Fire/Liability Insurance	\$4,970.00	PCUSA Shared Mission	\$2,410.00
Offering Envelopes	\$225.00	Kitchen/Janitor Supplies	\$350.00	PCUSA Apportionment	\$2,134.00
Sanctuary Décor	\$200.00	Office Equip./Expenses	\$4,500.00	Pastor Discretionary Fu	\$0.00
Pulpit Supply	\$500.00	Postage & Shipping	\$1,575.00	TOTAL	\$4,544.00
These Days Magazine	\$90.00	TOTAL	\$29,395.00	TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.	\$49,644.00
Worship Supplies	\$300.00				
Stewardship	\$0.00	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$37,095.00	TOTAL BUDGET	\$102,454.00
TOTAL	\$1,615.00				

A
LOOK
At Our Budget





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

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

This spring our classes will be offered via the ZOOM Platform of online meetings. We will have classes on Thursday's with one class per time slot. With one class an hour, you may be able to try out a class that you have not had the chance to try before. Every attempt has been made to offer a variety of classes. You may take as many classes as you like. There will be no registration fee, but we do ask you to consider a donation to Shepherd's Center for this service.

Once you register online, by mail, by email, or by phone, you will be emailed a meeting ID number and password for each individual class. These will remain the same for the duration of the session. If you do not have email, we will call you with the information to log onto a meeting.

Be comfortable in joining our secure Zoom platform as the sessions are password protected. You can log onto a ZOOM meeting via your computer, tablet, smart phone, or even call in on your landline phone. We know some of you are hesitant to use the ZOOM platform, but we are here to help. **During the first two weeks of March, Teresa or Sarah will hold practice sessions that you may participate in.** They can also work one on one with you if necessary to make sure you can join every Thursday, March 18, 2021 - April 22, 2021 on Zoom.

(See the Shepherd Center Website at:
<https://www.greenbriershepherdscenter.com>



Flowers for the Church

As we worship each Sunday one of the things that adds beauty to our Sanctuary is wonderful flowers. If you are interested in donating flowers on special Sundays contact **Heather Blake**, Worship

Committee Chair, about scheduling a time that you might want to donate and give flowers.

Maybe it would be in honor of a special birthday; maybe it would be in memory of someone; maybe it could be a certain time on the calendar. As your Spring and Summer gardens grow, maybe you have flowers from your garden. Once again we welcome these wonderful additions to our church for Sunday Morning Worship times.



Clifton People in the News



CONGRATULATIONS to Vickie Bostic for being selected one of 10 new members to be inducted into the Fairmont State Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2020.

Bostic was a standout for the women's basketball program and is one of just 15 players to score over 1,300 points in FSU history. Currently, she ranks 14th in Fairmont State history in scoring (1,321), 2nd in assists (628) and is tied for 6th in steals (223). She also ranks 8th all-time in career free-throw percentage.

In 1983, she was a first team all-WVIAC selection. A season later, her 188 assists were the 5th most in a single season at Fairmont State. Playing alongside fellow Fairmont State Hall of Fame and All-American Vickie Huffman, Bostic helped the Falcons to a 78-31 record in her four seasons.

(ed. note-Wow, a great accomplishment. See the family story also in this Newsletter on page 6)

Meet A Church Family

(Developed by Lynne Bostic of Congregational Care Committee)

This Month:

The Melvin & Frankie Bostic Family



October 15, 1954, Melvin and Frankie were married and began a new chapter in their lives. They lived on Brush Road and attended Edgewood Presbyterian Church. Their family began to grow with three daughters – Teresa, Tammy, and Vickie. We were always active in church: serving on the Session, being an active part of the Women’s Circle, attending Sunday School and teaching from time to time. In the early 1970’s, we moved to Echols Acres and began attending Clifton. Frankie is now head of the family after losing Melvin (Bubby) in 2020. Today, we are still an active part of the Clifton church family even as our family as scattered over the years.

Our family has grown through the years – Teresa has two sons - Chad and Zach Saunders. Chad and his wife have two children, Thea and Ryan. They live in Melbourne, Australia. (Too far away!) Zach is engaged to Heather and they are planning their wedding in April, 2022, and live in Salem, VA. Tammy has three children – Stephanie, Justin and Jared. Stephanie has two sons – Sawyer and Finn; Justin has one son – Easton; Jared and his wife, Devin, have two sons – Preston and Teegan. (They all live in the area – lucky and blessed Tammy!)

Here are a few questions to get to know us a bit better:

What is your family’s favorite food?

Our go-to food is often pizza!

Where does your family like to vacation?

We have enjoyed camping and going to the beach throughout the years!

What is your favorite family tradition?

Our main tradition is just getting together for our family birthdays, holidays, and visiting with those out of town relatives!

What are your pets?

For the most part, we are a dog-loving family, we all have dogs. Vickie does have a cat. Jared and his family have a small farm and have sheep.

Happenings from Matthew 25

Group

A Matthew 25 Book Study Discussion



A Zoom book discussion will be held on Sunday, March 14 at 4pm to talk about "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. I suggested the chosen book because I have previously read

and enjoyed it very much. Here's a paragraph from the Amazon description:

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Albom observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

It is hoped that you will join our church and others on the Zoom discussion. This will be a joint activity with Bream, Clifton and Dunbar, the Matthew 25 churches of the Presbytery of WV. (Check with Suzy Meadows about reading a copy of the book)

Presbytery Zoom Mtg. and the Matthew 25 Discussions

By Larry Davis



Rev. Diane Givens Moffett at St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. She is on leave from being the pastor in Greensboro to serve as the president/executive director of Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Presbyterian Church's Matthew 25 initiative took center stage at the February 20th meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia. Near the first of the meeting, a 30-minute talk about it was given by Rev. Diane Givens Moffett, the President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (see photo above). She described the three parts of the Matthew 25 work plan. They are **Dismantle Structural Racism, Eradicate Systemic Poverty, and Build Congregational Vitality.**

Terri McDougal of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunbar and Larry Davis of the Clifton Presbyterian Church led the call to worship and confession for the worship service preceding the business meeting, and there was an obvious Matthew 25 emphasis in that portion of the service.

Charleston's Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church Pastor, Dawn Adamy, delivered The Message (aka the sermon), and she included references to the WV Matthew 25 churches' interactions, goals, and activities. Rev. Adamy said, "The best part of Bream's Matthew 25 journey is the new friends and fellow sojourners from First Dunbar and Clifton, who are living into this vision with us. Even in the midst of limitations imposed by COVID-19, we have been able to meet using Zoom, where we encourage and pray for one another, dream new ways to help members of our community, and co-host events together. What a blessing!"

The second hymn video during the worship service featured "*Jesus Be With Us*", a new hymn

written to celebrate God's work through the Matthew 25 initiative, and it included many relevant scenes. It can be heard and seen by searching "Matthew 25 Hymn" on the www.vimeo.com webpage.

The Joan C. Browning and Henry Pickens Zoom sessions sponsored by the three Matthew 25 churches in February were most excellent. They averaged about two dozen participants with plenty of discussion. Of the people participating, a total of at least eleven members of Clifton Presbyterian Church or other Greenbrier County folks joined in.

Joan C. Browning was, of course, among the Greenbrier Countians though she was born in Wheeler County, Georgia. During the first Zoom session, her description of her actions and motivations before and during her participation in the Civil Rights Movement were as honestly eloquent and engaging as her chapter in "Deep in Our Hearts" about nine white women working to advance that noble cause. We were enthralled by her first-hand account of being in the small group of black and white women and men for the last Freedom Ride. They rode together in the "whites only" car of the train from Atlanta to Albany in December of 1961 before being arrested and jailed upon arrival. Their courage served as a catalyst for a series of influential mass meetings, demonstrations, and mass arrests in Albany. We also heard about some of the vast number of her other efforts to help dismantle structural racism.

During the second Zoom session, Henry Pickens of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunbar told about the plight of African Americans living during segregation of the 50s and 60s. He began with his experiences with racial discrimination and economic hardships as a black child living in the mountains of North Carolina. Moving to Charleston WV as a six-year old in 1957 provided some improvements as did his twenty successful years of service in the Army. During the following 26 years back in Charleston he worked at the Kanawha Public Library, and he told about participating in a demonstration in Charleston that led to the provision of a swimming pool accessible to people of color. Henry and Joan were participants in both Zoom sessions, and both praised the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Dunbar for their acceptance of people of all races.



Next Issue April 2021

April 1-Maudy Thursday

April 2-Good Friday

April 3-Great Vigil of Easter

April 4-EASTER SUNDAY

April 11-Session Meeting

April 17-International Day of Farmers Struggles

April 22-Earth Day

See you at the Church (or On-line)



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