

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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December
Volume 127



COOKS CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Cooks Creek Courier

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service And Communion

Join us on Friday, December 24th
at 7:00 pm for a special time of
communion and reflecting
on the reason for this joyous season.



*The Gift that
Changed the World*

Ramblings from the Reverend

We started our Advent season this past Sunday by thinking about starting with the end in mind. Our discipleship to Jesus is made more vivid by knowing where we are going and where we are going is to one day stand before the face of Jesus (see 1 John 3:2). During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we tend to focus on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and remembering the glory of what God did 2,000 years ago, and we are right to keep the wondrous works of God in the forefront of our minds, hearts, and spirits.



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December

	Liturgist	SS Care	Nursery	Pre-school	Acolyte
5	Nancy Myers	Katherine Lyons	Katherine Lyons	Donald & Lee Anne Biller	Levi Simmons
12	Steve Smith	Katherine Lyons	Adonica Miller & Billy Lilly	Katherine Lyons	Katie Higgs
19	Dick Travis	Katherine Lyons	Pam Bocock & Dianne Reynolds	Katherine Lyons	Teagan Bocock
26	Barret Dalrymple	Katherine Lyons	Natalie & Brian Bocock	Katherine Lyons	

Elder on Call: Tom Bocock 540-820-0034
 If you have an urgent need and can not get hold of Pastor Seth. Please call the Elder on call.

November's Attendance:

7- SS 35 W 87
 14- SS 36 W 89
 21- SS 23 W 78
 28- SS 33 W 91

We are also thankful for the 30-50 who faithfully watch online and listen



Prayer Needs

- Jerry & Charlsie Miller
- Jimmy & Evelyn Miller
- Sue Haley
- Tucker-JD and Diane's grandson
- Terry & Linda Morris
- Karen Moats
- Raymond Ratcliff
- Dennis Early
- Mike Simmons
- Ronald Miller
- Norman Smith
- Pam Sonner
- Jim Suter
- Carole Stilwell
- Mike Simmon
- Phyllis Miller

Church Information

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Seth Normington 540.236.2900
 Office Administrator: Martha Shank 540.567.8117
 Music Director: Sarah Layman
 Organist: Teresa Simmers
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons
 Custodian: Jean Will

Session

Clerk of Session: Mark Williams
 Administration Team: Mark Williams, Tom Bocock
 Mission Outreach Team: Adonica Miller, Terry Morris, Jeff Heatwole
 Congregational Care Team: Becky Pierce, Gerald Harper
 Christian Education Team: Bob Scott, Kate Dudley, Ray Heatwole
 Property and Grounds Team: Jim Suter, Chad Barnett, Brad Miller
 Worship Team: Don Myers, Skip Wallace

Church Committee Leaders

Youth Advisor: Kate Dudley
 Cemetery: Brad Miller
 Librarian: Donna Kay Ritchie
 The Sunshine Gang: Craig & Nancy Miller
 Sunday School Superintendent: Bob Scott
 Sanctuary Decorations: Jana Miller

Mission and Outreach Team

Open Doors: CCPC will be hosting Open Doors on the following dates at Red Front: **December 27, 2021 – January 2, 2022** and **March 7 – 13, 2022**

Please mark these dates on your calendar. We are lining up groups/individuals/families to provide and/or serve evening meals only. All food prep must be completed at our church or in your homes. Please sign-up on the Connect table or contact Linda Smith/Adonica Miller if you'd be willing to provide a meal and/or be willing to help serve if others aren't comfortable doing so. Open Doors also needs shelf-stable, pre-packaged breakfast foods/beverages. Please place these items on the Open Doors table in the room across from the library. We will also need supplies (plates, cups, drink mix, coffee, etc.). To cover the expenses of these, we are asking for monetary donations. If making a check, please make it out to the church with "Open Doors Supplies" in the memo line.

Salvation Army Kettle Drive: We are seeking individuals, families, and groups to man the red kettle and ringing the bell at the Shenandoah Heritage Farmer's Market (Carpenter Dr. off Rte. 11 south) on **December 11th and 18th.**

This location will provide shelter from the rain and is still located in the fresh air of the outdoors. There is a sign-up sheet on the Connect table (please include a phone number). Contact Adonica with any questions.

4 Cents a Meal: In November, funds were allocated to buy eggs for those that visited the food pantry. We are again this year allocating funds to purchase the side dishes and dessert for the Christmas meal that the Wilber Pence Middle School Backpack program sends home with their food insecure students. A local poultry company furnishes the entrée, and we are providing the rest of the meal for each family to prepare.

Dick Miller Fund: Requests for assistance are being received regularly. Please remember this fund with your giving.

West Rockingham Food Pantry: Thank you to all those from our church that helped in any capacity at the food pantry we hosted in November.

Prayer Ministry

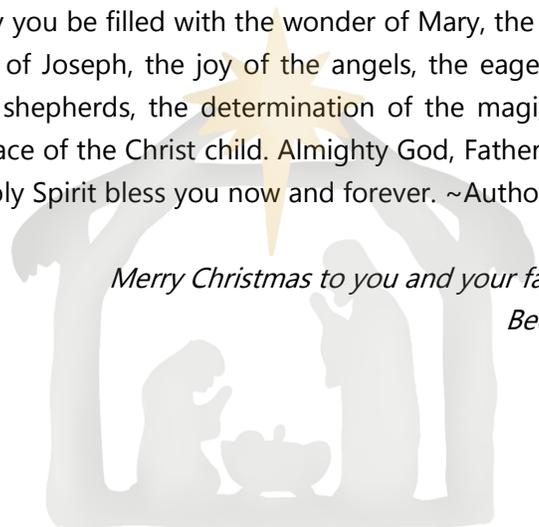
A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessings which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. ~Robert Louis Stevenson



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. ~Author Unknown

*Merry Christmas to you and your family,
Becky*



Circleville Christmas

We are collecting outerwear for toddler through high school children that are in need. Coats, gloves, hats, scarves, sweatshirts/pants, jackets, etc. will be collected.

Please place unwrapped donations in the library. If you'd rather give a monetary donation, please make a check to the church with "Circleville" in the memo line of the check, and someone will shop for you. All donations are due by **December 12th.**

Thank you

Dear Cooks Creek
Congregation,

Thank you for your continued support with prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. The power of prayer is strong! I look forward to returning to church in person after treatments are completed to thank each of you in person.

*God bless you,
Sue Haley*

Cooks Creek Church Members!

Thank you so very much for the items donated to Baby Hope. We have been able to help over 30 moms, Grand-moms and Aunts with diapers, wipes and bath products for their little ones. Again, thanks for helping keep our shelves stocked.

*Gratefully,
Ellen & the Baby Hope Team*

Dear Congregational Members, Friends & Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards and meals as Ronald continues to recover from his stroke. He improves daily but we are impatient. We worship online but it isn't the same as worshipping together. We pray we will see and worship with you soon.

*Blessings, Ronald &
Gloria Miller*



Ramblings from the Reverend, *continued from page*

...What we tend to neglect in this season is the hope and expectation of Jesus' return. During this season of Advent and Christmas we will endeavor to both remember the great works God has done, take stock of the works of God this day, and look forward to the great works God has guaranteed for the future – that all of Creation is in God's care and that Scripture promises us that those who follow Jesus as Lord will one day have the beatific vision of seeing Jesus face-to-face.

As we journey through this season, a few notes on what is coming up in our communal worship. We will have a special lessons and carols service on December 19 featuring readings from Isaiah and performances by the vocal and bell choirs. We could use several readers to make this day special, please contact the office if you are willing to be a reader for this special Sunday. We will celebrate Christmas Eve with worship at 7:00 pm including a celebration of the Lord's Supper. On Sunday, December 26 we will do something a bit different in the fellowship hall – more details to come in our weekly emails.

I hope the ways that we have attempted to stay connected this past year have been fruitful for you and I would like to especially thank our Session and Congregational Care Team for all the calls and care they have provided to members and friends of Cooks Creek over the past 21 months. The offering of your time, talent, and financial resources have also been pivotal in keeping us connected through the enhancement of our sanctuary and technology to be able to offer better video, audio, livestreaming, and recordings of our worship. One way that we have offered connection is by replaying our worship service over Zoom at 12:30 on Sundays to those who do not have Internet access and can dial-in on their phones. This offering has appeared to run its course and we will cease providing this after December 19. We will continue our weekly postal mailings to those without Internet access (these mailings include the worship bulletin, sermon, devotional, monthly newsletter, and weekly update).

Please note that the office will be closed on December 6, December 13, and December 27-31. I will be available and working during that time but may not be at the church, so please contact me before heading to the church if you will need to be let in.

I am looking forward with anticipation and joy, as I hope you are, to a blessed Christmas and Advent season at Cooks Creek and all that the Lord has planned for us until He returns!

Blessings,

Cooks Creek Church Outreach Ministry

Keeping in Touch with Members and Friends

One of our most important ministries is to love and care for one another. All of us can participate in this by reaching out with phone calls, cards, visits and prayer. We want to remember the words of our Lord:

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34



Dennis Early 2/2	Bridgewater Retirement Community 302 N. 2nd St. Room 353 Bridgewater, VA 22812	Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Tom & Luanne May T 4/11 L 4/29	1235 Quince Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-476-3205	Pam Sonner 3/20	229 Emerson Lane Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-217-0805
Jerry & Charlsie Miller J 7/30 C 3/5	4463 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-908-8316 millerhomestead@comcast.net	Terry & Linda Morris T 4/9 L 3/1	3935 Sunnyside Dr. Suite B Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-568-8448
Pete & Ann Rhodes P 6/1	624 Erickson Ave. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-9473	Curtis Long 11/23	6868 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-867-5127
Wanda Ritchie 1/19	68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944	Millie Harman- DeVall 4/15	197 Mount Pisgah Road Mt. Sidney, VA 24467 540-430-1374
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Assisted Living Room #336 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640	CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653	Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-3574
Mary Ann Morriss 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157	Nelson Alexander 11/24	197 Mount Pisgah Road Mt. Sidney, VA 24467 540-430-1374
Raymond & Jean Ratcliff R 8/5 J 5/23	5366 Snapps Creek Rd. Singers Glen, VA 22850 540-833-6604	Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527
		Mable Branner 4/3	1401 Virginia Ave. Redbud 224 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-3352

Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance October 1, 2021	\$23,087.05
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$675.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$2,381.70
Businesses	\$1500.00
Total Deposits	\$4,556.70
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$69.30
Ground Beef	\$325.00
Eggs (Reimbursed by Mt. Clinton UMC)	\$138.60
Food Purchases to fill Bags	\$2,871.30
Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 39 gal. - \$142.51 Sharp Shopper 66 gal. - \$240.38)	\$382.89
Produce Vouchers (Bananas-66- \$83.68, Apples-60- \$201.98, Grapes-38- \$154.78)	\$440.44
Total Disbursements	\$4,137.53
Balance as of October 30, 2021	\$23,506.22

This month the balance is \$329.17 more than last month's balance. The contributions in October were \$2,356.70 more than in September, but the expenses in October were \$918.52 more than in September even with the \$400 paid for the exterminator. And this month we were blessed with a donation to reimburse us for the \$325 we spent for meat. The people really appreciate the produce vouchers and their use is increasing each month. Numbers were up this month with a total of 61 households including four deliveries Saturday. Two of the 57 who came Thursday evening were new. Approximately 1,468 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. In addition each family received 2 pounds of ground beef and a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves. Sharp Shopper had a good sale on the 12-

count carton of eggs, so this month all families received 2 dozen. This cost turned out to be a little less than the 18-ct carton we had been giving and the families got 6 more eggs. We thank Jerry Bentz for picking them up and Calvary Menonite Fellowship for storing them in their coolers at the school because this sale price lasted only two weeks early in the month. We also thank Charlie Martin for giving us 300 pounds of deer meat, most ground but a few loins, which we will give in November. Also, in November the Virginia Poultry Cooperative is giving us turkey breasts.

I am glad to report that we have not had any more problem with bugs but we will continue to put up the traps to be sure we don't have this problem again. Storing the boxed and bagged items in large plastic totes is working well.

We thank Mt. Clinton United Methodist Church for hosting the distribution this month. In November Cooks Creek will be the host and will provide the eggs and an inspirational insert for each family.

Special seasons, such as the approaching Thanksgiving season, ensure that these times don't get lost in the "busyness" of life. The danger is that we make the season itself and its "busyness" the important thing. I'm reminded of the lyrics of a song long popular at this time of the year: "When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep, and I fall asleep counting my blessings. When my bankroll is getting small, I think of when I had none at all, and I fall asleep counting my blessings."

Continued on next page

Food Pantry Report, *continued*

When I was teaching, the day before Thanksgiving I asked my student to take out just a little piece of paper and gave them a few minutes to write 10 things they were thankful for and told them no one would see this list. Then they were to fold it up into a tiny square and put it in a corner of a billfold where they would happen onto it again when they were maybe looking for some money and not finding any. A few would say they couldn't think of 10 things. I suggested that they write

more specific rather than general things, hoping that this exercise would give them encouragement no matter what they were dealing with in their personal lives. A grateful heart is a blessing in itself. Gratitude as a consistent attitude brings with it hope and peace and the belief that things will get better. This past year a number who come to the food pantry have experienced hardships and sorrows in their lives, some we know about and some we are unaware of. Many of them consistently

thank us for providing food each month. They appreciate that they not only receive food but that they know they can count on us. We trust that meeting these needs is a subtle but meaningful way to remind them of God's faithfulness and that He is the source of all good gifts. May we, too, remember to be thankful for the bounty and unmerited mercy we receive from God and count them as blessings as we peacefully fall asleep.

Bea

Church News, cont.

Nursing Room

The Mother's Nursing Room is now located in the former Berean Sunday School classroom, across from the Preschool Department. Mothers who need to take care of the needs of their baby can go to a quiet area during Sunday School or Worship. The room includes a rocking chair and changing table with diapers.

Secret Appreciation Society of Cooks Creek

The Secret Appreciation Society of Cooks Creek is grateful to the recipients of the monthly awards provided to 12 members of our congregation during 2021. Here are people in our church who have gone beyond the call of duty.

January-Lynn McNulty
February-Teresa Simmers
March-Becky Pierce
April-Phyllis Miller
May-Tracy Bosserman
June-Donna Kay Ritchie



July-David Scott
August-Susan Price
September-Brenda Moyers
October-Dan Dalrymple
November-Martha Spicher
December-Beth Phillips

Thanks again to these dozen disciples and keep up the good work for Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church!

*Secret Appreciation Society
Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church*

Sunshine Gang Outing

Join the Sunshine Gang on Saturday, December 18, at 4:00 pm at the Sipe Center in Bridgewater as they take a magical, musical Christmas journey with the 3 Redneck Tenors. It's Christmas music like you've never heard and won't easily forget. These real-life Broadway and Opera stars are ready to rock your holidays with a deep-fried feast of musical delights. There's nothing old-fashioned about this music arranged by award-winning composer

Craig Bohmler – it's infused with vitality, energy and passion.



You'll hear familiar Christmas tunes in the show as well as enjoy Christmas spoofs like Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer and I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus – and a few other great surprises, too! (Taken from the Sipe Center Website www.sipecenter.com <https://3rednecktenors.com>) Tickets are still available and cost \$32. Please contact Nancy Miller at 540.810.0144 if you are interested in going.



**He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



Bible Quiz

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

A. Miriam
B. Keturah
C. Bathsheba
D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)

PUZZLE

F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S
H M V S R B O L Y Q O X A V H R T
U E L W B A R V H P O E F L S R Z M

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll __ve bir__
to __ s_n, and __u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
b_c_u__ he _ill s__e his
__op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

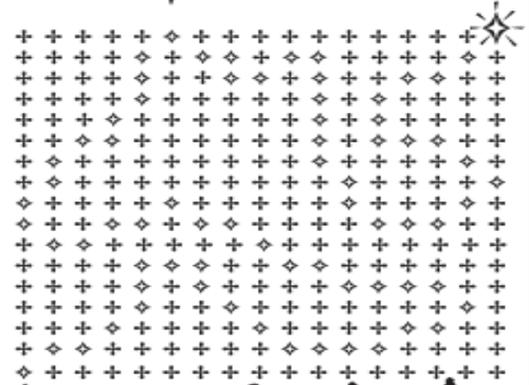
A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV



Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the path that leads to baby Jesus.



START



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Office Closed	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Office Closed	14	15	16 Food Pantry 4-6	17	18
19 	20 Courier Deadline Session @ 6:30	21	22	23	24 	
26	Office Closed					31

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Tucker Pence | 21 - Nancy Norman |
| 3 - Fred Simmons | Gary Pence |
| 5 - Susan Price | Tyler Showalter |
| 9 - Erika Browning | 23 - Eric Browning |
| 17 - Brent Showalter | Carolyn Pence |
| 19 - Nathan Frye | 27 - Lou Pence |
| 20 - Donald Custer | 29 - Sue Haley |
| Seth Normington | 30 - Bret Phillips |



Have a Blessed Christmas

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Larry & Alexis Hogan
- 19 - Craig & Nancy Miller
- 20 - Andy & Catherine Carrier
- 30 - Seth & Gemma Normington

Dates to Remember

- 6 & 13 - Office Closed
- 16 - Food Pantry 4-6 pm
- 19 - Lessons & Carols
- 20 - Courier Deadline
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service @ 7 pm
- 27 - 31 - Office Closed

