



Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church COURIER

Vol. 117

4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA,
22802

February 2021

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Seth A. Normington

Music Director

Sarah Layman Graf

Organist

Teresa Simmers

Nursery Coordinator

Kathy Lyons

Office Manager

Martha Shank

Custodian

Jean Will

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Connect with Us

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Blanket the world with LOVE!!

During the month of February, Cooks Creek will be collecting for the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. \$10 buys a blanket, and the "+" buys hygiene kits, baby kits, and emergency cleanup buckets. For more information on how to contribute to the CWS Blankets+Program, see the Mission Team report on page 2.



February Worship Announcement

At this time we will be worshipping virtually only through February, but Session is closely monitoring the situation in our area and will set a different timeline, if feasible. This will be announced in the weekly update or at cookscreekchurch.org.



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RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

When subsequent generations look back at history, they make evaluations and judgments of the people of those previous times in large measure by how they responded to crises and difficult times. When our grandchildren and their grandchildren reflect upon Cooks Creek during this pandemic, I think they will see...

Cont. on page 3

Open Doors

CCPC will be hosting Open Doors March 8 – 14, 2021. Please mark these dates on your calendar. We will begin seeking help with evening meal coverage soon. If you feel inclined to help with food or volunteering to serve, please contact Linda Smith or Adonica.

Church World Service's Blankets

Have you been wondering how to share some love? Are you cuddling under a blanket as you read this? Let's Blanket the world with LOVE!! CWS donors and congregations provide thousands of CWS Blankets each year. These blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. During the month of February, we will be collecting for the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. \$10 buys a blanket, and the "+" buys hygiene kits, baby kits, and emergency cleanup buckets.

As has been the tradition at Cooks Creek, we encourage you to make a donation in honor or memory of someone. Names will be displayed in the March Newsletter. Please consider a gift and thank you for helping to provide blankets to people in need. If you have any questions you may contact Beth Phillips @ egbphilips1@gmail.com.

One-time gifts may be made on-line through the "Give" tab on our Cooks Creek website or by

check to Cooks Creek. Please put "Blanket Fund" in the memo line.

Please provide your honoree information to Martha in the church office or Beth as noted above.

And don't forget to do good and share with those in need.

Hebrews 13:16

Budgeted Funds

In January, CCPC used budgeted funds to support the local mission, Our Community Place.

OCP is a place of restoration and hope for those facing homelessness and adverse experiences. There is a varying schedule for meals, as well as volunteer work days, game nights, and entertainment nights.

Our Community place makes available to its clients; showers, laundry facilities, lockers, telephone, and Wi-Fi.

Check out their Friday drive-up/delivery lunch restaurant that is open to the public. Delicious meal sfor a small price!

<http://ourcommunityplace.org>

We would normally contribute funds to the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Free Clinic in January, but sadly they closed their doors at the end of 2020.

Prayer Ministry

"...But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

During the month of February let us Pray for:

Love: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Help me to love as you have commanded me to love.

Peace: 1 Peter 5:7 - God surround me with your peace.

Others: 1 Timothy 2:1-5 - God I pray for others to receive you in their life.

Forgiveness: 1 John 1:19 - God if there is anything I have done wrong, please forgive me.

Guidance: Jeremiah 42:3 - God show me what you want me to do today.

Protection: Deuteronomy 31:6 - God keep your hands of protection around me.

Faith: Mark 11:24 - God help me to believe you will meet all of my needs.

Source: Women of Prayer

Governing Authorities: Romans 13:1-2 - The authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Military Officers: 2 Chronicles 32:6-8 - The Lord our God will help us and fight our battles.

Churches: Acts 16:5 - Strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

Health: 3 John 2 - You may prosper in all things and be in health.

Children: Psalm 127:3 - are a heritage from the Lord.

"For God so LOVED the world..."

John 3:16

*Blessings,
Becky*





Continued from page 1...

...that we were steadfast in the face of trials as it says in James 1:2-3 (as I said on January 24... check it out at cooks creek-church.org/sermons). We have been faithful to God, generous with our time, talent, and treasure, and have done our best to be and do our best for each other and for our community. The strength, endurance, and faithfulness we have shown in 2020 gives us confidence to take the next steps for what God has in store for us in 2021.

Chief among these next steps is hiring for two new part-time ministry staff positions. We will be hiring a part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator to start this summer and a Sunday morning Nursery Assistant to help Kathy. We are putting together two different teams to finalize job descriptions and lead the hiring process. If you feel God calling you to be a part of either of these teams, please contact me by Monday, February 8. Let us all be in prayer for the people who will ultimately fill these new roles and for the teams that will be leading the process.

Thank you to everyone who was at Cooks Creek's first ever Virtual Annual Meeting! You made history! We've been around for 283 years and I feel confident in saying that was our first annual congregational meeting conducted over video conference. We ordained and/or installed our new ruling elders: Kate Dudley, Gerald

Harper, Jeff Heatwole, Ray Heatwole, and Skip Wallace. Please continue to pray for them as they begin their service on our Session.

At our annual meeting we also elected three congregational members to serve on our Congregational Nominating Committee along with our appointed Session members. Please be in prayer for Lee Anne Biller, Tom Bocock, Beth Phillips, Dick Travis, and Skip Wallace as they begin the process of discerning who God is calling to serve on Session. Another area of prayer and discernment is to pray for the women who will be on Session starting next year. We are in special need of women to be on Session next year and ask that you hold the women of Cooks Creek in your prayers now as the Holy Spirit is moving to call women onto Session!

At this time we will be worshipping virtually only but Session is closely monitoring the situation in our area and will set a different timeline, if feasible. Whether or not we remain virtual-only in our Sunday morning worship, know that we are always connected by the Holy Spirit and can connect with one another via phone, text, email, cards, etc. Grab your directory and reach out! If you need a directory, let us know.

Blessings,

Financial Update

Thank you for your faithful tithes and offerings throughout 2020 – we had a strong year of ministry despite the trials we faced. Your consistent generosity with your prayers, time, talent, and treasure has borne fruit at Cooks Creek (John 15!) and led to us thriving! We finished with a budget surplus for 2020 and exceeded our capital campaign goal by raising \$61,940! Thank you!

We are excited to be finishing our final capital campaign project in 2021 (the kitchen upgrade) and hiring two new part-time ministry positions! Your continued generosity is appreciated!

To learn how you can give online, on your mobile device, through the mail, or in-person, please go to cooks creek-church.org/give or call the office at 540.867.5117.

Greeter/Elder on Call for February:

- Brad Miller - 540-578-2846
- Chad Barnett - 540-746-9662

Praying For....

- Luanne May
- Jerry & Charlsie Miller
- Jimmy & Evelyn Miller
- Sue Haley
- Those who have lost loved ones:
- Flossie Andrews
- Carole Stilwell
- Phyllis Miller
- Brad Miller & family
- Leanne Biller & family





Notes of **THANKS**

Thanks to our Substitute Decorating Team!

The Worship Team would like to sincerely thank our Decorating Team; Jana Miller, Shelley Newman, Natalie Boccock, and Dawn Barnett (and all who assisted them) for the splendid Advent and Christmas decorations which graced our sanctuary and locations throughout the church. They utilized tasteful and inspiring arrangements which also met the CDC guidelines related to Covid-19 potential antigen exposure. Our weekly messages from Jana on the subject of "Light" inspired each worshipper to consider God's matchless gift of His Son. Thanks so much for your talents and gifts.

The Worship Team

To My Church Family

I would like to thank so many of you for the beautiful cards and prayers for my recovery and good health. So many beautiful expressions of concern and love brought me tears of joy! Many thanks to Mary Ruth Circle for the continuing flow of cards! I feel I'm getting stronger each day being able to do so much more and have received very good medical reports—all due to God's blessings and prayers from so many like you.

Thank you so much and I wish the same blessings upon each of you.

*Love,
Luanne May*

Once again we thank you and appreciate your kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of our sister June.

Carolyn and Eddy Wampler

Dear Cooks Creek,

Tim and I want to thank you for the support you provided upon the wonderful arrival of our Gabriel! The rose and children's Bible given by the Congregational Care Committee were especially appreciated! We are grateful for you thinking of us during this time of celebration.

*Love,
Tim and Emily Shifflett*

Dear Adonica and other Committee Members,

Thank you again for your generous financial donation towards food items for families at Wilbur Pence and Turner Ashby. School looks different this year but the hunger situation remains a concern.

You provided sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, fruit, pies, rolls and green beans to complete Christmas meals for 21 families. I am so grateful for your help.

Have a blessed New Year!

Rhonda Johnson

Dear Cooks Creek Family,

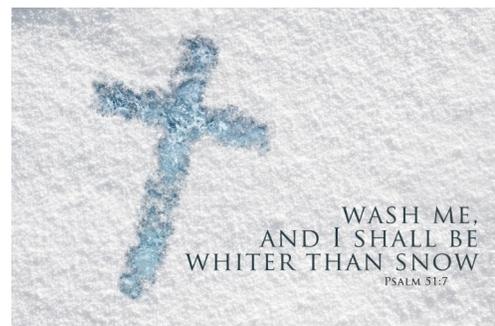
There are no words to express our gratitude for the outpour of love during our sudden loss of Bruce. My family and I would like to thank everyone for all the expressions of sympathy, prayers, meals and phone calls we have received.

Feeling your love and support has truly been a blessing and helped get me thru these dark days.

A special thank you to Pastor Seth for his spiritual support and prayers of hope at cremation service.

I send my sincere thanks and blessings to everyone.

Carole Stilwell and family





COOKS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN 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	Bellaire at Stone Port 1684 Port Hills Dr. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-810-3168	Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Tom and 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	4248 Grattan Price Drive 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	CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Assisted Living Room #336 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640	Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 540-564-3574
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy - 540-383-5653	Nelson Alexander 11/24	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Walnut Room 330 540-564-5611
Mary Ann Morriss 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157	Millie Harman- DeVall 4/15	1285 Shank Drive Apt 323 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
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



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Beginning Balance December 1, 2020	\$15,483.87
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$3,535.40
Church & Religious Organizations	\$1,465.00
Civic Organizations	\$400.00
Businesses	\$1,000.00
Total Deposits	\$6,400.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Rolls & Bread	\$250.50
Food Purchases to fill Bags including ham	\$3,595.28
Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 60 gal. - \$213.80 Sharp Shopper 38 gal - \$154.96)	\$368.76
Total Disbursements	\$4,214.54
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$17,669.33

Although the bad weather on our scheduled distribution day forced us to postpone from Thursday to Friday, this was a good month for us. The balance in the treasurer's report is remarkable! We only served 50 families, five of whom were new, but we gave 6 emergency bags because several called and said they didn't know about the Friday distribution. And I took 5 18-ct. cartons of eggs, 5 loaves of bread, and 5 milk vouchers to First Step. They said they had sufficient nonperishable items.

All of this increases our numbers and carries out our purpose of seeing that people who need food get it. One of the emergency bags was delivered to a family who usually comes but now has no transportation because the husband had an automobile accident and had been in the hospital with a broken neck. The wife called the church to thank us for the food and said without it, they would have had no Christmas. Both of these people are on disability and are

raising a 10-year-old great nephew.

Each family received a shank or butt precooked ham, an 18-ct carton of eggs, a 6-pound block of mozzarella cheese, 2 pounds of ground deer meat, a dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves.

We thank the West Rockingham Ruritan Club for cutting and delivering wood to those who signed up requesting a load in November and December.

We thank Brenda Moyers from Cooks Creek for several years of serving WRFPP by writing thank-you notes to all those who contribute to the pantry. This is more important than just proof of contributions for a tax deduction. Those notes serve as a connection to the pantry and emphasize how much we appreciate their support. Brenda is retiring from this job and we are fortunate that Kendra Knupp Cowger from Greenmount COB has agreed to assume this responsibility. We look forward to working with Kendra.

Bridgewater Foods, where we purchase most of our nonperishable food, is considering accepting milk vouchers, and they are also considering a fresh produce voucher.

The WRFPP Board conducted board business by email this year. The board approved the following Nominating Committee's slate of officers for 2021: Chairperson Bea Morris, Vice-Chairperson Elaine McDorman - Clover Hill UMC, Secretary Mary Etta Cornett, Treasurer Mark Williams.

Since WRFPP does not have 12 partnering groups to host the monthly distribution, Cooks Creek has signed up to host in April and November. We are asking each group to send one person to host the February distribution. January will be hosted by Calvary Mennonite Fellowship.

Continued on next page

FOOD PANTRY REPORT, CONT.

In January as we review the ending year and look toward the future, what is it that we see and what do we look forward to? Some have said, "I'm so glad 2020 is over; it's been such a horrible year!" as though when the ball dropped at midnight all difficulties were wiped away and a clean slate was right in front of us. Was January 1 very different for you from December 31? The last several months have presented unique challenges, to put it mildly, but every year has difficulties. And every year we handle those difficulties, hardships, tragedies, and loss because God is in control through all of that, and He sustains us. We learn a lot from difficulties just as did those we read about in scripture, especially the Old Testament. The big lesson is in one of my favorite hymns, "Great Is

Thy Faithfulness." The virus that has plagued us for nine months is not over, but hasn't God given doctors and nurses the stamina both physically and emotionally to do herculean tasks in taking care of the sick? Didn't He prepare scientists to develop a vaccine in record time to fight the virus? Haven't we all learned to value what is really important and to grow as we were forced to adapt to a different way of doing even simple things like going to the grocery store? Haven't we been made even more aware of the goodness in people as they used whatever they had, little or much, to help others in simple and creative ways? Haven't we found comfort and joy in unexpected ways? God has had His hand on this food pantry from the beginning of an idea first mentioned by

Charlsie Miller in 2009, and for almost 12 years He has used folks at Cooks Creek and others in the community to provide help to those in need. Will He not do it in the future? He has provided willing workers to do all kinds of tasks. And look at our balance! This is more money than we have ever had and it all comes from the generous hearts of people who care about others. Do we expect 2021 to be without difficulties, hardships, tragedies, and loss? No, not if we are realistic about life. But we have hope because we have a faithful God who has a plan for the world and for us. We have seen it in the past and we can be assured of it in the future.

Bea

THE POWER OF LOVE

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."



Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.



Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900



Answer: C

PUZZLE

A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U B U B C O E E

J E A B E C ' U N O J Q U B U

B C O N L U B E J E A B

N L U B ' B C O B N U C N A U

J E A B E U F A

N U C N A U U N O

B C O E E

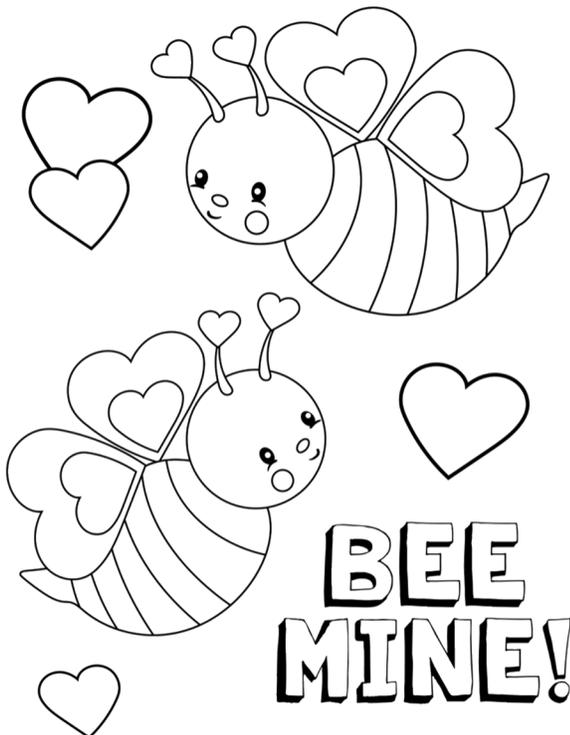
F A E C O

”

RUTH 1:16, NIV

W	A	E	T
B	U	H	D
G	R	L	Y
N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV



February Word Search

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

- BE MINE
- BLACK HISTORY
- CANDY
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID
- HEARTS
- KISS
- LINCOLN
- LOVE
- PINK
- PRESIDENTS
- RED
- SMITTEN
- SNOWFLURRIES
- SWEETHEARTS
- VALENTINE
- WASHINGTON
- WINTER



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14  Drive Thru Communion 12-1	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Courier Deadline Session @ 6:30 pm	23	24	25 Food Pantry 4-6	26	27
28						

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Everett Eberly
- 2 - Dennis Early
Anne Finlayson
Justin Showalter
- 3 - Donald Biller
- 11 - Matthew Switzer
- 12 - Paul Eberly
- 14 - Bradley Dalton
Jennifer Fadeley
Carrie Rhodes
- 15 - Brenda Moyers
- 18 - Chase Dudley
- 19 - Randy Burkholder
- 20 - Barret Dalrymple
- 23 - Kevin Bocock
Derek Miller
Corrine Switzer
- 24 - Morgan Phillips
- 27 - Bob Scott
- 28 - Karen Moats

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Gary & Teresa Simmers
- 14 - Christian & Erin Frye
- 25 - Ryan & Natasha Blosser


FEBRUARY
 Birthdays & Anniversaries



The LORD your God...
 will rejoice over you with gladness;
 he will quiet you by his love.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, ESV