



Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church COURIER

Vol. 116

4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA,
22802

January 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

540-867-5117

cookscreekpres@gmail.com

cookscreekchurch.org

facebook.com/cookscreekpres

Online Worship Only in January

Due to the increasing dangers of the pandemic in our community, the Session has decided that we will worship online only with no in-person attendance for the month of January.

All in-person activities at the church building are on hold for January. If your Sunday School class or other group would like to explore options for meeting virtually, please contact Pastor Seth. We are happy to help your group stay connected.

Tune in to our worship livestream Sundays at 10:30 or anytime after. Links to YouTube and Facebook are on our homepage at cookscreekchurch.org. You don't need an account with either service to tune in.



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RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

I am heartened by the strength and resilience this congregation has shown in 2020 and am excited as we head into 2021 – even greater things are on the way in the Kingdom of God and for Cooks Creek this year! Your faithfulness and trust in God and His providence have led to this fruitful harvest!

Cont. on page 3

Salvation Army

Thank you to all those that rang the Salvation Army Bell on December 5th and 12th.

Circleville Christmas

We'd like to recognize Randy & Viv Burkholder and Jenny & Jeff Heatwole for their dedication to the children of Circleville. Their coordination, collection, and delivery of the gifts of clothing to these children in need doesn't go unnoticed and is certainly appreciated. Also, thank you to all those that purchased the gifts of clothing to bring a smile to these children who have little this Christmas.

Back Pack Program

The Turner Ashby High School and Pence Middle School Back Pack Programs provide a large Christmas meal for these participants to have over the long holiday break when the free meals at the school aren't available. Turkey roasts were donated by a local poultry company. We partnered with this program this year from our designated funds to provide all the sides and desserts for 21 families for this meal.

Open Doors

We host our first week December 28th – January 3th at the old Red Front Supermarket building. Please keep the homeless, Open Doors Staff, and the volunteers in prayer.

Dick Miller Fund

As you would imagine, this fund has had increased activity recently. Thank you to the team for their prayerful consideration of each request. Please keep this fund in mind with your giving.

Prayer Ministry

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him." Lamentations 3:22-24

This year, for your 2021 New Year's Resolution think of one or two words you can focus on that will give you hope for each day. My favorite word is "Believe". We just celebrated the birth of our Savior. We believe Jesus is God's only son and through His birth, death and resurrection we have been forgiven of our sins and have eternal life. I also focus on the word "Believe" because there is good in this world, we are part of His perfect plan, we are never alone or defeated, and that God is everywhere all the time. He takes care of those who believe and follow Him. What will be your New Year's Resolution faith word to focus on during 2021?

Continue praying and believe God will guide our health care workers, first responders, educators, parents, children, government

officials, those who are ill, the unsaved, and protect us from evil. He has great plans for CCPC. Through our prayers let's give Him the honor, glory and praise for His mighty plans for us.

Just think, every morning is a new beginning. Celebrate each day and believe that Jesus is Lord. Happy New Year - new beginnings are rare and exciting!

*Blessings,
Becky*

Greeter/Elder on Call for January:

Bob Scott - 540-908-8566
Adonica Miller - 540-820-0820

Please keep in prayer:

Luanne May
Jerry and Charlsie Miller
Jimmy and Evelyn Miller
Nelson Alexander
Flossie Andrews in the passing of her son, Timothy

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31





Continued from page 1...

Not only have we survived 2020, but I believe that we have thrived. We will look back on this time as one we did not want to go through and yet as a time that refined us and made us stronger for the journey ahead (Zechariah 13:9). Continue to call on the name of the Lord as we move into 2021!

We are looking forward to celebrating the year that has been and our plans for 2021 and beyond during the State of the Church message on January 24 (if others can do a State of the... address, so can we!). We will share even more details during the annual congregational meeting on January 24 starting at 11:45. Look to our weekly updates – by email or postal mail – to get the information to connect virtually to the annual meeting.

On January 10, we will start our new sermon series, I Believe: Faith for Today, which will use the Apostles Creed and the scripture the creed is based on to tackle important questions about our faith

and how it intersects with our daily lives.

Remember – you never have to miss worship again! Join us in-person on Sundays at 10:30, on the livestream, watch the videos later, listen to the audio on Sundays at 12:30 (call the office for more info about the audio recordings), or with our postal mailings. We are one church with multiple ways to worship! Head to our website for the links to engage worship online (www.cookscreekchurch.org).

Prayers and blessings to you and your family for a wonderful 2021!

Seth



Financial Update

Thank you for your continued generosity towards God’s work at Cooks Creek! We have had a strong financial year and are blessed to have this strong fiduciary foundation as we build for God’s future in 2021!

Our income as of December 30 is \$324,333. This amount includes the \$61,940 given to the Capital Campaign in 2020. Our expenditures in 2020, including capital upgrades, total \$299,263. This leaves us with a 2020 operating surplus of \$25,070. We have raised a total of \$111,951 for the capital campaign and our goal is \$100,000 by the end of the year – we did it! We anticipate the total capital campaign expenditures to be approximately \$130,000 when the kitchen upgrade is completed in 2021.

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

Dear Members of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of Wilbur Pence Middle School, we want to thank each of you for your generosity and support of our Pence families in need of assistance during the Christmas holiday. Each family was well taken care of what the food supplies! The key to our success rests in people like you who embody the spirit of giving to others. Your dedication to our Community is greatly valued and appreciated by us and our families. Your labor of love and willingness to help others is a true mission of ministry for others.

Your spirit, energy and commitment to our families makes a difference.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please stay well and safe.

Wilbur Pence Middle School Counseling Department

Meghan Helbert, School Counselor

Jill Hoover, Counseling Secretary

Thank you to my cooks Creek family for uplifting our daughter in law, Caroline Stilwell with your prayers and thoughts. Today Caroline had her last radiation treatment for cancer and has been told she is cancer free. It has been a long year with surgery, chemo and radiation but God granted her the strength and spirit to get thru it. We feel truly blessed to have so many supportive people in our lives. Please keep Caroline in your prayers that the cancer will not return.

Our family wishes each and every one a joyous and blessed Christmas!

*Blessings,
Carole and Bruce Stilwell and family*

Don and Bernie Custer would like to thank the ladies of the church for the wonderful dinner from Traditions that was delivered to their house for their 90th and 91st birthdays. They greatly appreciated it!

To my Cooks Creek Friends,

For the past eleven months all Sunnyside residents have been "behind the gate". How much longer. No one knows.

During these months, I've received "Thinking of You" notes and phone calls from Cooks Creek members which helped brighten each day.

In October there were birthday cards to help me celebrate my 88th. November brought prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy following my brother's death.

You are an awesome congregation.

*Thank you and God bless everyone,
Norma Bowman*

Merry Christmas, Cooks Creek!

We continue to thank you for your prayers, cards, and food you send to us. We feel surrounded by your care.

We wish you the happiest of Christmas joy this beautiful season.

*Thank you again,
Sue and Jim Haley*

Friends,

I am sorry that I had to miss the service in which the staff was recognized. I was scheduled to sing with my church choir. Thank you for the card and gift. I certainly appreciate your kindness.

*Thanks,
Jeanie*

Because of the virus, the Mary Ruth Circle has not been meeting. And yet, there was a Christmas card and gift for me in my mailbox!! Thank you for your thoughtfulness, it means a great deal to me.

Jeanie

A sincere thank you to everyone for the gift and recognition on Staff Appreciation Sunday. And a huge thank you to all that have made my Christmas merry and bright with your cards, gifts, and Christmas wishes by email or phone. I count it a blessing and privilege to work with and for such a wonderful congregation. It has been a strange year, and I have missed the usual comings and goings! Here's to a bright, New Year!!

*Blessings to All,
Martha*



A Special Note of Interest

On September 15th, my 92nd birthday, I had a private tour led by a Retired Three Star General at the National Museum, United States Army.

It was very impressive and educational. As I was looking at a display, the General said, "Eddy, push that button and hold." I did. BANG! Wow, I launched a rocket!

The Museum had its debut on Veterans Day, November 11th. It is now open to the public. It is something to see and enjoy.

The Museum is located at Fort Belvoir, VA and cost \$200,000,000. It is constructed of stainless steel and glass and is 1,850 square feet.

Eddy Wampler



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 |
| Nelson Miller 12/25 Bridgewater Retirement Community Unity House 302 N 2nd St. Bridgewater, VA 22812 | Curtis Long 11/23 6868 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-867-5127 |
| Pete & Ann Rhodes P 6/1 624 Erickson Ave. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-9473 | <p>CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC</p> |
| Wanda Ritchie 1/19 68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944 | |
| Mary Ann Brown 6/1 Bridgewater Retirement Community Assisted Living Room #336 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640 | |
| Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23 335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653 | |
| Mary Ann Morriss 11/11 Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157 | Lois Alexander 4/1 1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 540-564-3574 |
| Raymond & Jean Ratcliff R 8/5 J 5/23 5366 Snapps Creek Rd. Singers Glen, VA 22850 540-833-6604 | Nelson Alexander 11/24 1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Walnut Room 330 540-564-5611 |
| | Millie Harman- DeVall 4/15 1285 Shank Drive Apt 323 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 |
| | Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24 1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527 |



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance November 1, 2020 | \$14,419.44 |
| DEPOSITS | |
| Individual Contributions | \$2,254.40 |
| Church & Religious Organizations | \$675.00 |
| Civic Organizations | \$100.00 |
| Total Deposits | \$3,029.40 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | |
| Eggs (Reimbursed by Belmont Ruritan Club) | \$119.40 |
| Rolls & Bread | \$202.60 |
| Food Purchases to fill Bags | \$1,277.54 |
| Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 55 gal. - \$194.25 Sharp Shopper 48 gal - \$171.18) | \$365.43 |
| Total Disbursements | \$1,964.97 |
| Balance as of November 30, 2020 | \$15,483.87 |

Again, we are grateful for the generous contributions of our donors in a season that inspires giving to those in need. This is a remarkable balance! We are thankful for the continued support of the Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative at Hinton for the 100 turkey breasts they gave us. We didn't have to buy meat this month and will have the extras to use later. Also, Charlie Martin gave us over 200 pounds of ground turkey in 2-pound packages and a few roasts. And he has given us another 500 pounds consisting of the 2-pound packages of ground turkey and 16 packs of loin. Bridgewater Foods gave us about 75 bags worth \$10 each of items (tomato soup, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, white rice, tuna, corn, green beans) donated by their customers. And twice since the November distribution they have given us more of these bags. We are giving these to every family as extras, and we will have enough to give them in December,

too. The 66 families (five of whom were there for the first time) who came this month received approximately 1,286 pounds of food in the prepacked bags, a turkey breast, a 2-pound pack of ground venison, a dozen dinner rolls, an 18 ct. carton of eggs, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving two loaves. They also still appreciate the milk vouchers for a free gallon of milk during the month.

We thank all those from the different churches and Ruritan Clubs who hosted the distribution in November and the Belmont Ruritan Club for providing eggs. Resuming inside registration worked well. Everyone was very cooperative with the safety procedures, which we will continue to use. And thanks to your response for hand sanitizer and wipes, we will have enough to last quite a while. The December 17 distribution will be hosted by the West Rockingham Ruritan Club and Mt. Horeb UMC. They will provide an inspirational insert and eggs for each household.

Because of the circumstances, we don't plan to give children books or stuffed animals this Christmas. If things improve, perhaps we can do something special for the children at Easter. Families that heat with a wood stove are signing up for a load of wood that the West Rockingham Ruritan Club will deliver to them in January.

Sunday Jana Miller reminded the Cooks Creek congregation of the importance of light in the scriptures and piqued our curiosity as she hinted that we would see an explosion of light in the sanctuary decorations this Christmas. How fitting as we anticipate celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. The whole world and many as individuals have experienced a kind of darkness this year that we have not experienced before. But even during the darkest of times we have been comforted by the light and the Light of the World.

Continued on next page

FOOD PANTRY REPORT, CONT.

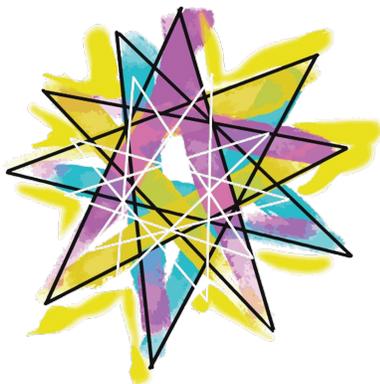
We are still in that long dark tunnel of a pandemic we have endured for months, but there does seem to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, encouraging us to keep moving toward the light by continuing to practice safety measures. The birth of Jesus brought light to a dark world over 2000 years ago, and as we celebrate, let us also remember how he brings light to us every day as we struggle with our own little patches of darkness. And

sometime before we drift into sleep at night during this season of celebration, let us move closer to the Light by praying the beautiful Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson.

"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 kind-

ness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. deliver us from evil by the blessing 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"

Bea



The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

Travis Cunningham, tvcreources.net

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

Kid's Korner:



Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

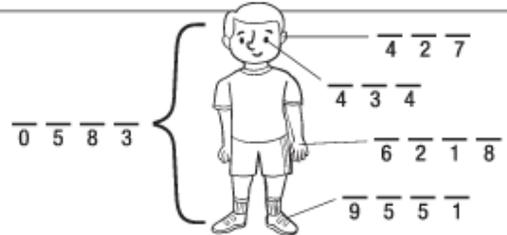


Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12)

PUZZLE WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church — the body of Christ — is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the ²⁰_____ should say, "Because I am not a ¹⁷_____, I do not belong to the ¹⁸_____," ... And if the ¹³_____ should say, "Because I am not an ¹¹_____, I do not belong to the ¹⁶_____" it would not for that reason stop being part of the ¹⁶_____. If the whole ¹⁶_____ were an ¹¹_____, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole ¹⁶_____ were an ¹³_____, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one ¹⁶_____.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body - 16, eye - 11, ear - 13, hand - 17, foot - 20



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



- | | |
|--------|----------|
| BELOW | SKATING |
| BOOTS | SKI |
| COAT | SLED |
| COLD | SLIP |
| FREEZE | SNOWBALL |
| ICE | SNOWMAN |
| ICY | WHITE |
| SKATES | WINTER |



Tree Valley Academy



January 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | 1 Welcome, 2021! | 2 |
| 3 | 4 <small>OFFICE CLOSED</small> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 <i>Annual Meeting</i> | 25 Courier Deadline | 26 | 27 | 28 | Session Retreat | |
| 31 | Session @ 6:30 pm | | | Food Pantry 4-6 | | |

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Evelyn Ray | 14 - Kerry Showalter |
| 2 - Samuel Frye | 15 - Patsy Scott |
| 4 - Michele Bridges | 17 - Robin Wallace |
| 5 - Billy Lilly | 21 - Chad Brown |
| 6 - Wilder Barnett | Daniel Brown |
| Tracy Bosserman | 22 - Madison Frye |
| 7 - Martha Spicher | 27 - Cory Brown |
| 8 - Micah Graf | 29 - Cole Swope |
| 9 - Wanda Ritchie | |
| 10 - Kamden Fadeley | |
| Kendall Fadeley | |
| 12 - Erin Miller | |
| 13 - Natasha Pence | |
| Terry Pence | |
| Carrie Rhodes | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Michael & Sallie Garrison
- 15 - Bruce & Carole Stilwell
- 23 - Brian & Natalie Bocock

