



# Cooks Creek Courier



## Biblical Resolutions

- Hold firmly to your faith** - Hebrews 4:14
- Assemble with the saints** - Hebrews 10:25
- Pray and thank God earnestly** - 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
- Petition God for great blessings** - Malachi 3:10
- Yield not to temptation** - 1 Thessalonians 5:22
  
- Notice opportunities to serve others** - Galatians 6:10
- Examine yourself daily** - 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Work diligently for the Lord** - 1 Corinthians 15:58
  
- Yearn for righteousness** - Matthew 5:6
- Exercise godliness** - 1 Timothy 4:7
- Aim for sinless perfection** - Hebrews 6:1
- Redeem the time, living wisely** - Ephesians 5:15-16



## Ramblings from the Reverend

Prayers that 2022 is off to a wonderful start for you and your family. Here at Cooks Creek we have plenty of opportunities for worship, fellowship, formation, and service in January and beyond and I pray that you join with our community of faith to glorify God and have your life transformed by the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

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# January

	Liturgist	SS Care	Nursery	Pre-school	Acolyte
2	Nancy Myers	Katherine Lyons	Jennifer & Branden Fadeley	Katherine Lyons	Levi Simmons
9	Don Myers	Katherine Lyons	Nancy Miller & Katherine Lyons	Whitney & Paul Eberly	Nora Newman
16	Skip Wallace	Katherine Lyons	Robin & Skip Wallace	Katherine Lyons	Teagan Bocock
23	Ken McNulty	Katherine Lyons	Adonica Miller & Billy Lilly	Katherine Lyons	Levi Simmons
30	Tracy Bosserman	Katherine Lyons	Katherine Lyons	Lee Anne & Donald Biller	

**Elders on Call:** Mark Williams 540-578-3035 and Brad Miller 540-578-2846

If you have an urgent need and can not get in touch with Pastor Seth. Please call the Elder on call.

**December's Attendance:**

5- SS 42 W 78

12- SS 32 W

19- SS 33 W

26-

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

## 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
- Jim Suter
- Carole Stilwell



## 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

**Salvation Army:** Thank you to all those that rang the Salvation Army Bell on December 11th and 18th.

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

**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 breast roasts were donated by a local poultry company. We partnered with this program again this year from our 4 Cents a Meal funds to provide side dishes and desserts for 38 families for this meal.

**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

### A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

*Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born  
again.*

*Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.*

*Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame*

*So that in our time, many will see  
the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glo-  
rious name.*

*Amen*

*(www.lords-prayer-words.com)*

### Bible Verses to Begin the New Year

God's plans for our future are good:  
"For I know the plans that I have for  
you," says the LORD, "plans for your  
welfare, and not for calamity, to  
give you hope and a future."  
*Jeremiah 29:11, (NHEB)*

God's compassion is new every  
morning:

*Because of the Lord's great love we  
are not consumed, for his compas-  
sions never fail. They are new every  
morning; great is your faithfulness. I  
say to myself, "The Lord is my por-  
tion; therefore, I will wait for him."  
Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV)*

Seek God for the future:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own under-  
standing. Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to  
take. Proverbs 3:5-6, (NLT)*

Let go of what has gone before and  
press on to what is ahead:

*Brothers and sisters, I do not con-  
sider myself yet to have taken hold  
of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting  
what is behind and straining toward  
what is ahead, I press on toward the  
goal to win the prize for which God*

*has called me heavenward in Christ  
Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14, (NIV)*

Do not be afraid about the future,  
instead, give everything over to  
God in prayer:

*Don't worry about anything, but in  
all your prayers ask God for what  
you need, always asking him with a  
thankful heart. Philippians 4:6,*

*(GNT)*

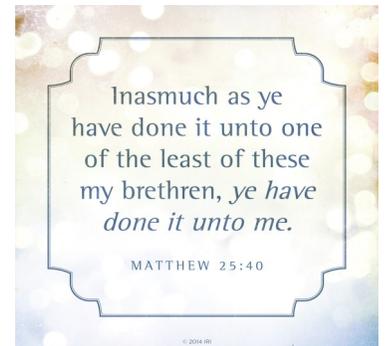
*(www.lords-prayer-words.com)*

*Happy New Year,  
Becky*



## Open Doors

We host our first week  
December 27th – January  
2nd at the old Red Front  
Supermarket building.  
Please keep the homeless,  
Open Doors Staff, and the  
volunteers in prayer.



# Food Pantry Report

<b>Beginning Balance November 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$23,416.22</b>
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	
Individual Contributions	\$1252.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$662.70
Civic Organizations	\$95.00
Total Deposits	<b>\$2,009.70</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Bread	\$291.40
Eggs (Reimbursed by Cooks Creek)	\$116.10
Food Purchases to fill Bags	\$1,980.04
Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 15 gal. - \$53.85 Sharp Shopper 59 gal. - \$214.96)	\$268.81
Produce Vouchers (Bananas-61- \$78.48, Apples-63- \$196.30, Grapes-42- \$163.70)	\$438.48
Total Disbursements	<b>\$3,094.83</b>
<b>Balance as of November 30, 2021</b>	<b>\$22,331.09</b>

We are so fortunate to maintain such a good balance. The balance this month is \$1,085.13 lower than in October but our contributions were also down about \$2,500. Expenses were also about \$1,100 less this month. Sometimes there are items left on the shelf from previous months that lower the amount purchased later, and sometimes we get surprise food donations from a food drive. The Saturday after Thanksgiving, Mt. Clinton had a community Christmas parade where money and food donations enough to fill an SUV were collected for the pantry to be shelved for later use. We are most grateful for the thoughtfulness of those who organized this event and those who made these contributions. All of us have noticed the recent increased cost of food at the grocery stores, especially the cost of meat. Therefore, we can expect our costs to increase in the coming months. We

thank the Poultry Coop for giving us turkey breasts so that each of our families had turkey for Thanksgiving, and we didn't have to buy meat. We hope that the precedent holds that we tend to get larger donations at the end of the year because that larger balance carries us during other months when donations are lower. Also, we are grateful that again this month Charlie Martin gave us another couple hundred pounds of ground deer meat from Hunters for the Hungry.

We thank Cooks Creek for hosting the pantry this month. On December 16, West Rocking Ruritan Club and Mt. Horeb UMC will host the distribution.

We are planning to have our annual WFRP Board meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, in person at Cooks Creek at 7:00 p.m. At the meeting we will confirm hosting dates for 2022 and elect officers

and a Nominating Committee. The current Nominating Committee, consisting of Sharon Showalter, Jack and Becky Martin, and Mary Sue McDonald, will bring a slate of officers and at least 3 names for the Nominating Committee to be voted on. Many volunteers have graciously contributed their time to do the jobs that are necessary to make the operation of the pantry smooth and efficient. It is your dedication that has allowed us to meet the needs of our neighbors.

A November devotional in Our Daily Bread reminded readers that Jesus came to fill empty spaces in our lives and hearts. During the last 20 months, some of us, as well as those who come to the food pantry, have experienced loss, illness, confusion, an unsettling turmoil, and feelings of insecurity in our lives.

*Cont. on page 5*

## Ramblings from the Reverend, *continued from page 1*

...On January 2, we will start the new calendar year off by hearing how we are destined for joy by the coming and return of Jesus Christ. On January 9, we will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday with a special liturgy and sermon. Worship at 10:30; Sunday School for all ages at 9:30.

We will start a new sermon series on the Book of Jonah on January 16. Jonah is far, far more than a cozy kids story about a guy hanging out inside a fish. We will be challenged, comforted, and inspired by the message of Jonah and the good news of Jesus Christ. Be sure to join us in-person or online for each message in our Jonah series as we take a deep dive into what God is saying to us today.

On January 16 we will be starting a new Adult Sunday School opportunity which will run through February 27 called The Reason for God. Each Sunday, we will watch a brief conversational video led by noted pastor and author, Tim Keller, and then have guided discussions at table with one another. I think this time will help you think about your faith and help you engage others in dialogue on common objections to Christianity. We ask that you sign-up at the Connect Table simply so we have a chair and materials for you. This is a great opportunity even if you know you can't make every Sunday.

On January 23, we will ordain/install our new and returning elders serving on Session during worship. Please be in prayer for Brenda Moyers, Don Myers, and Fran Smith as they start or restart their service to Cooks Creek on our Session.

Last, but certainly not least, our annual congregational meeting and luncheon will be on Sunday, January 30. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship and then move to the fellowship hall for lunch and our annual meeting. Everyone is invited and we look forward to seeing you!

Blessings,

*Seth*



### *Food Pantry Report, cont.*

As we once again enjoy preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth, I hope this reminder is a comfort to us and that we will find joy that perhaps was missing last Christmas when we couldn't participate in the usual ways in the traditions we loved. Let us be careful, though, not to try to fill our empty spaces that may still be there, left from traumatic circumstances, by replacing Jesus with traditions and

"busyness." Jesus lasts; busyness doesn't.

I leave with you again as my gift, Robert Louis Stevenson's beautiful "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.

*Bea*

# 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	Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Tom & Luanne May T 4/11	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	<b>CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC</b>	
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	Nelson Alexander 11/24	197 Mount Pisgah Road Mt. Sidney, VA 24467 540-430-1374
Raymond & Jean Ratcliff R 8/5	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

# Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



### What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

### What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



### Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is *not* mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

A. Tamar  
B. Rahab  
C. Mary  
D. Ruth  
E. Sarah  
F. Bathsheba

Answer: B (See Matthew 1:1-17.)

# PUZZLE

## A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re\_\_\_\_\_ or bear a grudge against anyone among your \_\_\_\_\_ople, but love your neig\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus\_\_\_\_. Defend the \_\_\_\_\_pressed. Take up the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_less; plead the \_\_\_\_\_e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go\_\_\_\_. ...

To act **justly** and to love me \_\_\_\_\_ and to walk \_\_\_\_\_ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in \_\_\_\_\_ything, do to ot \_\_\_\_\_ what you would \_\_\_\_\_ve them d\_\_\_\_\_ to you, for this s\_\_\_\_\_ms up the \_\_\_\_\_w and the Proph \_\_\_\_\_s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

- father\_\_\_\_\_
- pe\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_venge
- \_\_\_\_\_od
- \_\_\_\_\_roy
- op\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_hbor
- humb\_\_\_\_\_
- cas\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_lice

Answer: revenge; people; neighbor; others; have; do; sums; up; law; oppress; humbly; everything; others; have; do; sums; up; law; oppress



## Winter Word Search

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

- |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| BLIZZARD | FIREPLACE | PLOW     |
| BOOTS    | FROSTY    | SCARF    |
| COAT     | HAT       | SHOVEL   |
| COCOA    | ICE       | SKIING   |
| COLD     | ICICLES   | SLEDDING |
| DECEMBER | JANUARY   | SNOW     |
| EARMUFFS | MARCH     | SWEATER  |
| FEBRUARY | MITTENS   | WINTER   |



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# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Office Closed	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Courier Deadline Session @ 6:30	25	26	27 Food Pantry 4-6	28	29
30 Communion Annual Meeting Fellowship Meal	31					

## BIRTHDAYS

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



## *Dates to Remember*

- 3 - Office Closed
- 24 - Session
- 27 - Food Pantry 4-6 pm
- 30 - Communion, Annual Meeting, Fellowship Meal

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Michael & Sallie Garrison
- 23 - Brian & Natalie Bocock

