

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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Volume 140



Cooks Creek Courier



Ramblings from the Reverend

The virtue of angels is that they cannot deteriorate; their flaw is that they cannot improve. Our flaw is that we can deteriorate and our virtue is that we can improve. - Hasidic saying

As we begin a new year, it's important to remember the joy that can be found in our faith and in our communities. Joy is not dependent on our circumstances, but rather it is a choice we can make to find contentment and gratitude in the midst of challenges and struggles.

Cont. on page 5

Inside this issue

Monthly Schedule	2
Church News.....	3&4
Reverend Ramblings	5
Food Pantry Report.....	6&7
Outreach Ministry	8
Kid's Page	9
Calendar, Prayer Needs & Celebrations	10

January

	Liturgist	SS Care	Nursery	Pre-school
1	Steve Smith	Katherine Lyons	Charlie and Shelley Newman	Katherine Lyons
8	Robin Wallace	Katherine Lyons	Natalie & Brian Bocock	Katherine Lyons & Pam Bocock
15	Barret Dalrymple	Katherine Lyons	Paul and Whitney Eberly	Adonica Miller and Billy Lilly
22	Nancy Myers	Katherine Lyons	Brandon and Jennifer Fadeley	Katherine Lyons and Diane Reynolds
29	Tracy Bosserman	Katherine Lyons	Katherine Lyon	Nancy Miller and Katherine Lyons

Elders on Call: Mark Williams 540-234-0371 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 Attendance:

4 SS 33 W 104
 11 SS 32 W 92
 18 SS 31 W 125
 24 W 115

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

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued generosity towards God's work at Cooks Creek!

A full financial report will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023 after worship.

Church Information

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Seth Normington 540.236.2900
 Office Administrator: Susan Browning
 Organist: Teresa Simmers
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons
 Custodian: Jean Will

Session

Clerk of Session: Mark Williams
 Administration Team: Mark Williams, Brenda Moyers
 Mission Outreach Team: Terry Morris, Jeff Heatwole
 Congregational Care Team: Becky Pierce, Fran Smith
 Christian Education Team: Kate Dudley, Gerald Harper
 Property and Grounds Team: Jim Suter, Brad Miller, Ray Heatwole
 Worship Team: Don Myers, Skip Wallace

Church Committee Leaders

Youth Advisor: Kate Dudley & Becky Pierce
 Cemetery: Brad Miller
 The Sunshine Gang: Craig & Nancy Miller, Bob & Patsy Scott
 Sanctuary Decorations: Jana Miller
 Historian: Nancy Myers

Children's Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for all the exciting things this New Year will bring. Thank you for the chance to make changes and set goals. Please help me to make realistic resolutions and remind me to keep trying even when I fail. Thank you that you give me a fresh start every day. I know you are beside me to cheer me on. It's good to share resolutions and encourage each other.

Thank you for this New Year. Amen.

-www.prayerscapes.com

A New Year's Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

-Debbie McDaniel

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17





SALVATION ARMY

Thanks also to the volunteers who rang the Salvation Army bell during their Kettle Drive on December 10th and 17th. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts to raise money for this important community resource.

OPEN DOORS

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped host the homeless guests of Open Doors at Cooks Creek from December 26th through January 2nd. We greatly appreciate all the folks who provided food and supplies, served meals, unloaded and loaded the Open Doors truck, cleaned bathrooms, drove vans, and so much more. Special thanks goes to Adonica Miller who tirelessly lead this project. Well done!

One way to cultivate joy is by actively participating in church activities and connecting with others in fellowship. This can provide a sense of belonging and purpose, as well as the opportunity to serve and give back to our communities. We can also find joy in prayer, reading scripture, and spending time in nature, all of which can help us to better connect with God and find peace and solace.

As we strive to bring more joy into our lives, let's also remember to extend it to others. By showing kindness and compassion towards others, we can bring light and hope to those around us, and in turn, find more joy in our own lives. Let's make this new year a time of joy, not just for ourselves, but for all those around us.

Coming Up in the New Year

Starting January 8 is **Peace in the Storm**, a churchwide, scripture-based, multimedia experience for our times. *Peace in the Storm* will give you the spiritual tools and techniques to weather the most difficult storms. Especially invite family, friends, and neighbors who are currently battling storms to find hope, Jesus, and peace. This series led by Brent and Kerry Showalter will last four weeks and will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30. Contact the Showalters with questions. See you there!

Lunchtime Prayers will resume Tuesday, January 10 from 12:00-12:30 in the parlor. We meet in-person or by Zoom to share our joys and concerns and then we pray (you are invited even if you aren't sure you want to pray out loud!). Everyone is invited. Zoom info: Meeting ID: 846 5366 6177 Passcode: CCPray22
[Zoom link](#)

Our **1 Peter Bible Discussion** will resume on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00pm. We meet in-person in the parlor or by Zoom to read scripture, understand what it is saying, and discuss what it means for us and our times. You are always welcome to drop

in! Zoom info: Meeting ID: 811 4317 7078
Passcode: 865930 [Zoom link](#)

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon will be Sunday, January 22 immediately following worship. Join us for food, fellowship, and a brief meeting – it is part of the joy of being a Presbyterian!

What does it look like to engage your God-given of curiosity? How would your life with Jesus be richer and deeper if you exercised your curiosity muscle with God on a regular basis? What if your curiosity could lead you down the path Jesus wants you to walk? And what if God gets more excited about your questions than your answers? Join us as we learn the spiritual practice of asking questions during our adult Sunday School class, **Grow Your Faith Through Questions**, Sundays at 9:30 in the fellowship hall from February 5 to Palm Sunday. Contact Pastor Seth with questions.

We look forward to seeing you in worship!

Blessings,



Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance November 1, 2022	\$6,352.30
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$15,330.00
Civic Organizations	\$500.00
Church & Religious Organizations & Businesses	\$1,900.00
Businesses	\$2,124.00
Total Deposits	\$19,854.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$70.00
Eggs	\$338.00
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$2,330.11
Milk Vouchers	\$416.19
Toilet Tissue	\$383.36
Produce Vouchers	\$601.55
Total Disbursements	\$4,046.46
Balance as of November 31, 2022	\$22,159.84

The balance this month is a reflection of the efforts of many people to provide the pantry with needed funds. This is remarkable! Also, those who work in the pantry tried very hard to see that those who came to us had a nice Thanksgiving while also being frugal in spending. Disbursements were about \$2,600 less in November than in October. We are grateful that the Virginia Poultry Growers again gave us 85 turkey breasts this month, but hams have been ordered for the December Christmas distribution, and we will have to pay for them. The host church pays for the eggs, and we have been giving two 12-ct. cartons because they are an excellent source of protein and are used in so many ways. The price seems to be skyrocketing, making this a very difficult purchase for those who have limited food dol-

lars even when times are good. The vouchers listed in this report are for October because we are billed at the end of each month. In November we eliminated the grape voucher and did not buy hot dogs or buns. We don't want to skimp on the December items because it's a long time between the December 15 and January 31 distributions. We are fortunate to have received 800 pounds of ground deer met from Hunters for the Hungry that will be used in December and several months after that. And we are expecting a shipment of mozzarella cheese from the Cheese Ministry sometime in the second week of December.

In November the pantry served 75 families, which included 11 who were there for the first time, 5 who received deliveries, and 1 who

came for an emergency bag the next day because at the regular time his wife was getting out of the hospital. Approximately 1,371 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. In addition, each family received a turkey breast, 2 12-ct. cartons of eggs, a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves, and a 12-roll package of toilet paper. Also directions for thawing and cooking a turkey and several recipes for using turkey or to accompany a turkey dinner were included.

We thank Cooks Creek for hosting the pantry this month. The West Rockingham Ruritan Club and Mt. Horeb UMC will host the pantry on December 15. They will provide eggs and an inspirational insert for each family. We plan to serve 85.

Continued on Page 7

Food Pantry Report, Cont.

The annual WRFB Board Meeting will be Tuesday, January 2 at Cooks Creek at 7:00 p.m. Please be sure your church or club is represented. We will review the year and plan for 2023. If you will be changing the board representative from your group, please come and bring the new board member with you. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Mary Sue McDonald, Sharon Showalter, and Jack and Becky Martin, will present a slate of officers and nominees for the Nominating Committee to be elected that night for 2023. We have such excellent workers in the pantry that I hope all of you plan to continue your jobs in the coming year. However, if any of you are not planning to continue, please let me know as soon as possible. Also that night, we will have a report from

the Fundraiser Committee.

A couple of weeks ago we were very concerned about the food pantry being in financial difficulty because of the rising food costs. We knew that this is God's pantry and that He would answer our prayers for special help at this time. And He has not disappointed us. He never does. In this season of emphasis on gifts, with Christ Himself being the greatest gift, the people in our community, through their gifts both large and small, have raised our balance to the amount you see above. I am reminded of Christina Rossetti's poem, "What Can I Give Him."

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a
lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my

part; Yet what can I give Him? Give
Him my heart."

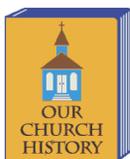
Thanks go out to all who continue to give Jesus your heart through your gifts of time, talent, and resources to help our neighbors who come for food at the pantry each month. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best in the new year!

Bea



THE DICK MILLER FUND

Thank you to all who gave to the Dick Miller Fund in 2022. Because of your generosity throughout the year, you helped 43 families who were in crisis. A total of \$20,657.92 paid for emergencies people were experiencing with rent, electricity, water, and other necessities. The current balance in this fund, operated solely on donations, is approximately \$500. If you would like to contribute, make a check payable to Cooks Creek and write Dick Miller Fund in the memo line.



History Tidbit: Women in Leadership

Today we are so accustomed to having women in leadership roles that we forget, or maybe never knew, that their acceptance as leaders, other than in the women's circles, is relatively recent at Cooks Creek. In 1974, the women asked that one woman each month be allowed to be a greeter with the deacon and elder greeters, but it was only in 1988 that the wives of deacons and elders were allowed to be greeters with their husbands.

Many of you know that Sarah Lacy Miller was the first woman elder at Cooks Creek, but did you know that she was first nominated for that office in 1968 and was not elected until 1984!

The first woman was elected deacon in 1986, and she was the second woman elected elder. Guess who she is? (See answer on page 10).

Cooks Creek Church Outreach Ministry

Keeping in Touch with Members and Friends

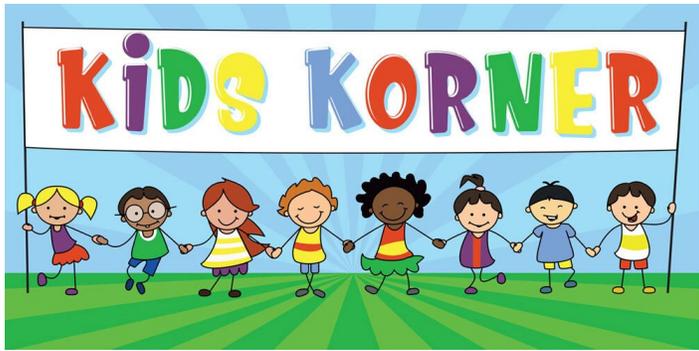
One of our most important ministries is to love and care for one another. All of us can participate in this by reaching out with phone calls, cards, visits and prayer. We want to remember the words of our Lord:

"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
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	302 N. Second Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653
Jerry Miller 7/30	4463 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-908-8316 millerhomestead@comcast.net
Ann Rhodes	624 Erickson Ave. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-9473
Wanda Ritchie 1/19	68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Unity Household Room 360 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640
Mary Ann Morris 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157

Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Pam Sonner 3/20	229 Emerson Lane Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-217-0805
Terry Morris T 4/9	3935 Sunnyside Dr. Suite B Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-568-8448
Curtis Long 11/23	6868 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-867-5127
CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-3574
Nelson Alexander 11/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Walnut 330 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-6511
Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527



TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story – and the snack – with a friend!

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: “Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____.”

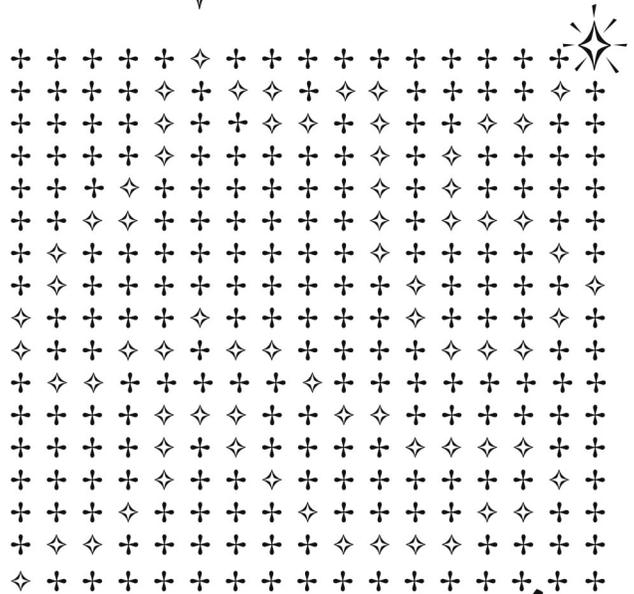
- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, 13:7.)

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

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3 WRFP Board Meeting 7 PM	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7
8	9	10 Session Annual Report Items due	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Communion Annual Congregational Meeting	23 Session Meeting	24	25	26 West Rockingham Food Pantry 4-6 PM	27	28
29	30	31				

Birthdays

- 1 David Browning
- 2 Samuel Frye
- 4 Michele Bridges
- 5 Billy Lilly
- 6 Wilder Barnett
- 6 Tracy Bosserman
- 7 Martha Spicher
- 9 Wanda Ritchie
- 10 Kamden Fadeley
- 10 Kendall Fadeley
- 12 Erin Earley
- 13 Natasha Pence
- 13 Terry Pence
- 13 Carrie Rhodes
- 14 Kerry Showalter
- 15 Patsy Scott
- 21 Chad Brown
- 21 Daniel Brown

- 22 Madison Frye
- 22 Charles Newman
- 27 Cory Brown
- 29 Cole Swope

Anniversaries

- 9 Michael & Sallie Garrison
- 23 Brian & Natalie



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

History Tidbit Answer: Nancy Myers

Prayer Needs

Please be in prayer for these folks
(new info in italics).

- Gary Simmers, cancer diagnosis
- Nancy Flaherty, Jenny Heatwole's mother
- Jeanie Will
- Mary Ann Brown
- Dylan Heatwole
- Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker.
- Dennis Early
- Karen Moats
- Ronald Miller