

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church  
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January 2024  
Volume 152



COOKS CREEK  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Cooks Creek Courier

## Happy New Year!



### ***Upcoming Preachers:***

*January 7 ~ Dick Travis*  
*January 14 ~ Bill Reinhold*  
*January 21 ~ Gerald Harper*  
*January 28 ~ Bill Reinhold*

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# JANUARY

	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
7	Skip Wallace	Kathy Lyons	Natalie & Brian Bocock	Kathy Lyons & Pam Bocock
14	Ken McNulty	Kathy Lyons	Paul & Whitney Eberly	Adonica Miller & Billy
21	Don Myers	Kathy Lyons	Brandon & Jennifer Fadeley	Kathy Lyons & Dianne Reynolds
28	Steve Smith	Pam Bocock	Pam Bocock	Nancy Miller

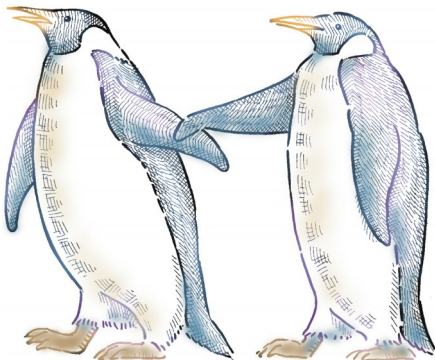
**Elders On Call for January:** Brad Miller (540-578-2846) and Mark Williams (540-578-3035). If you have an urgent need please call the Elder On Call.

## ATTENDANCE

### December Attendance:

3	SS	23	W	84
10	SS	17	W	77
17	SS	24	W	66
24	SS	19	W	74
31	SS	16	W	52

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



**Bring a Friend This Sunday**

## Church Information

### Staff

Office Administrator: Sherry Stroop  
 Music Director: Megan Zuhowski-Hartsell  
 Organist: Teresa Simmers  
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons

### Session—New 2024 Session Members Information Coming!

**Clerk of Session:** Mark Williams

**Administration & Property:** Brenda Moyers, Brad Miller, Ray Heatwole

**Worship & Education:** Kate Dudley, Gerald Harper, Don Myers, Skip Wallace

**Congregation & Community Care:** Fran Smith, Jeff Heatwole, Larry Hogan, Beth Phillips

### Church Contacts

Youth Advisor: Becky Pierce

Cemetery: Brad Miller

The Sunshine Gang: Craig & Nancy Miller, Bob & Patsy Scott

Sanctuary Decorations: Jana Miller

Historian: Nancy Myers



**Thank you** to all those that rang the Salvation Army Bell on December 9th and 16th! We appreciate your time to raise money for this important community resource!

**Thank you** to the many volunteers who helped host the homeless guests of Open Doors at Cooks Creek from December 4-11. 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.

**Our second week of hosting is coming up February 5-12!** Open Doors sign-ups for meals, drivers, and restroom cleaners are on the Connect Table. Set-up/pack-up and supplies/needs sign-up lists are also on the Connect Table. Contact Adonica if you have any questions.

### **Dick Miller Fund:**

The Dick Miller fund is separate from our operating budget and is used at Cooks Creek to help families who are in a crisis situation. It is funded by your generous donations and provides monetary assistance with the expectation that those requesting funds will be able to pay their bills in the future. It is limited to families living in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*Matthew 25:40*

## Church News

**Sunday, January 14** — Installation of Officers

**January 20-21** — Youth Retreat/Lock-in

**Sunday, January 28** — Annual Congregational Meeting



**Bulletin Handout for 2024** — Please consider taking a month in 2024 to hand out bulletins to those entering the sanctuary. The sign-up sheet is on the connect Table. There is no handout needed on the third Sunday since the Youth provide that service. Many thanks!

**Reminder**— When county schools are closed due to dangerous weather conditions, the church office will be closed.

## Prayer Ministry



### *Prayer Requests?*

If anyone in the congregation has any prayer concerns or needs please contact Phyllis Simmons.

[pmsimmons4041@comcast.net](mailto:pmsimmons4041@comcast.net)

540-830-4244 cell

540-867-5238

### **Please be in prayer for these folks:**

- Jazmin Brown ~ postpartum preeclampsia and headaches
- Morgan Soukup
- Jimmy Brown ~ treatments for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- Jim Fletcher ~ Leukemia and Hospice Care
- Aaron Evans
- Cindy Suter
- Jillian Shirkey & Family
- Gary Shell & Family ~ He is battling melanoma in the lung
- Jimmy Miller
- Gary Simmers, cancer treatment
- Jeanie Will
- Dylan Heatwole
- Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker
- Karen Moats





*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. John 16:34a (NKJV)*

### **Our New Year Guide**

Guide us Lord,  
into the New Year  
lead us each day  
to be, to You near.

Guide us to find,  
strength and power  
lead us daily  
whatever the hour.

Guide us to be,  
meek and kind  
lead us to where  
peace we can find.

Guide our hearts,  
to wait and be still  
lead us to the path  
of Your perfect will.

Guide us Lord,  
into the New Year  
lead us to the truth  
with Godly fear!

By Deborah Ann Belka

## Food Pantry Report



<b>Beginning Balance November 1 2023</b>	<b>\$34,174.11</b>
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	
Individual Contributions	\$2,720.00
Civic Organizations	200.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$2,630.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$5,550.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Bread	\$187.25
Eggs (Reimbursed by Mt Clinton UMC)	\$405.00
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$4,571.88
Toilet Tissue	\$599.00
Milk Vouchers (Sharp Shopper—138 gal.)	\$622.55
Produce Vouchers (Bananas \$172.46—Apples \$462.46—Grapes \$274.89)	\$909.81
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$7,295.49</b>
<b>Balance as of November 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$32,428.62</b>

The income in November was \$3,046.70 more than in October, but expenses were \$1,012.79 more in November than in October. Produce vouchers cost a little over \$100 more this month and milk vouchers were a little over \$79 more than last month. The Mt. Clinton community had a Thanksgiving parade, and to express their gratitude, they collected food and over \$100 for the pantry. In comparing the monthly treasurer's reports, it seems that our declining balance is mainly due to the increase in the number of families being served. Eighty-eight families came Thursday evening, but 5 came the next week, making a total of 93 for November. Within the 88 families, 51 were age 65 and over; 143 were 19-64, and 98 were 18 and under. There are usually some generous donations

at the end of the year, and we trust that there will be some this year, too.

Approximately 2,168 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags in November. In addition, each family received a 12-roll package of toilet paper, 2 dozen eggs, a loaf of bread with large families receiving two loaves, and a turkey roast. About 9 people did not want the turkey. This year, instead of giving the pantry the usual bone-in turkey breast, the Virginia Poultry Growers Coop. at Hinton gave a new product. It was a boneless roast about the size of the usual turkey breast of white meat with dark meat pressed onto the side. The Coop. provided directions for thawing and cooking the roast which was already in a cooking bag. All they had to do

## Food Pantry Report Continued

was to make three one-inch slits in the top of the bag and follow the cooking directions. Families were not given a choice of meat, but those who did not want the turkey were given two pounds of hamburger. Also, there were enough other donated food items not provided in the prepacked bags for each family to choose one item. Very few of the families have infants, but a couple who did were ecstatic that we happened to have several packages of diapers this time.

We thank Cooks Creek for hosting the November meeting. On December 14, the West Rockingham Ruritan Club will be the host. They will provide eggs and an inspirational insert for each family.

Since the December pantry treasurer's report and other information will be discussed at the Board meeting in January, the usual monthly report will not be emailed. That information will be in the minutes of the Board meeting which will be emailed in January. **The Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Cooks Creek fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. Only the one Board member of each church and Ruritan Club and WRFP officers may vote, but any interested members of the network of churches and clubs are welcome. Also, volunteers who have monthly pantry responsibilities are strongly encouraged to attend. There has been some reorganization of monthly duties, and for the pantry to continue to operate smoothly, it's important for all volunteers to know who's doing what when and why, and how various jobs affect others. It's clearer to discuss these things than to send a memo. However, if you can't come that evening, let me know as soon as possible. It's an understatement to say that our volunteers do a terrific job, so I hope that all will continue this next year who haven't already told me that they cannot continue. If you find that you can't continue, please let me know as soon as possible. Also at this meeting officers and a nominating committee will be elected by Board members. If any church or club will change their board member next year, please let me know and both the new and retiring member should attend the January meeting. Another important item on the agenda is signing up for hosting the pantry in 2024. We thank Calvary Mennonite Fellowship for already agreeing to host on January 25.**

We give gifts throughout the year for various reasons and occasions; however, it seems that the whole month of December people are obsessed with gift giving. Why? Why do we give gifts anyway, especially at this time of the year? Recently, I heard a minister say that there are three reasons people give gifts. One is because it's an obligation. "I have to because everyone else there will be giving something", or "Ted down the street gave me something last year, so I have to give him something this year but I can't imagine what it will be." Two, it's a duty. "I ought to give something to Open Doors. They've been asking for donations for weeks now, and everybody else at church seems to be giving something, so I should, too." "I ought to put something in that Salvation Army kettle. The bell ringers will be looking at me and I'll be embarrassed if I just walk on by." Three, I want to. "I know how I feel when I'm really hungry. I was too busy to stop to have lunch today, and I can hardly wait for dinner to be on the table. I can't imagine how awful mothers feel when they have little or nothing to give their children for dinner and have little hope that tomorrow will be any better. The TV ads show this often, and articles in the paper explain that "food insecurity" is a problem all across the country. There's not much I can do to correct this national problem, but I want to help the families in my community, so I'll give some money to the food pantry. And I can help out when something needs to be done." Not long ago someone who delivers food to a family was in the grocery store and bought an onion to add to the prepacked bag because she thought the woman might like to have one. When the lady unpacked the bag, she said, "An onion!" as though it was the greatest gift ever.

Of course, we know what the greatest gift ever was and is, not only to the world but to you and me, personally. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son to save not only the wide world, but you and me today. Jesus gave his life on the cross because he wanted to do God's will in saving each of us. The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. And as we give from the heart with love, may those who receive a gift want to give to others, for it is that desire to give that will bring joy and peace to all.

***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and joy and peace in the New Year.***

~ Bea



## 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.

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



**Lois Alexander**

1401 Virginia Avenue  
Crestwood, Cedar Room 101  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: 540-564-3574  
Birthday: April 1

**Mary Ann Brown**

Bridgewater Retirement Community  
Unity Household Room 360  
302 N. 2nd Street  
Bridgewater, VA 22812  
Birthday: June 1

**Dennis Early**

Bridgewater Retirement Community  
302 N. 2nd Street  
Bridgewater, VA 22812  
Birthday: February 2

**Lois Frye**

White Birch Communities  
847 Oakwood Drive  
Rockingham, VA 22801  
Birthday: October 26

**Curtis Long**

6868 Mt. Clinton Pike  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: 540-867-5127  
Birthday: November 23

**Evelyn & Jimmy Miller**

1401 Virginia Avenue  
Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: 540-564-6527  
Birthdays:  
Jimmy—May 31  
Evelyn—April 24

**Jerry Miller**

4463 Mt. Clinton Pike  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: 540-908-8316  
Email: millerhomestead@comcast.net  
Birthday: July 30

**Carolyn Pence**

c/o Ann Carol Pence  
2633 Partridge Trail  
Duluth, GA 30097  
Birthday: December 23

**Wanda Ritchie**

68 Cooks Creek Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone 540-434-1944  
Birthday: January 19

**Ann Rhodes**

624 Erickson Avenue  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Phone: 540-434-9473

**Pam Sonner**

229 Emerson Lane  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Phone: 540-217-0805  
Birthday: March 20

**Eddy Wampler**

Bridgewater Retirement Community  
302 N. 2nd Street - Room 237  
Bridgewater, VA 22812  
Phone: 540-383-5653  
Birthday: September 15

**Helen Suter**

The Phoenix of Harrisonburg  
3607 Stone Spring Road  
Rockingham, VA 22801  
Phone: 540-214-6175  
Birthday: August 25







# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7		8	9	10	11	12
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14		15	16	17	18	19
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21		22	23	24	25	26
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28		29	30	31		
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 The last Monday \_ \_  
 The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 One day before the 20th \_ \_  
 The day before the first Friday \_ \_  
 The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 The day after the 20th \_ \_  
 The day after 18th \_ \_  
 The first day of the second weekend \_  
 The last Sunday \_ \_ \_  
 The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

## ?? Bible Quiz ??




Complete this proverb: "Like snow in \_\_\_\_ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

A. springtime  
 B. summer  
 C. seedtime  
 D. autumn

Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)



## Calendar and Celebrations

						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <b>Installation of Officers</b>	15 <b>February Courier Deadline</b>	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Youth Group Overnight Lock-in</b> 
21 <b>4 Cents A Meal Offering</b>	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 <b>Food Pantry 4-6 PM</b>	26	27
28 <b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	29	30	31			



1 - David Browning  
 2 - Samuel Frye  
 4 - Michele Bridges  
 5 - Billy Lilly  
 6 - Tracy Bosserman  
 Justin Simmons  
 7 - Martha Spicher

9 - Wanda Ritchie  
 10 - Kamden Fadeley  
 Kendall Fadeley  
 12 - Erin Earley  
 13 - Natasha Pence  
 Terry Pence  
 Carrie Rhodes  
 14 - Kerry Showalter  
 15 - Patsy Scott  
 21 - Chad Brown  
 Daniel Brown  
 22 - Madison Frye  
 Charles Newman  
 27 - Cory Brown  
 29 - Cole Swope



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