



Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church COURIER

4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA,
22802

July 2020

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
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Create in me a clean heart, O God; and *renew* a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

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How will we use our freedom?

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would you do with such undeserved freedom? What do we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson's example and use our freedoms, both social and spiritual, to serve others.

~adapted from Homiletics



Ramblings from the Reverend...

I'd like to give you an update on our plans for resuming in-person worship. It seems like this has been going on forever and yet it also doesn't seem like that long ago that we were all together. I think in one sense that is because we are in a bit of a holding pattern. Our country seemed to be going in a strong direction regarding COVID-19 infection rates and now it appears that we might not be going in that great of a direction - let's keep praying!

Continued on page 3

Dick Miller Fund

We are starting to receive requests again for assistance. Please remember this fund with your giving. Thank you!

Open Doors

Thank you to those that supported Open Doors during the emergency shelter at JMU with food, supplies, volunteering, and prayers. The shelter closed on June 11th. Please keep the safety and health of those that don't have a home to "shelter in place" in your prayers.

Budgeted Funds

In June, CCPC used budgeted funds to support these local missions:

Roberta Webb Child Care Center

RWCCC is an affordable, licensed child care facility in a safe and nurturing environment for children 0 - 5 years old. Fees are based on a sliding scale and grants and donations cover the difference between operating costs and parent fees.

<http://roberta.webbcc.com/home/>

West Rockingham Food Pantry

WRFP is a non-profit community pantry composed of 10 churches, 3 Ruritan Clubs, and a Boy Scout troop. It operates out of our church, Cooks Creek Presbyterian, and serves the area west of Harrisonburg to the West Virginia border. Distribution is on the 4th Thursday of each month from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm (November and December dates are different).

Typically, food donations are accepted on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. However, due to COVID-19, the WRFP is asking for monetary donations instead.

<https://www.cooks creek church.org>

Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team delivered or mailed John 3:16 Worlds (see page 8) to 54 children in the past month.

They also mailed or delivered newborn Bibles to:

Christian & Erin Frye - Anna Catherine (June 19)

Brian & Natalie Bocoock - Finley Sloane (June 20)

Andrew & Kelly Frye - Samuel (Mailed) (June 19)

*Submitted by,
Becky Pierce & Phyllis Simmons*

Prayer Ministry

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

I recently read "Great Truths About Life That Little Children Have Learned," author unknown. These were pretty funny so I thought I would share some with you.

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) Never ask your 3 year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 3) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 4) Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.

5) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

6) The best place to be when you are sad is in Grandma's lap.

When we slow down, stop, and listen to what a child is saying we learn about their world and what's important to them. They can even teach us a lesson or two. Children speak from their hearts. A heart filled with the Holy Spirit and truth of the Word of God will produce Godly speech that brings life to the child and others. Let's pray that our children, youth and college students will learn to speak and live life according to God's Word and honor His holy name.

CCPC members have been praying for our children, youth and college students for two years now. This fall we will begin our third year of the Prayer Ministry. If you would like to share how the Holy Spirit has blessed you, your family, or your child through the Prayer Ministry, please email me by August 1st. These stories will be inspiring and an encouragement to all. Never underestimate the Power of God to use even the smallest or briefest interaction to His glory.

Also, if you feel led to join this Prayer Ministry by praying for a child(ren) or if you would like your child to be on the receiving end of heartfelt prayers by a member of our congregation please contact me by August 1st at rpiercehome@hotmail.com.

*Blessings,
Becky Pierce*





**Ramblings from
the Reverend**

(Continued from Page 1)

As the Session and I pray, discern, and plan for what makes the most sense for us as Cooks Creek, I'd like to give you a few of my thoughts on what a timeline looks like for resuming in-person worship.

1. The health and safety of every worshipper is paramount. Jeannie is doing her usual outstanding job of cleaning and sanitizing our church building. We are also in the process of installing hand sanitizing stations (when they get here) and other cleanliness measures to ensure that we are doing what we can to maintain a clean environment.

2. Before we open for in-person worship, I think it is essential that we have our livestreaming technology up and running. Unfortunately, there is a nationwide backorder on a key component for our system and we are waiting to receive it (lots of groups are moving in this direction!). Once we do, we will finish installation and get staff and volunteers familiar with the setup before we livestream. Our livestreaming setup will allow us to produce a high-quality online viewing experience from the sanctuary. This will open up our ability to have people worship in the sanctuary while allowing those who cannot or would prefer not to attend in person to still join us in our worship. Livestreaming will ensure that everyone in our community can engage in the same worship experi-

ence whether online or in-person.

3. We want to create an experience that is meaningful for as many people as possible. Something that struck me a few weeks ago is the question, "What are we coming back to?" I think when this all started in March, most of us (including me) had this vision that we would come back to a worship environment identical to the one we left on Sunday, March 8. The pews mostly full, kids running around, people on the more seasoned end of the age spectrum dodging the kids, singing, hugging, etc. That situation does not look like it is feasible any time soon. My concern is that we try to come back with only a fraction of us able to be in the sanctuary, far apart, not engaging in our typical worship, and then leaving with an odd taste in our mouths... "Is this what we came back for?" I don't want us to be doing a pale reflection of our customary time on Sunday mornings and wondering why we bothered.

All this is to say that we do not have a concrete timetable for returning to in-person worship. What I can say is that we will be continuing with worship videos only through July. Session will continue to pray, discern, and use the best information available to chart our course.

God bless,

SCAM ALERT

We have been informed that a similar scam to the one going around a month or two ago has resurfaced. It is not from an email address associated with the church (although it looks similar). No staff person at the church will ever email you to personally ask you for money, a gift card, a favor, or to meet me somewhere in aid of such a request. If you ever have a question about a communication that seems like it could be from the church,

Greeter/Elder on Call for July:

- Brad Miller - 540-578-2846
- Becky Pierce - 540-421-6068

Please keep in prayer:

- ♥ Colleen Long
- ♥ Luanne May
- ♥ Alison Trost
- ♥ Jerry and Charlsie Miller
- ♥ Ken McNulty
- ♥ Terry and Linda Morris
- ♥ Carolyn Stilwell (Carole's daughter in law)
- ♥ Nina Miller (Jerry & Charlsie's granddaughter)
- ♥ Lois Burkholder (Norma Bowman's sister)
- ♥ Roxana Atwood and family on the passing of Jim Atwood.

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued faithfulness during this difficult time. As we are halfway through the year, we would like to give you a more detailed update of our finances at Cooks Creek. The Session remains committed to maintaining the salaries of all staff and continuing to create opportunities for our ministries to thrive and our building to be a blessing. So, while some costs are down because our worship and ministries are not in the building as often, most of our expenses remain and we are investing to make our worship more accessible.

March was an understandably "down" month for the finances. We suddenly stopped providing the way that we make our tithes and offerings – the Sunday morning offering plate. A lot of those funds were contributed in April instead. The launch of our online giving also helped facilitate this recovery. We have received about \$13,000 online which constitutes about 15% of our giving April-June.

For our general fund, it takes about \$24,000 per month to keep our books balanced. We received the following contributions to the general fund March through June:

March	April	May	June	Average
\$19,082	\$29,286	\$18,417	\$19,790	\$21,643

The capital campaign has done well this year and has received \$22,377 from March-June. The overall total for the capital campaign is \$75,956 as we seek to reach \$100,000 by the end of 2020.

The Dick Miller Fund is also in a healthy position. The Dick Miller Fund, which goes to help people in our community with rent, utilities, and similar needs has

received \$4,978 since March and the Fund currently stands at \$5,409.50.

Our year-to-date financials, including contributions to the capital campaign, are as follows:

Income	Expenses	Difference
\$135,342	\$161,062	(\$25,720)

We do have the savings to cover this deficit and we are certainly not in a financial emergency. We are blessed to be in a strong overall financial and ministry situation. We have had a few significant expenses come up in the first six months of the year that were anticipated but that we did not think would be as immediate as they turned out to be, such as: the major renovation of the septic system (it's good when the church doesn't flood with sewage), upgrading the exterior doors for safety and security, and installing the technology to livestream our worship from the sanctuary so everyone will be able to participate together in these challenging times.

Cooks Creek has remained strong and healthy. We want to continue that health and build upon over 280 years of blessing each other and our community as we worship and serve Jesus Christ. If you need to get back in the habit of providing regular tithes or offerings, please prayerfully consider resuming those now. If you have continued to provide a tithe or offering, or indeed, have increased your contribution during this time, thank you! If you are facing a financial issue, please reach out to us so that we may help.

All the information on how to give to Cooks Creek may be found at cooks creek church.org/give Our mailing address is 4222 Mt. Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Congratulations!!



Brian and Natalie Bocock are excited to welcome Finley Sloane into their home! Finley was born on Wednesday, June 17th, weighing in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces and starting out at 20 inches long. Big sisters Teagan and Cameron are excited to show her the ropes and proud grandparents are Tom and Pam Bocock and Bill and Becky Pierce. She is also welcomed by Uncle Charles and Aunt Shelley, Uncle Kevin and Aunt Morgan, and cousins Nora, Sophie, and Bayler.

Congratulations, Brian and Natalie!



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
Dorothy Harper 7/19	White Birch Communities #6 847 Oakwood Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-236-5906	Pam Sonner 3/20	229 Emerson Lane Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-217-0805
Tom and Luanne May T 4/11 L 4/29	1235 Quince Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-476-3205	Terry & Linda Morris T 4/9 L 3/1	4248 Grattan Price Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-568-8448
Jerry & Charlsie Miller J 7/30 C 3/5	4463 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-908-8316 millerhomestead@comcast.net	Colleen Long 7/6	Shenandoah Terrace 447 W. Old Cross Rd. New Market, VA 22844
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	CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Wanda Ritchie 1/19	68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944	Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 540-564-3574
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Assisted Living Room #336 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640	Nelson Alexander 11/24	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Walnut Room 330 540-564-5611
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653	Millie Harman- DeVall 4/15	1285 Shank Drive Apt 323 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Mary Ann Morriss 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157	Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527
		Bonnie Wampler 3/13	Brunk House 1316 Woodland Park Circle Harrisonburg, VA 22802 (Off Oak Drive, 4th house down the row)



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Beginning Balance May 1, 2020	\$17,031.25
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$2,675.00
Civic Organizations	\$2,000.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$300.00
Total Deposits	\$4,975.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Hamburger	\$299.00
Bread	\$69.30
Eggs (Reimbursed by Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church)	\$125.30
Food Purchases to fill Bags	\$2,444.54
Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 76 gal. - \$252.24 Sharp Shopper 46 gal - \$194.10)	\$446.34
Annual Registration - State Corporation Commission	\$25.00
Total Disbursements	\$3,409.48
Balance as of May 31, 2020	\$18,596.77

The balance this month is \$1,565.52 more than the balance at the end of April, including the \$2,000 Community Foundation grant. Even if we had not gotten the grant, the balance would still be good. We were fortunate to get the hamburger for \$234.80 less this month than we paid last month. The milk bill seems to stay about the same; this month it was \$30.17 more than in April. I think with this \$25 annual payment to the SCC we are finally finished with operating expenses we have to pay every year. We're hoping that the food chain is going to be a little more reliable now that some food processing plants are beginning to figure out how to keep workers safe while keeping production more steady.

This month we served 71 families, 5 of whom were there for the first time, an increase over the 65 we served in April. We had no emergency bag requests in May, but one who couldn't come Thursday came this Wednesday afternoon and got food for herself and three others. If we

counted these in our total, we could say we served 75. Both this month and last month we had five new families. Some of these people have not received their stimulus checks and the unemployment checks have not come through for some, so it's likely that our numbers will increase somewhat, but I'm glad we have not had sharp increases. Also, we pray that as businesses begin to open up again, folks will be getting their jobs back. Work is so important, of course for the money to pay bills, but also the dignity of working provides so many intangible benefits to an individual and to a family. In May these families received approximately 2,117 pounds of food in the pre-packed bags as well as two pounds of hamburger, eggs, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving two loaves. Sharp Shopper has had a good price on eggs, so both this month and last, we bought the 18-count cartons. Also, we gave three cartons of eggs, three loaves of bread, and three milk vouchers to First Step and 14 milk vouchers to

Roberta Webb Day Care.

Glen and Melissa Adams with the Vertical Connection, a free clothes ministry, are not coming to the pantry while we are having drive-thru distribution, but we gave each family a written notice that they will be giving out clothes in the parking lot at Kline's on Rt. 11 South on Saturday mornings and at Mason Motors in Timberville on Tuesday evenings, weather permitting. As the warm weather comes, parents will need summer clothes for children who have outgrown things they had last year. Glen and Melissa are not picking up clothes right now but will resume their collections when they have given more away and will have more storage space.

We thank the Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church for hosting the pantry this month. We also thank the Lifeline Sunday school class from Cooks Creek for washing all the returned bags for the food pantry, and we especially are grateful for the work of Rachael Switzer for coordinating this project.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT, CONT.

Are we living in our branches? This is a question a devotional writer asked recently. After watching the branches of the trees in her yard being blown up and down, she also noticed that the trunks never moved. Sometimes as we try to cope with life's winds blowing in all directions, producing fear and insecurity, we feel fragile and pummeled by uncertainties. Do we wear a mask or don't we? Do we participate in a gathering or don't we? Are we washing our hands enough? Are we or our loved ones going to get sick? And added to those questions, we now may have some fear about the upheaval in our society as past and present injustices and injuries are brought to light. Our emotions are on a roller-coaster. Are we in any way contributing to these problems? Is there

some way we can be part of the solution? Maybe what we need to do is to be sure we are anchored to the firm trunk that is secure and stable. In scripture God is referred to as a rock, but in our analogy, God is the steady trunk that lasts through the winds of doubt, indecision, and fear. When we find our trunk and rely on Him, we are blessed by peace and hope. We can be calm and secure in the knowledge that He understands the winds that can whip us into a paralysis of thought and action. He will guide us with the steadiness He always has and will use us wherever we are. We may think that in the storms we are going through now, we're not making much difference. But we make a lot of difference to the 65-75 families who come to the food pantry each month, and what-

ever part we play in that mission - cleaning the pantry, filling bags, making a donation, counting the items we need, picking up food that has been ordered, praying for the work of the pantry and those who come each month, and the list is endless - is part of God's plan. We can also reflect on the thoughts we have and the words we use not only with people who have obvious differences from us but with family members we may have seen in a different light as we've been cooped up together for several weeks. Life is different now, but God made us adaptable human beings, and, with His help, we will change as we need to both as individuals and as a society.

Bea

BELIEVE

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

In the Bible Genesis 1 explains how God created the heavens and the earth. God loves the people and world He created. He said it was good! We may not always understand what is going on in the world, however, the Bible tells us that God is everywhere. He is watching over us all the time. He is always in control.

The model of the world you are receiving in this envelope is a reminder that God loves you and His world. When you are playing take a few minutes to think of ways you can praise God, and thank Him for everything He has made. Members of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church also love you and are committed to praying for you. May God bless you and your family.

Blessings,
Congregational Care Committee
Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church



UNSEEN BUT *active*

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.



What you need:

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card

What you do:

1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.



PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



Water changes to _____

JOHN 2:1-11



Heals a man born _____

JOHN 9



Calms a _____

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Catch of _____

LUKE 5:1-11



Walks on _____

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

America word scramble

Unscramble each group of letters to form a patriotic word.

1. TTEASS _____
2. YRIETLB _____
3. OTIUCNSTINTO _____
4. HEWIT UOHSE _____
5. EEGGOR AHTNWSIGNO _____
6. RIEGLOSU EFDMREO _____
7. EDR _____
8. HITWE _____
9. LEBU _____
10. OEVT _____
11. ADHR KOWR _____
12. EACPE _____
13. EIERPSDTN _____
14. LAGF _____
15. EEDORMF _____



July 2020

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

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 - Colleen Long
Rachel Switzer | 15 - Barrett Switzer |
| 9 - William Hughes | 18 - Leslie Goodrich |
| 11 - Bart Bridges | 21 - Bernie Custer |
| 12 - Becky Pierce | 24 - Andy Carrier |
| 13 - Bea Morris | 25 - Bill Hughes |
| 14 - Amy Brown | 30 - Corabelle Barnett |



ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8 - Brent & Kerry Showalter | 24 - PD & Laura Ann Leftwich |
| 11 - Skip & Robin Wallace | 25 - Dan & Kathy Dalrymple |
| 15 - Nelson & Phyllis Miller | James & Sue Haley |
| 22 - David & Wendy Scott | |