

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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May 2023
Volume 144



Cooks Creek Courier

Ramblings from the Reverend

As I transition away from Cooks Creek, I want to share with you a little of the process going forward. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 11. We have a few of our great in-house preachers ready to go for the weeks immediately after June 11 as Gemma and I had already planned to be away for vacation. The worship team is actively looking for pulpit supply (weekly preachers from the local area) and for Cooks Creek folks to help lead our Calls to Worship and Prayers of Confession/Assurance of God's Grace, so be sure to sign up at the Connect Table.

The Session continues to serve Cooks Creek well and you should be very grateful for the excellent leadership and stewardship they have provided for Cooks Creek over the years. They are not ones to sit back and have already formed an Interim Pastor Search Team. This team is busy completing the necessary form for presbytery and it is possible that they will start receiving applications for the Interim Pastor position late next week. (More on interim pastors in a future weekly update email.) The search team is Beth Phillips, Fran Smith, Brenda Moyers, Larry Hogan, and Gerald Harper, with our clerk, Mark Williams, resourcing the group. I share their names so that you might be in prayer for them... they will not be able to discuss candidates with you.

As to the timeline to find an interim pastor, the Session and Search Team are working as efficiently and effectively as possible. However, finding an interim is not solely dependent on how well our Session and Search Team are operating. Due to the pandemic and the nature of ministry in our denomination, there are not as many interim pastors as there were in the past. It is quite possible that an interim is hired before I leave in June and will start soon after. It is equally possible that there is not a good fit for several months. I would urge you to be in prayer for the person who will be your interim, your Session, and your Search Team.

As part of ending my call to Cooks Creek, the congregation has to vote to "dissolve" the call, just like you voted to have me be your pastor. **There will be a brief congregational meeting for this purpose immediately following worship on June 4 - if you are a member, please plan to join us in-person or by Zoom** (Zoom info available closer to meeting time). The C6 team is planning a potluck lunch after worship on June 11.

Blessings,

May

	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
5/7	Barret Dalrymple	Kathy Lyons	Nancy Miller	Kathy Lyons
5/14	Nancy Myers	Kathy Lyons	Billy & Adonica	Kathy Lyons
5/21	Tracy Bosserman	Kathy Lyons	Kathy Lyons	Eberlys
5/28	Skip Wallace	Kathy & Fadeleys	Newmans	Kathy Lyons
6/4	Robin Wallace	Kathy Lyons	TBD	TBD

Elders On Call for May: Don Myers (540.435.1011) and Jeff Heatwole (540.478.3748) . If you have an urgent need and can not get in touch with Pastor Seth, please call the Elder On Call.

Church Information

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Seth Normington 540.236.2900

Music Director: Megan Zuhowski

Organist: Teresa Simmers

Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons

Custodian: Jean Will

Session

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

Congregational Spring Breakfast on Sunday, May 21

Mark your calendars!!

We will have a Spring Breakfast on May 21 for everyone! We will serve breakfast from 9:00 AM until 10:15! Please come into the fellowship hall and enjoy a nice relaxing breakfast before Sunday School or church!! This is sponsored by the Cooks Creek Church Congregational and Community Committee (C6)
Hope to see everyone on May 21!

Prayer Ministry

2023 National Prayer For America

May 4, 2023

We come with fervent hearts to praise You Lord.

You are The Word, the Way, Truth and Life.

The Alpha and Omega, Lion of Judah, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come. You clothed Yourself in flesh and dwelt among us, to remove our sin and clothe us in Your righteousness that we might dwell with You forever and ever.

With broken, humbled hearts we repent of our sins. Confessing to You our faithlessness, prayerlessness, and disobedience. Forgive us for our doubt, our prideful and quarrelsome words that reveal our unclean hearts. Cleanse us and renew a right and steadfast spirit within us we pray.

With grateful hearts we thank You fervently for the blessings in our life and throughout America; they are more than we are able to count. We will remember Your grace and testify o Your goodness in all generations. Help us to refrain from complaining, but instead be prompted to pray faithfully in every circumstance. Teach us to have a content heart knowing You are always enough for our every need.

As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our

reputation in this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character, conversations, and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.

With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved.

With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, "Jesus is Lord" and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, silence hate, and that You will heal our land.

Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised, we pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

Kathy Branzell

President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance March 1 2023	\$59,380.82
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$2,250.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$923.00
Civic Organizations	\$75.00
Businesses	\$800.00
Total Deposits	\$4,048.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$157.50
Eggs (Reimbursed by Greenmount COB)	\$323.81
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$3,877.38
Hamburger	\$770.00
Milk Vouchers	\$468.88
Toilet Tissue	\$431.28
Produce Vouchers	\$758.95
Tax Filing	\$99.90
Total Disbursements	\$6,887.70
Balance as of March 31, 2023	\$56,541.12

The balance at the end of March is a little more than \$2,800 less than last month's balance, and it's likely to decrease about that much each month as our attendance seems to be growing and food prices are not decreasing. I have read that the cost of food will probably continue to increase this year, but prices may not increase as much as last year. In March the pantry served 83 families, 10 of whom were new. This includes 5 deliveries. Since the March distribution, we have given emergency bags to 4 families, so the total served in March is 87 families. Our generous doner again paid for the hamburger this month but that check is not included in this report. Food stamp allowance has been cut and some Medicaid recipients are in danger of losing their benefits, so we need to be prepared for an increase in numbers. As a non-profit, we don't pay taxes, but the IRS has a Tax Filing Fee of \$99.90 which the treasurer has paid in the past and not charged it to the pantry, but since it is a cost

of operating the pantry, the pantry should pay it. In April, we will have to pay the liability insurance premium which was \$931.00 last year. We hope it hasn't increased. And in April we will have to pay an annual registration fee of \$50.00 to the Treasurer of Virginia.

Saturday an email was sent to board members explaining that WRFP is one of the 168 nonprofits participating in the Great Community Give, a one-day event sponsored by The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County to facilitate contributions to local nonprofits. **Please encourage the members of your church or Ruritan Club to go to the website greatcommunitygive.org for information on these nonprofits. Online donations are easy to make. This one day of giving is Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.** In addition to the contributions, there are a number of monetary "prizes" for such things as the most donations during different hours of that day, *Continued on next page*

a drawing from the organizations with all board members making a donation of at least \$10 to their non-profit, etc. Offline early donations may be made directly to the nonprofit by cash or check beginning Wednesday, April 5. Earmark such donations Great Community Give so that these contributions may be included in the total collected for this event. Last year, the community total was \$2.7 million. This year the goal is \$2 million.

Approximately 1,893 pounds of food was served in the prepacked bags. In addition, each family received 2 pounds of hamburger, 2 pounds of ground deer meat if they wanted it, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves, and a 12-roll package of toilet paper. Each family was offered 2 dozen eggs; 8 said they only wanted 1 dozen, and one man said he didn't want any. Large families were offered a bag of 4 large bagels donated by Mr. J's Bagels. Also, each family could select one item from the variety table. Among those items there were about a dozen toothbrushes that were taken quickly. We might consider a special collection of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other toiletries for their choosing.

We thank Greenmount COB for hosting the pantry in March. Clover Hill UMC will host the pantry on Thursday, April 27. They will provide eggs and an inspirational insert for each family. We plan to serve 90 families.

Did you ever wonder if God smiles? What makes you smile? A smile is different from laughter. Laughter is often the response to something so incongruous that it's absurd, but a smile has a gentleness about it, a warmth that reflects pleasure, contentment, joy, relief. Parents smile when they see their baby begin to develop a personality and show delight in discovering simple things in the big world around them. Teachers smile when they see that spark of "getting it" in the eyes of a student who has worked to master a concept. Sure, God smiles. How could He not when He said at Jesus' baptism, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."? (Matthew 3:17). In II Corinthians 9:7 Paul says, "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver." Don't you think God smiles when He sees people enjoying giving to others? We see only a small fraction of the hurt, fear, and anguish of those around us, but God sees the horrible results of sin and the agony it causes throughout the whole world. Over a hundred nonprofits have identified needs of our neighbors that they are working to address. When He sees that at least some of us, sometimes, "get it," don't you think He smiles?

- Bea

Food for Thought

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sin, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of you.

- Teresa of Avila

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church Care 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

Nelson Alexander

1401 Virginia Avenue
Walnut 330
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-564-6511
Birthday: November 24

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 25

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

Terry Morris

3935 Sunnyside Drive
Suite B
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540-568-8448
Birthday: April 9

Carolyn Pence

c/o Ann Carol Pence
2633 Partridge Trail
Duluth, GA 30097

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

Richard Swope

White Birch Communities
847 Oakwood Drive
Rockingham, VA 22801
Birthday: August 27

Eddy and Mary Ellen Wampler

Bridgewater Retirement Community
302 N. 2nd Street
Eddy: Room 237
Mary Ellen: Room 155
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Phone: 540-879-2257
Eddy: 540-383-5653
Mary Ellen's Birthday: March 23
Eddy's Birthday: September 15






?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

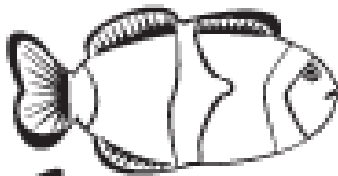
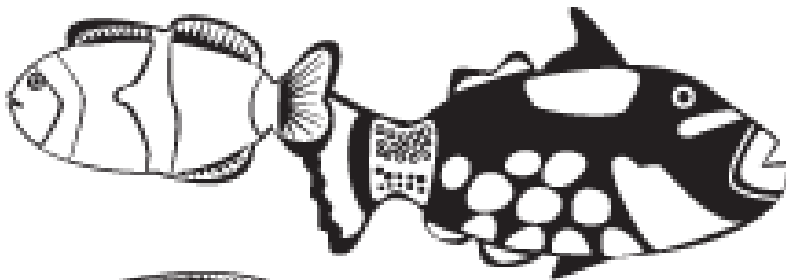
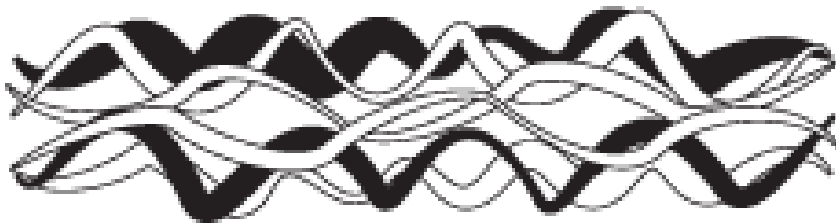
- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

A vibrant illustration of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire, with flames in shades of red, orange, and yellow, set against a blue background with white stars.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

COLORING PAGE

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May 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Luncheon Prayer 11:30—12	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	8	9 Luncheon Prayer 11:30—12	10	11	12 Matt Maher Concert	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	15	16 Luncheon Prayer 11:30—12	17	18	19	20
21 Congregational Breakfast 9:00 Worship 10:30 4 Cents A Meal Offering	22 Session Meeting 6:30 PM	23 Luncheon Prayer 11:30—12	24	25 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	29	30 Luncheon Prayer 11:30—12	31			

Birthdays

- 2 Lee Anne Biller
2 Becky Hottel
3 Dawn Barnett
5 Tammy Browning
7 Teresa Simmers
8 Kate Dudley
10 Jordan Bridges
10 Katie Higgs
11 Dan Dalrymple
11 Wendy Scott
13 Roy Swope
15 Jennifer Good
16 JD McCurdy
17 Gail Frye
17 Rachel Funkhouser
22 Sawyer Barnett
23 Jean Ratcliffe
26 Emily Shifflett
28 Adonica Miller

- 28 Mark Williams
31 Jimmy Miller
31 Barbara Weaver



Anniversaries

- 14 Tracy & Debbie Bosserman
15 Paul & Whitney Eberley
16 Rick & Karen Moats
21 Cory & Amy Brown
21 Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler
23 Donald & Lee Anne Biller
25 Gary & Patty Pence
28 Charlie & Shelley Newman



Please be in prayer for these folks:

- Jimmy Brown, Becky Pierce's brother, treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Jimmy Miller
- Gary Simmers, cancer treatment
- Jeanie Will
- Dylan Heatwole
- Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker
- Karen Moats