



The Presby

September 2020

Wytheville Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00am - 2:00pm

Rev. Bob Button, Interim Pastor

Jim Gearhart, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Wendy Morrison, Office Mgr.



Explore the

Ministry & Mission
of the

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

From the Pastor's Desk:

Why don't people like change? Why do people always want things to stay the same way all the time? I cannot think of anything more boring than to live in a world that does not change, to work at a job that is always the same, to interact with people who are the same old same old. Just think about life from the viewpoint of scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, did anything ever stay the same? Of course not! The history of God's interaction with creation and with us creatures is written large with change. And lest we forget, God is changing The Created order even as we live in it. Just a couple of weeks ago we were shook by an earthquake with its epicenter just a few miles over the border into North Carolina. One of the tectonic plates that the earth's crust rests upon slipped and windows rattled and mountains were either pushed up, or sank a little bit. God is always in the business of change, and God is calling his people to embrace change as a way of celebrating the new and welcoming the future.

I am always amazed that folks want to go back to "the way things were when grandmother and grandfather were alive." Really? Who wants to go back to outhouses and Sears and Roebuck catalogues? And who wants to go back to a time when plantations owned slaves and only white men who owned land could vote? What is this nostalgia about the past? Now, I admit, I'd like to go back to when my knees didn't hurt and my waste was smaller than my hips and I could hike the AT all day and never tire. But that is only a wishful dream. I have to accept the way my body has changed and learn to live with it and enjoy life in spite of these changes.

Perhaps no other group is resistance to change more than church members. We could write a whole book about the way change in The Church has engendered anger and rejection. I can mark my life in the church with the hymnals that we have used. From the thin hymnal we used in the 40's and 50's for Sunday school, to the blue hymnal, then red one, then back to blue and now the new Glory to God hymnal. Each of those hymnals represents an upheaval in the church. Some churches never adopted the new hymnal. Too many new hymns! Some of the old "goodies" were left out. Let's go back to the good old hymns that we used to sing. My, my, my! Don't we have more important things to do in the Church other than arguing over the hymnal. I've always thought that each church should develop its own unique hymnal. We did that for The Church in Crockett's Cove!

And how about changing out preachers! There is something good about the way that the Methodists go about it. Pastors are appointed by the bishop. Local congregations can have some input, but ultimately it is a decision made at the top level. But we Presbyterians do it differently. The Book of Order gives the congregation three responsibilities: The calling of a pastor (with all the details involved like salary, etc); the election of Elders who run the daily life of the congregation; and, the buying and selling of property. Everything else is the job of the Session. On September 13th, immediately following worship, the congregation will meet to hear a report from the PNC. They have worked hard and are ready to report back to the congregation that God has led them to a candidate for the called ministry in this church. You as a congregation will hear everything that the PNC can share with you, not only about the man, but what it was that led them to him, how he meets our needs. And you can ask questions. But in the end you will vote, and in voting, you will exercise your right as a member of this congregation. But you know, what you are really doing is participating with God in bringing about change. As good as Brad Simpson, Michael Wingard and Tom Sproule were, we are not voting to go back and recapture their ministry. You as a congregation, through the vote for a new pastor are saying, "Let's move ahead! Let's try something new! Let's look forward with new pastoral leadership!" Change is nothing to fear, but welcomed and embraced so that God, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow can lead us into the future that God is always tampering with and rearranging. Praise be to God!
Pastor Bob

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Session Digest:

The Session met for its Stated August Meeting on the 23rd in Hatcher Hall using Socially Distancing:

Pastoral Concerns: Kitty Baird, Sarah Bates, Kelsey & Chris Baugher, Kelly Burbridge, Shirley & Joe Cavender, Eural Clippard, Jared Crigger, Agnes Davis, Hayden Ellis DiYorio, Colleen Dunford, Mimi Friedman, Nonia Gamble, Mary Gearhart, June Helton, Carola Hider & Steve's Brother, Art & Betty Inman, Maxine Manuel's Family, John and Betty Matheny, David & Ida McElroy, Katherine Minton, Wendy & Jerry Morrison, Don Nance, Susan & Bill Pollard, Bobby Pulliam, Nancy Scott, Dana Smith, Louella Williams, Millie Wilson.

Motions Approved by the Session:

- 1 – The Session approved that through September, Church Services will continue to be conducted at 10AM in the Sanctuary. The Drive-in Service option will continue as well in the parking lot. Session will review worship plans at its September 27th Meeting going forward.
- 2 – The Session approved with joy a motion to accept into the membership of Wytheville Presbyterian Church Warren & Dianne Corderman by reaffirmation of faith. Please welcome them into our Church Family.
- 3 – The Session approved calling for a Congregational Meeting on September 13, 2020 following worship for the purpose of hearing a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee regarding issuing a call for a new Pastor. Everyone is urged to attend this most important meeting in the life of our Church.
- 4 – The Session approved the use of Hatcher Hall to the Kiwanis Club at 6PM on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. The Session also approved the use of Hatcher Hall to the District 3 Government Cooperative for the contract period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

This congregant meal offering for Seniors once per week will not commence until too safe to do so. As information, any use of the building will be in compliance with current Covid-19 restrictions.

Events: Summary

- September 7, 2020 – Labor Day
- September 13, 2020 – Congregational Meeting following Church
- September 20, 2020 – Cove Service
- September 27, 2020 – Session Meeting for September

Submitted for the Session by Jim Gearhart, Clerk of Session

Congregational Meeting:

The Session of Wytheville Presbyterian Church calls a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 13th immediately following worship for the purpose of hearing a report from the Pastoral Nominating Committee concerning their search for a called pastor.



5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the 5 cents a meal offering on September 20. You may bring it to the church, or mail it in with your pledge. Please make a separate check as it goes to another bank account.



Newsletter & Office Information:

Information for the October newsletter needs to be in the church office by Monday, September 21.



Cove Service:

The Cove Service will be held on Sunday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. We will be

safe distancing whether inside or out. Information will be announced in the bulletin. If you need directions, please call the church office.



Thank you:

No words can express the gratitude for the concern and prayers you all have had for our family during Kelsey’s hospital stay and the death of their daughter and our granddaughter, Louise Rose. Thank you for the cards, gifts, kind words and prayers!
Wendy and Jerry Morrison

Stewardship Message:

Quoting part of a sermon From a Pastor, Theologian and Author it reads: “Time is a gift. God gives time to us with certain expectations of how we’ll use it. However, our free will allows us to do whatever we want with it - good or bad. We cherish our time, but we can also neglect it. We can hoard our time, but we can also share it. We can invest our time, but we can also squander it. “

We give to our church because it is where we learn of God’s mercy and forgiveness. Remember, God gave EVERYTHING for us willingly. Let’s focus on retuning gifts through the generous sharing of our time, talents and treasures.

A prayer for each of us to pray each day:

*Lord instill in my heart a spirit of love and compassion. Inspire me to make a difference in my church and community by being generous with my time, talent and treasures. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Stewardship moment, Gail Kendrick

