



## *The Presby*

October 2023

Wytheville Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00am - Noon

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor

April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.

Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper



# Wytheville

Presbyterian  
Church

## October Newsletter 2023

Greetings Members and Friends,

*It has often been said that the only constant in life is change. As we know, this can be very true. Furthermore, when asked if we like change, many would argue that they don't.*

*However, change, as we know can be good and bad. For example, this time of the year many people enjoy the change from Summer to Fall, but the change from Fall to Winter, not so much.*

*Regardless of our opinion, we again know that change is a very real part of life, and we are faced with the challenge of dealing with it.*

*This being said, I am convinced that God often likes change and is often times a change agent when it comes to our lives and specifically our spiritual lives. It is for certain that God loves us all just as we are, but at the same time, God is always at work, working in our lives to change us and transform us into who God would have us to be.*

*In fact, we read from Romans 12:1-2, **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."***

*The Bottom Line is there is change that is good, and there is change that is bad, and the change that God wants to do in each of us is not only pleasing to God, but also beneficial to us.*

*Just as we change and grow from children to adults physically, God desires that we do so spiritually. This is to our benefit, but also to God's glory.*

Grace & Peace,

Pastor John

## Session Digest

Stated Meeting, September 24, 2023

Pastoral Concerns: Joanne Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Joe & Shirley Cavender, Colleen Dunford, Pastor John Langham, Janine Madden, Marsha Otey, Bill & Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Judy Walters, Annette Washburn, Michael & Rachel Weller.

### Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the use of Hatcher Hall, the fellowship hall, and the youth room on February 2-4, 2024 (Friday p.m. – Sunday a.m.), Philadelphia Presbyterian Church.
- To allow use of the sanctuary on Friday, January 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., for the Wytheville Concert Series.
- To authorize Chuck Lacy to negotiate the contract with District Three Governmental Cooperative.
- To accept the Finance Report for August 2023.

### Review of Calendar of Events for October:

1 – *World Communion Sunday*  
7-8 – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
15 – Cove Service  
29 – Stewardship Luncheon  
31 - *Halloween*

Submitted by April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

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## Abingdon Presbytery News and Events:

Many of you may know Michael and Rachel Weller as we supported them for many years in their missionary efforts in Ethiopia. Michael has recently had surgery to remove several brain tumors and is now at home recovering. Please keep him and Rachel in your prayers. Cards may be sent to the following address:

The Reverend Michael Weller  
First Presbyterian Church of Pound  
P.O. Box 1387  
Pound, VA 24279

### **Saturday, October 14--Mountaintop at Royal Oak in Marion**

The Leadership Development and Education committee is hosting the annual Mountaintop Education Day from 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Join us as we worship, learn, and share ideas about new ways to be God's church in the 21st century. The special guest is Cindy Corell, PCUSA mission partner for Haiti. Opening music will be provided by Valley Grass.

### **Saturday, October 28--Conversation with Sasha Tutserov at Wytheville**

The Mission Ministries and Partnerships committee is hosting a luncheon beginning at noon with Moscow Seminary president Sasha Tutserov. We will hear Sasha's amazing testimony, from a former KGB agent to a Christian minister. A free-will offering will be collected for his ministry. Please contact April at the presbytery office to RSVP for the catered lunch.

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**The Women of Circle 1 and Circle 3:**

Circle 1 is scheduled to meet Monday, October 2nd at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Members are reminded to bring a sandwich for lunch to follow. Circle 3 meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m.

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**Church Growth Committee:**

The monthly meeting of the Church Growth Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th at 2 p.m. in Hatcher Hall. The Church Growth Committee is sponsoring a "Coffee House" event on the evening of October 17th 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

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**Finance Committee:**

The monthly meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for October 10th at 4:00 p.m.

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**Cove Service:**

The Cove Service will be held on Sunday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for this lovely hymn sing.

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**5 Cents a Meal:**

Please remember the 5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, October 15th. There will be a basket in the narthex and one for the people in the parking lot as they leave. Please make a separate check.

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**Hope Packs:**

Hope Packs provide 900+ weekend meal packs to PreK-12 students in Wythe and Bland Counties. These packs are assembled at the HOPE building on Lee Highway. Our Church has been asked to continue helping to pack on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you have time and are able, please join us for packing of food for children in Wythe and Bland Counties at 5 pm on Wednesday, October 25th. It only takes about an hour.

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**Newsletter and Office Information:**

Please submit any entries or other information for the November Newsletter to the church office by Monday, October 23rd.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fellowship Committee:**

The Fellowship Committee will organize our annual "Church Street Trunk-Or-Treat" for Halloween. Anyone who would like to help handout candy is welcome to join us. We would also like to ask for individually wrapped candy donations. Thank you in advance for your kind and generous help!

## **Sunday School, Fellowship, and Worship Service:**

Please come early and start every Sunday morning off with the Don Wysor Sunday School Class, with Max Lucado, which begins at 9:45 a.m. Then at 10:30, visit Hatcher Hall for fellowship time, coffee and a pastry, prior to Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

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## **Mission Co-Worker News:**

We were recently informed that one of our Mission Co-Workers, Rev. Cheryl Barnes who serves in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, has accepted a new position with Presbyterian World Missions. We send prayers to her as she continues her faithful service in Africa.

We also currently remember our remaining Mission Co-Workers, Sharon Kandel, serving in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan, and Rev. Elmarie Parker and her husband Rev. Scott Parker serving in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

Mission Co-Worker Support:

Sharon Kandel, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan

Rev. Elmarie Parker and Rev. Scott Parker, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon

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## **Stewardship Committee:**

Mark your calendar! The Stewardship Committee will again host our annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. You don't want to miss it!

Important Notice: The Stewardship Committee will be utilizing both kitchens on October 27<sup>th</sup> to prepare food for the Thanksgiving meal.

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## **Stewardship Message:**

Our stewardship theme this year has been, *Use your gifts to serve one another.* 1 Peter 4:10. An interesting article written by Veronica Sexton from New Spring Church, Anderson, SC, is titled Eight Blessings We Get From Serving Others.

1. Serving allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts.
2. Serving allows us to experience miracles.
3. Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience.
4. Serving helps us to be more like Jesus.
5. Serving surrounds us with other Christians who can help us follow Jesus.
6. Serving increases our faith.
7. Serving allows us to experience God's presence in new ways.
8. Serving is good for your soul.

Can you relate to any of these? This should be our goal, to say "yes", I have experienced all of these points and will continue to do so to the best of my ability.

## 200 Years: Honoring the Past; Inspiring the Future

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Honoring the Past; Inspiring the Future:

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> will kick-off festivities for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with **Celtic Sessions!** So let's introduce you to the musicians. **Julian Charles** is a singer-songwriter, storyteller, and multi-instrumentalist. With a heritage of music based in the Celtic-Folk genre, Julian specializes in creating new songs that tell a story, and rearranging old ones that have connections to our ancestry.

**Naomi Orr** is a retired band director in Carroll County, Virginia. Her fascination with Celtic music led her to impulsively purchase a harp in 1993. She has since played for many Celtic festivals including "The Song of the Mountains" on PBS, and "The Celebration of Ireland" at Dollywood.

**R.G. Absher** began playing banjo at the age of 12 when his uncle, Harold Absher, gave him his first banjo. Since 1992, R.G. has been a regular performer at "MerleFest" in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Absher spent two months in Northern Ireland filming a BBC documentary called "We're From HAME!"

Their music performed in Hatcher Hall on October 7, 2023 is intended to take you back in time to the days of the old Presbyterian-Scottish Kirk Tradition.

Then, celebrating 200 years on October 8<sup>th</sup>, we are privileged to have as our Guest Speaker, the Reverend Dr. Clay Macaulay. Reverend Macaulay is the Director for Alumni Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He returned to Richmond after serving as a pastor in congregations for thirty years. The son of a Presbyterian Minister, Clay spent his boyhood in North Carolina, born in Mooresville and grew up in Asheboro. He has a daughter, a son, and daughter-in-law, who live and work in North Carolina and Florida. He is a graduate of Davidson College.

Dr. Macaulay's sermon title will be "*A Great Cloud Around Us*" based on the scripture Hebrews 12: 1-2.

The Morning Worship Service will be led by Pastor John Langham and assisted by Reverend Brad Simpson, former pastor of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church; Reverend Bob Button, former Interim pastor; Reverend Edwin Lacy, child of the Church and Associate Presbyter for Congregational Wellbeing for the Presbytery of Baltimore; and Reverend Ann Elyse Hicks, Presbytery Leader of Abingdon Presbytery.

A bit about our musicians for our Anniversary Celebration... Our Worship Service will begin with selections from our Bagpiper, **Andrew Meeks**. Andrew was introduced to pipes at highland games at an early age. Quoting Meeks, "*Bagpipes have a sound I've always been drawn to and at the same time I have a deep love of old timey music that I've grown up listening to. Pipes are my instrument of choice because everyone else around here is such good string players. I self-learned pipes through high school and college more than twenty years ago and joined Virginia Highland Pipes and Drums out of Salem ten years ago. For over a decade I have regularly participated in parades in Roanoke and Salem for Christmas and St Patrick's Day as well as 4<sup>th</sup> of July ceremonies in Pulaski and Dublin and Memorial Day and Wreath ceremonies at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. By piping locally, I hope to inspire young potential pipers in the area and be a resource to them.*"

Our guest soloist will be **Mr. Timothy Landis**, Vice Chairman of the Board of Brothers for Christ Community Response. Tim is a retired fly-fishing guide, who annually still conducts fly fishing schools and corporate events. Prior to his fishing vocation, he was a corporate helicopter pilot. He began his aviation career in the Army in 1967 after graduating from high school in Kokomo, Indiana. He flew for the military here in the United States, in Germany, and as a combat assault helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Tim is an avid outdoorsman and has camped, rafted, canoed, fished, and backpacked across much of North America, the Caribbean and Europe. Tim and his wife Ann are active members of Central Presbyterian Church in Bristol. Tim enjoyed mission work in Appalachia through the auspices of the Mennonite Central Committee in partnership with Central Presbyterian. He also devoted time working on more than a dozen Habitat for Humanity houses in the Bristol area. Tim enjoys vocal soloist performances at Central and other local churches, civic events, and art series

concerts. His musical aspirations are simply to share his gift with other people by studying and performing more. Tim brings a unique perspective to Brothers for Christ Community Response through his experience of helping individuals who are or have returned to society become and remain productive contributing members of the community.

Our final hymn of the Service *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* will be led by the "Clan Lacy Cousins". Edwin Lacy, renowned picker will lead with the banjo, accompanied by father and son, Chuck and Charles Lacy. Brothers Bill and Bob Lacy will be joined by their sister Patricia Lacy to complete the Clan. Children of the Church will gather around the musicians to "complete the Circle".

The Wytheville Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and Bell Choir under the leadership of our accomplished Director of Music, Becky Absher, will provide special music throughout the Service.

# Oct. '23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Circle 1 meeting 11a.m.	3	4 Happy Birthday! Farron Smith	5	6 Happy Birthday! Joey Moore	7 Celtic Sessions 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration begins
8 Happy Birthday! Annette Washburn 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration continues	9 Happy Birthday! J. B. Willis	10 Christian Educ Comm 10:00 a.m. Church Growth Committee 2pm H.H. Finance Committee 4pm Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m.	11 Happy Birthday! Ron Boone	12 Happy Birthday! James Crockett Scott	13	14
15 Happy Birthday! Rose Stone 5 Cents a Meal Cove Church 7:30pm	16 Happy Birthday! Esther Hider	17 "Coffee House" in Hatcher Hall 6-9 pm sponsored by Church Growth Committee	18	19	20	21 Happy Birthday! Danny Dean
22	23 Happy Birthday! Janine Smith Madden	24	25 "Hope Packs" for Wythe/Bland students 5pm	26	27	28 Happy Birthday! Sharon Dean
29 Thanksgiving Luncheon after Worship Service sponsored by Stewardship Committee	30	31 Happy Birthday! Judy Crouse "Trunk-Or-Treat"				