



September Newsletter 2023

Greetings Members and Friends,

As we enter into the month of September, we are all aware of the fact that school has just begun. The summer is essentially over and for many it is back to class and back to plenty of class work.

Some may be glad about this, others may wish for summer to go on and on forever, where swimming and playing consume much of the day.

The truth is however, learning is a part of life all throughout our life. Whether we are in school or out of school and working, learning is an ongoing part of our lives.

This is also true and especially true for children of God, whatever age we might be. In fact, as we think about the life of a disciple, especially a disciple of Jesus Christ, one of the main characteristics of a disciple's is one who is not just a follower, but also a learner.

In fact, we read elsewhere from Colossians 3:16, which says,

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

Therefore, as we enter into this new month, may it be a reminder for all of us, that we are always called to be learning and growing in our faith and in our relationship with God.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor John

The Presby

September 2023

Wytheville Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00am - Noon

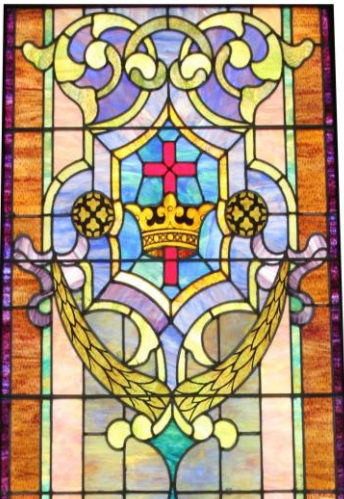
Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor

April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.

Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper



Session Digest:

Stated Meeting, August 20, 2023

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

Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the use of Hatcher Hall on October 13, 2023, 2:30 pm – 9 pm, American Legion Post 9.
- To allow use of the church for the Lacy wedding, May 30-31, 2025.
- To accept Finance Report for July 2023.

Review of Calendar of Events for September:

- 4 – Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 8 – Movie Night
- 10 – Rally Day (Sunday School resumes, back to 11:00 am for service)
- 17 – Cove Service
- 24 – Stated Session Meeting
- 26 – Paint Night

Submitted by April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

The Women of Circle 1 and Circle 3:

Circle 1 Monthly meetings will resume on Monday, Sept. 11th at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Members are reminded to bring a sandwich for lunch to follow. Circle 3 meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m..

Worship Committee News:

The Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the Session Room.

The Worship Committee recommended, and Session approved moving Sunday Morning Worship service to 11:00 a.m. beginning September 10th. There will be a Fellowship Time provided in Hatcher Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee, pastry, and fellowship with fellow members, then come to the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. for Worship.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee Meeting for the month of September has been temporarily moved to September 19th at 4:00 p.m. due to a schedule conflict.

Cove Service:

The Cove Service will be held on Sunday, September 17th at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for this lovely hymn sing.

5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the 5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, September 17th. 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 the first packing of food for children in Wythe and Bland Counties on September 27 at 5 pm. It only takes about an hour.

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Anniversary Celebration:

Beginning in early September, we will be deep-cleaning parts of the Church and need your help. If you are able, and have the time, would you please let us know if you can be a part of our preparation for the Church's 200th Anniversary celebration. We can find a job that will fit your time and talents. Please let any member of the Committee know if/when you are available:

Judy Crouse	Sid Crockett
Becky Absher	Chuck Lacy
Lisa Moore	Linda DiYorio

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Information for the October newsletter needs to be in the church office by Wednesday, September 20th.

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Worship Service Time Change:

Worship Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. starting on Sunday, September 10th. Please come early for fellowship, coffee and a pastry in Hatcher Hall at 10:30 a.m. Also, Don Wysor Sunday School Class will resume. The class will begin at 9:45 a.m. with Max Lucado.

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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

Mission Project:

During the month of September, we will be collecting jars of Peanut Butter for AGAPE Food Pantry. Please bring jars to Sunday church services to be collected during the Time With Children or bring them to the Church Office. Peanut Butter is a much-desired food item and AGAPE is in short supply. Your contributions are so appreciated

Stewardship Message:

Stewardship is the commitment of one's self to God's Service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves. A biblical stewardship synonym is "manager". The qualities of a good steward are:

- They remember they work for God.
- They are wise and kind.
- They take care of the gifts that God has given them to manage.

Some examples of Stewardship in the bible are:

- Stewardship as parents
- Stewardship over people
- Stewardship over the gospel
- Stewardship over your words
- Stewardship of your faith

So, what will we be held accountable for? We have been made stewards of these things on earth – such as money, tangible things, even people; but the most precious thing we steward, as God's servants, ***is his Kingdom!***

200th Anniversary Celebration – As we members of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our church, let us take a look back at our heritage. For the next few months, we will include in the Newsletter a short amount of information about things that brought our church to where it is today.

In the early 1700's Scotch-Irish settlers came to what is now Southwest Virginia and brought their Presbyterian beliefs with them. These settlers came in two streams about the same time. Some came over the mountains from the Virginia colony. These settlers were more formal with their religion and services and believed their ministers needed much formal training. These have been called "Old School Presbyterians". Other Scotch-Irish settlers were slightly more recent migrants and entered America through the port at Philadelphia. They occupied farmland in Pennsylvania and soon overflowed into the valleys and migrated down the valleys to this area. These settlers were more what we think of as "frontiersmen" and were less formal in their services and requirements for their ministers. They have been called the "New School" Presbyterians. Both of these groups established churches in what is now Wytheville and Wythe County and would become important in what would eventually be the Wytheville Presbyterian Church.



200 Years: Honoring the Past; Inspiring the Future

The longest serving pastor at the WPC was the Reverend Dr. Thomas Sproule. He served faithfully from September 30, 1962, until March 25, 1990.

Tom spent his early years in suburban Philadelphia with brothers Joe and Bill, sister, Peggy and a large Scotts Irish family; with summers spent enjoying adventures on Mount Desert Island, Maine. Following high school graduation Tom, always an athlete, entered West Chester State College as a physical education major and accepted a call to serve his country following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served from 1941-46 in both the U. S. Navy and Air Force and attained the rank of Captain, serving as a bombardier with the 40th Bomb Group on Tinian, in the South Pacific. Following his military service, he returned to West Chester State College where he was elected Class President, graduating in 1948. He continued his education earning a master's degree in psychology from Temple University and he pursued theological studies at Union Theological Seminary, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Edinburg (Scotland) and Trinity Theological Seminary from which he earned his doctorate.

Tom was ordained and began his pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, North Carolina, where he met his partner in life and ministry, the lovely Betty Jean Morris. The young family accompanied Tom as he continued his education at University of Edinburg Scotland. In 1962 he accepted a call to the Wytheville Presbyterian Church, where he served as minister until his retirement in 1990. Dr. Sproule was bestowed the title Minister Emeritus and remained an active member of the Church, the Abingdon Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

Many remember Rev Sproule through his ministry to young people as an athletic official serving for thirty years as both a high school and college football and basketball official, as an adjunct faculty at Wytheville Community College, as commander of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron, and as a hurdlers' coach for several generations of GWHS athletes. The Associated Press and International News Service recognized Rev. Sproule for his unique position of serving as a clergyman and athletic official.

Rev Sproule's ministry to the community continued through participation on numerous civic organizations and boards, including Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wythe County Community Hospital, President of the United Way, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Salvation Army, Chairman of the American Red Cross, Chairman of the Wytheville Public Library Board, Chairman of Maroon's Incorporated, and President of Wytheville Rotary Club where he was recognized a Paul Harris Fellow.

Rev Sproule was recognized for his service to Wytheville and Wythe County receiving the Wytheville Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award, Civic Wall of Honor, and the Sports Hall of Fame. To honor a lifetime of service, contributions and dedication, the Town of Wytheville proclaimed Sunday, March 25, 2007, as the Reverend Dr. Thomas Sproule Day in the Town of Wytheville.

Rev Sproule passed away on the morning of October 6, 2010. Following a private grave side service complete with bagpipers, a memorial service and celebration of his life was held on October 8 at the Wytheville Presbyterian Church.

Sept. '23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Happy Birthday! T. J. Pulliam
3 Happy Birthday! Rhonda Langham	4 Labor Day Holiday Church Office Closed	5	6	7	8 Movie Night! Downstairs Fellowship Hall 6:30 "The Blind Side"	9
10 Happy Birthday! Chuck Lacy Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Hatcher Hall Worship Service begins at 11:00 a.m. Don Wysor Sunday School Class 9:45	11 Happy Birthday! Delores Durham Circle 1 meets 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall	12 Church Growth Committee 2pm H.H. Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17 5 Cents a Meal Cove Church 7:30pm	18	19 Worship Committee Meets 10am in Session Room Finance Committee 4pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Paint Night! 6-8 pm Hatcher Hall	27 Hope Ministry "Hope Packs" 5:00 pm	28	29	30