



September Newsletter 2024

Greetings Members and Friends,

As we enter into the month of September, one of the greatest sports ever created will resume very shortly. I am, of course, referring to football!

Highschool, College, and Professional Football get underway this month (if they haven't already) and fans everywhere will be filling the stands and watching their favorite teams compete for a chance at the top.

Now, when it comes to football, there are a lot of different philosophies and approaches to coaching and winning. Some strive to have an explosive offense that can rack up a lot of points and thus win by blowing out their opponents.

Others try to rely on a great defense that will limit their opponents' scoring opportunities, thus giving their team a chance to prevail.

At this point, I can only speak as a spectator, but from what I've seen, both elements are certainly important, however, the statement is often very true that "the best offense is a good defense".

This of course means that often times, the team with a better defense, many times wins the games.

Very much in the same way, the apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6, that the best way for us to win at life and to win battles we all face, is by having a good defense.

Paul reminds us to put on the full armor of God by using truth, righteousness and peace as our defense against the attacks that come our way.

By doing this, we are better protected to live the life that God has for us, and better protected against things that dissuade us from God's design and desire for us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

The Presby

September 2024

**Wytheville Presbyterian
Church**

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor

April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.

Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper

Session Digest:

The Session met for its Stated March meeting on August 25, 2024, in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns:

The family of Jacob Blimline, Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Shirley Cavender, the family of Peggy DiYorio, Colleen Dunford, Chimer Durham, Marion Griffin, Pastor John Langham, Scott Madden, Steve Moore, Bill and Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Michael and Rachel Weller, Ann Williams.

Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the Boy Scouts of America to use the Session room on the first Monday of each month from 6 pm – 7 pm.
- To allow the American Legion Post 9 the use of Hatcher Hall from 3 pm – 9:30 pm on Friday, October 18, 2024.
- To accept the written Finance Report for July 2024.

Review of Calendar of Events for September:

- 2 – *Labor Day (Office Closed)*
- 8 – Rally Day
- 13 – The Central Pickers & Potluck Meal
- 15– Cove Service
- 19-22 – NC Presbyterian Pilgrimage Retreat
- 22 – Stated Session Meeting

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Entertainment:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Friday, September 13th, at 6:00 p.m., WPC is proud to announce that we are once again hosting a **Potluck Dinner** followed by entertainment group **“The Central Pickers”**.

First, **the Potlock Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. in Hatcher Hall. Please bring a dish or two and some friends. Fried Chicken, Tea and Coffee will be provided.**

Now, a few facts regarding “The Central Pickers.” It is the unexpected brainchild of three Bland County United Methodist pastors who were interested in exploring joint ministry options. Doug Hyndrich, Donald White and Alan Ashworth met at the Bland Square Restaurant in Bland, VA, for breakfast on November 20, 2000, and kicked around a number of ideas before settling on “Beat the Winter Blues,” a three-month-long weekly jam session open to all area musicians. A launch date was set for January 9, 2001, and promotional work began. The response was so great that the outreach was extended through April, a full month beyond its original March 27 termination date, with promises to pick it up again in 2002.

In those early years musicians freely came and went. At some point, though, a core group formed and the jams became year-round. The group began to be called on to provide special music for various church gatherings and sometimes for secular events. It became necessary to

have a name. The earliest outings saw the group billed as, “The Round Mountain Ramblers,” but soon the name was changed to, “The Central Pickers,” in a nod to Central United Methodist Church, which hosted the group’s practice sessions for many years.

Today’s “The Central Pickers” is an eight-piece band with a broad array of musical styles and a substantial local following. The lineup consists of Alan Ashworth, Emmitt Cagle, Joel Cagle, Bobby Joe Gibson, Luke Gibson, Doug Goins, Stephen Kelley and Randy Newberry.

Please come and join us for a fantastic meal, plus an evening of talented entertainment! It will be a night you don’t want to miss!!

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Stewardship Message:

What Are Your Gifts?

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Were you born an artist? A painter, a writer, or sculptor? Do you gravitate toward the sciences? Are you gifted in sports? Floral arranging? Speaking? Computers? Sales? Building? Organizing? There are so many talents.

What about your spiritual gifts—such as teaching, prophesying, showing mercy, serving others, encouraging, and leading?

Some people are confused about their abilities, and they might even think they have been passed over when the Almighty was giving out gifts. Yet, we can be assured that everyone has been given talents, and everyone is expected to use them.

If you are questioning what yours are—ask God. The Lord will be more than pleased to tell you. Asking for His guidance concerning our talents and spiritual gifts is also wisdom, since God wants us to use them with a servant’s heart. Even though that notion might seem old-fashioned within our modern mind-set, it is how Jesus conducted Himself—with the heart of a servant—when He walked among us.

God, thank You for the gifts and abilities You have blessed me with. Help me not to waste them or use them for my own gain, but to serve others with my talents in order to glorify Your name, Amen.

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5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the 5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, September 15th. You may bring it to the church, or mail it in with your pledge. A basket will be placed in the narthex for your convenience. Please make a separate check. Many thanks for your giving.

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Cove Service:

The Cove Service will be held on Sunday evening, September 15th, at 7:30 p.m. Please invite friends, and join us for this inspirational service, hymn sing, and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Please submit information for the October Newsletter to the church office by Thursday, September 19th. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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Hope Packs:

Hope Packs have been suspended throughout the Summer, but will resume in October, details to come.

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Monthly Meetings:

- Monday, September 9th: Circle 1, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 10th: Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17th: Worship Committee, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 17th: Church Growth Committee, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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Circle 1 and Circle 3:

The **Circle 1** Presbyterian Women will resume their monthly meetings beginning on September 9th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Circle 3** Presbyterian Women will not be resuming their monthly meetings until the first Monday in October. For those who choose to plan ahead, their first meeting of the season is planned for Monday, **October 7th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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Sunday School News:

The Don Wysor Sunday School Class will resume meeting on **Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.!** The **first session will be Sunday, September 8th.** Study will focus on the book of Romans. The class will meet on the main floor of the church, in the **primary Sunday School Room**, across from the Choir Room. Please plan to join us on this amazing journey through the scriptures! Hope to see you there!

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Mission Project:

PEANUT BUTTER COLLECTION ANNOUNCEMENT 2024

During the month of September, we will be collecting Peanut Butter for AGAPE Food Pantry. AGAPE needs ***plastic*** jars of any size up to 40 ounces. Bring your jars, or a donation to Sunday church services to be collected during the time with children or bring to the Church Office. If you donate with cash or a check, please note "Peanut Butter collection" on your envelope or memo line. Peanut Butter is a much-desired food item and AGAPE is in short supply. Your contributions are so appreciated.

Mission Co-Worker Support:

SHARON KANDEL - ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN

REV. CHERYL BARNES - MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

REV. ELMARIE PARKER AND REV. SCOTT PARKER - IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON

September

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy Birthday! Kathleen Crockett	2 Happy Birthday! T.J. Pulliam	3 Happy Birthday! Rhonda Langham	4	5	6	7
8 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	9 Circle 1 Meets 11am	10 Happy Birthday! Chuck Lacy Finance Comm 4pm	11 Happy Birthday! Delores Durham	12 Happy Birthday! Sonnie Campbell	13 Potluck & "The Central Pickers" 6pm HH Happy Birthday! Ann Harrison	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5-Cents-A-Meal Cove Service 7:30 p	16	17 Worship Comm 10am Church Growth 4pm Fellowship Hall	18	19	20	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Session Meets	23	24 Happy Birthday! Linda DiYorio	25	26 Happy Birthday! Emillie Wilson	27	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	30 Happy Birthday! Connor Lavallee					