



January Newsletter 2025

“Simon Says”

Greetings Members and Friends,

As little children, one of our most memorable games to play was “Simon Says.” If we recall, it was a game whereby someone gave a command and if “Simon Says,” was stated beforehand, then all were to obey that command. However, if a command was given without saying “Simon Says,” then, no one was supposed to respond. Whoever obeyed the best, as we know, won the game. The best part of the game, however, was starting over and playing again; sometimes again and again and again.

As we enter into the New Year, it’s like playing “Simon Says,” we too, get to start over again, and again and again. Each new year is a time to look forward to the future and again try to win at this game called life, that God has given us. It is a time to start over, putting the past behind and live out the future that is before us.

Happy New Year,

Pastor John

The Presby

January 2025

**Wytheville Presbyterian
Church**

**285 Church Street
Wytheville, VA 24382**

Phone: (276)228-4715

Email:

wpchurch@embarqmail.com

wythevillepresbyterianchurch.org

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 meeting on December 15, 2024, in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns:

Ron Blevins, Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Shirley Cavender, Sid Crockett, Colleen Dunford, Chimer Durham, Wysor Gearhart, Marion Griffin, Pastor John Langham, Bill and Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Ron Smiley.

Motions approved by the Session:

- To accept the bench gifted by Renee Crockett and Michelle Thompson in memory of their father, Charles Crockett.
- To accept the written Finance Reports for November 2024.
- To accept the proposed 2025 budget.

Review of Calendar of Events for January:

1 – *New Year's Day, Office Closed*
6 – *Epiphany of the Lord*
12 – Communion
20 – Session Planning Retreat @ 5:30 pm, PCHH
20 – *Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed*
26 – Stated Session Meeting

* * * * *

Sunday School News:

On Sunday, January 5th, 2025, The Don Wysor Sunday School Class, will return to Romans Part #2. If you haven't attended Sunday School in a while, give this class a try. We meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., in the *primary* Sunday School Room (across from the Choir Room). It is most fulfilling.

Jim Gearhart

* * * * *

Stewardship Message:

“Called to be Stewards”

The Genesis story moves quickly from our human creation and identity to our responsibility. “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” Rev. Dr. James Lemler says “The human response to the generosity of God is to be generous in return. What is encouraged here is stewardship—our use and sharing of the gifts of creation around us in ways to serve humanity and the earth itself. We are called to be stewards of God’s gifts, reflecting the same generosity and love that God has shown to us.” You have been given gifts of intelligence and creativity. You are precious, wondrously good and deeply loved. You have also been given the responsibility to be a steward of the gifts given to you. Have you looked at the gifts God has given you? How are you using them?

* * * * *



5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the **5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, January 19th**. 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.

* * * * *



Cove Service:

The Cove Service will be suspended throughout the “cold weather months”; but will resume once again in April 2025. Watch the March Newsletter for further updates.

* * * * *



Newsletter & Office Information:

Please submit information for the February Newsletter to the church office by **Monday, January 20th**. Your help is greatly appreciated.

* * * * *



Hope Packs:

The assembly of HOPE Packs will resume on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**, for WPC. Packs are prepared on Wednesday evenings with volunteer assistance from area churches. The 4th Wednesday of each month is designated to Wytheville Presbyterian Church. Preparation of the HOPE PACKS begins at 5:00 p.m. and takes only an hour or so of your time. Assembly of weekend food packs is done at THE OPEN-DOOR COMMUNITY, which is located at 680 W Main Street, in Wytheville. This effort is a very vital service to our entire surrounding community. The purpose is to make sure each and every child in both Wythe and Bland Counties, does not have to suffer through any weekend without ample food, no matter their family’s economic status. About 850 Packs are prepared each week and delivered to 15 area schools. **Please join us at 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 22nd, to help ensure that none of our children suffer through a weekend of hunger.**

* * * * *

Monthly Meetings:

Monday, January 6 th :	Circle 1, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 6 th :	Circle 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, January 14 th :	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 21 st :	Worship Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 21 st :	Church Growth Committee, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 26 th :	Session Meeting, following morning Worship Service

* * * * *

Circle 1 and Circle 3:

The **Circle 1** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, January 6th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Circle 3** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, January 6th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

* * * * *

Congregational Care Committee:

The Congregational Care Committee is starting a new program called **“Meal Train”**. Meal Train is a program for friends and family members to easily create a schedule for preparing and delivering meals to someone in need of additional help. This support can last for 1-2 weeks or longer if the recipient needs longer-term assistance. Also, members can participate as their time allows. Please send Tammy or Kym your email to be added to the “Meal Train Group”. Additional information will be provided by Kym Dunford.

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

* * * * *

JANUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day (Office Closed)	2	3 Happy Birthday! Chantel Repass	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	6 Epiphany of the Lord Circle 1 Meets 11:00 a.m. Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m.	7 Happy Birthday! Scottie Kegley	8	9	10	11 Happy Birthday! Heidi Pulliam
12 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship COMMUNION SUNDAY	13	14 Happy Birthday! Marty Dunford Finance Comm 4 pm	15	16	17	18
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5-Cents-A-Meal offering Happy Birthday! Lois Seagle	20 Session Planning Retreat 5:30pm PCHH MLK, Jr. Day (Office Closed)	21 Happy Birthday! Hal Absher Worship Comm 10am Church Growth 4pm Fellowship Hall	22 HOPE PACKS assembly at 5PM (No Wythe/Bland child goes hungry!)	23 Happy Birthday! John DiYorio	24	25 Happy Birthday! Lisa Moore and Shirley Cavender
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Session Meeting	27	28 Happy Birthday! Alex Dunford	29	30	31	