

The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

January 2022



The Beginning of the New and the Existing
- submitted by John Quinley, Elder

The Old is out and the New is in. It is said that an optimist stays up on New Years Eve to see what the New Year brings, and the pessimist stays up to make sure it leaves. When I was a boy I used to enjoy the cartoons depicting the New Year as a diapered baby and the past year as a wrinkled old father time. It looks like that new baby can well be a personification of our church in that we are beginning anew. First the Session, we are blessed in continued leadership and experience with two new Elders, Allen McLearn who is returning after a hiatus and Jean Pearson who is serving her first time. Both are welcomed additions. Second, new faces as our Church looks for a Pastor and our Choir for an accompanist. The PNC endeavors to find the right person for the job of Minister and our Personnel Team works with E. A. to find a suitable accompanist for our Music. Exciting times, so let us continue to pray for God's hand in all of this.

For some of us, looking back is an occasion for bittersweet memories as we remember departed loved ones and happier times. Others of us reflect on recent bad times and misfortune and hope for better times. Let's hold fast to God's promise; that He is with us always, and the Yoke of Christ is easy and his burden is light. Let's seek for His comfort and strength as we move forward into 2022. Jesus left us two very important events to serve as good examples. First, after his baptism he went into the desert to be tempted, or perhaps to get his head straight for the duties ahead. Lastly, in what was his greatest extremity he went up into the Mt. of Olives to pray the cup be removed from him, or perhaps to ask for the strength to properly confront what was to soon happen. Let's contemplate in that faith-based hope which confirms we are the reason for God's time here on earth. He will not now forget us.

Two Roberts give us examples of dealing with the internal and external feelings of this time of year. One is Robert Frost. Please! patience gentle reader, he is a favorite. Someone once asked Frost what "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", - (1922) - meant! He responded that if he wanted the reader to know he would have said. So, here it is and yours to enjoy or not.



*“Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the Village though;
He will not see me stopping to watch his woods fill with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer, stopping without a farm house near
between the woods and frozen lake on the darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake to ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound is the sweep of easy wind, and downy flake.*

*These woods are lovely dark and deep,
but I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

And miles to go before I sleep.”

The other is of course Robert Burns. New Year's Eve without “Auld Lang Syne,” - (1788) - just isn't New Year's Eve. Burns is obviously a little more transparent than Frost, but just a little. I am not a student of Scottish Gaelic, but I am told the title roughly translates, “ Times Gone By”, “Days of Yore”, or “Long, Long, Ago”.

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?”



Burns goes on to offer a hand of friendship and to ask one in return; thereby, figuratively consuming goodwill. Anyway, the point is made. As we prepare for 2022 think of our Church, our friends and all who have contributed so much to who we are, and offer a quick thank you to God. In this season of dark evenings, cold winds and downy flakes, yet with the warmth and friendships of new acquaintances and old ones, let us ponder our future (the new). Think on Pilate's despondence at the trial of Jesus John 18:38, when he ask nobody in particular that (jesting/philosophical question?) “what is truth” (quid est veritas)? Let us answer that it is the existing; that which was, that which is, and that which shall ever be. It is the God of Abraham, Issac, Jacob; our God. Praise be to our God who loves us and wants good for us. As Dickens has it, “God bless us everyone”.

Happy New Year!!

The Stated Meeting of the Session of MPC was held at 7:00 on December 14, 2021. Present: Moderator, Gay Einstein and Elders; Bobbie Carroll, Sue Strahan, Dana Edelman, John Quinley, Clarissa Berry, Mike Willis and Bill Patti.

Gather with Scripture and Prayer

Review and Prioritize Agenda

Clerk’s Report and Communications – Sue shared a letter from the P.O.J requesting our financial commitment for 2022. The decision was tabled for the next meeting. Sue and Lynn are working on EOY POJ reports.

Pastor’s Report—pastoral care—Gay wonders if the Congregation is aware that she is not able to provide this service with her other responsibilities. Suggests we put a blurb in the newsletter letting people know who to contact with concerns.

Gay also shared her concern that we don’t have a complete Master Church calendar with details. Clarissa suggested setting up a Google doc so everyone could add to it and edit. There was some push back from those less comfortable with the technology.

Treasurer’s Report

	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	YTD actual	YTD budget
Income	\$8,5351	\$ 9,758	\$122,229	\$106,876
Expenses	\$7,345	\$11,479	\$109,292	\$126,269
Difference	\$1,190	(\$ 1,721)	\$ 12,938	(\$ 19,393)

Pastor Nominating Committee Report – Clarissa indicated the team is not where they hoped they’d be. We discussed extending Gay’s contract through March. Gay agreed she could commit to us for that time period.

COVID Situation Assessment Report – The Team has made no changes.

Area & Team Reports

Administration –

Lynn’s planned absence, January 26-February 7 and home rest for two weeks following that. – The personnel team has not found anyone to take on the role in Lynn’s absence. Clarissa suggested breaking the tasks down and asking for several volunteers

Year end bonuses. Clarissa moved that the Personnel team be given \$1000 to consider and distribute between our three employees and Elizabeth Anne be offered a stipend as Choir director.

The team recommends an increase approved last month, be increased to take 6% COLA into account. Dana shared that the Finance team had factored in a 6% COLA increase. The amended recommendation was approved.

Congregational Life – Bobbie suggested Name tags and visitor cards for the pews. This was agreed.

Mission—Joy Offering is scheduled on 12/19. The team is preparing for the end of Year Mission distribution.

They want to consider an offering for KY disaster relief. The mission team has a line item of \$2500 for donations. Clarissa identified that the budget reports indicate we will have ~\$10,000 surplus at the end of the year. Mike moved that an additional \$5000 be allotted for the Mission team to distribute a total of \$7500 at the end of the year. John seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Communications –Dana reported that Charles has recommended a backup power supply for the AV. The team was encouraged to identify the cost and submit a request.

Worship – a meeting is planned 12/20.

New Business - Setting a date for the examination, ordination and installation of Elders. – Jan 9 after worship for the examination and Jan 16 for ordination and installation.

Next Stated Session Meeting, Tuesday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

Prayer and Adjournment

Note from your Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team hopes that everyone has been enjoying the recipes that have been in The Focus for the last few weeks. The team thought this would be a good way to Live Together in Unity.

As you know each year the Stewardship Team has a new theme. We are open for ideas for a 2022 theme. All thoughts and suggestions are welcome. Let one of the team members know your suggestion. Or write it down and put it in the Stewardship box in the fellowship hall.

Christmas Stocking Project

The stockings for Countryside Assisted Living were delivered on Friday December 17th. Three of Santa's elves set to work loading all the stockings full of goodies into their SUVs. Driving through hazardous sunshine, wind and mild temperatures, delivered the stockings to Countryside Assisted Living. Elves at Countryside unloaded into the home and we disappeared into a cloud of dust to return to our "normal" lives.

Special elves helped by delivering to Jane and Wilma.

Thank you, all who helped make this Christmas project a great success. You all have very giving hearts.

Merry Christmas!



Card Party

The Card Party makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound.

They will begin meeting again on January 7th at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join!



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will be meeting on January 12 at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. New members are welcome!

Ruth Bathe Memorial

Ruth Bathe's family is planning a memorial service and a gathering for friends at Ruth's former home, Dayspring Farm. Her daughter, Ellen Bathe Peters has invited anyone from the church family to come. The memorial is at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on April 30 at 2 pm. The gathering at Dayspring Farm will be on May 2 at 11 am. There will be a light lunch and a chance to share memories.

If you plan to attend, please let Ellen know by emailing ellenbpeters@gmail.com.

Book Club

The Book Club meets on Wednesdays at 11pm in the Tack Room and brings their books and a bagged lunch. The current reading selection is discussed until around noon. Then there is time to eat lunch and enjoy each other's company.

The new book is *Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species* by Douglas F. Ottati. You can get a copy of the book from Bobbie Carroll or on Amazon. This is the perfect time to join!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Haines 28th
Judith Carter 31st

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Tommy & Bettie Berry 25th
Harvey & Corrine Stanley 27th



Social Services Needs for January

Items this month will help single households and the homeless.

- small (single serving size) canned vegetables, fruits, meats and soups with pop top lids
- pudding and Jell-O cups
- crackers
- small peanut butter and jelly.

You may bring your donations to the Church Fellowship Hall and place them in the big red tub. Your donations are distributed to Madison Social Services.



10 Green Resolutions for the New Year:

1. Create less waste
2. Spend more time in nature
3. Learn more about your impact
4. Get rid of the things you don't need
5. Stop buying plastic
6. Waste less food
7. Start a wildflower garden for the bees
8. Make your home to be more energy efficient
9. Switch to non-toxic cleaning products
10. Start composting



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January



Lectionary Readings: 2nd: Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Psalm 147: 12-20; Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: (1-9) 10-18 9th: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 16th: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11 23rd: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21 30th: Jeremiah 4: 1-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 4: 21-30						1
2 Worship 10am/ Communion/ 5 cents a Meal AA 5:30	3	4	5 Book Club 11am	6	7 Card Party 10am	8
9 Worship 10am AA 5:30	10	11 Session	12 Book Club 11am PW Women 9:45	13	14 Card Party 10am Quilt Guild 1 pm	15
16 Worship 10am AA 5:30	17 ML King Day	18	19 Book Club 11am	20	21 Card Party 10am	22
23 Worship 10am AA 5:30	24	25	26 Book Club 11am	27	28 Card Party 10am Quilt Guild 1 pm	29
30 Worship 10am AA 5:30	31					