

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”
A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church
March 2018, Issue



Spring brings new life to our senses.
Easter brings new life to our souls.

January and February Financial Reports

We hope that you find this information helpful as you pray for this congregation and evaluate your giving and participation in the worship, work and mission of this part of the Body of Christ. Sincerely, the Session and Pastor.

Tithes and Offerings needed for each week of 2018 = \$1,744.48. This figure is based on a total 2018 budget of \$90,713.00 which was approved by the Session.

JANUARY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.92
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$5,047.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,930.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month	\$4,779.73 \$267.27

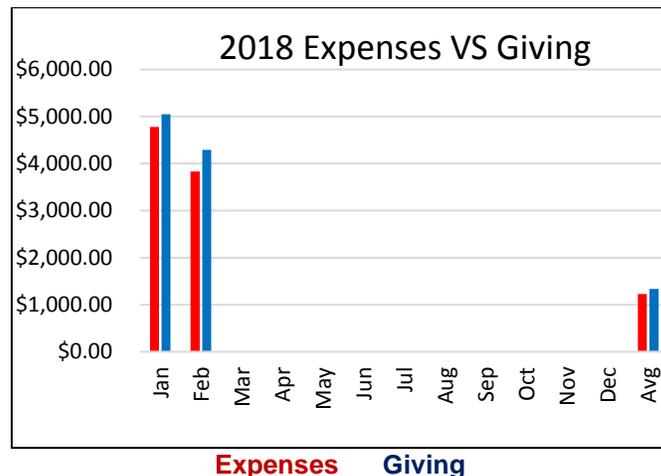
FEBRUARY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (3 weeks)	\$5,233.44
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (3 weeks)	\$4,294.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$939.44)
Total Expenses (3 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month	\$3,829.58 \$464.42

YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (7 weeks)	\$12,211.37
Actual Tithes and Offerings (7 weeks) received	\$9,341.00
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$2,870.37)
Total Expenses (7 weeks) This results in an overage to expenses for the year	\$8,609.31 \$731.69

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for February 2018 (through week 3 of 4):



Session Highlights

January 28th Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2017 financial report
- Made final revisions to the new guidelines for the Henry Harney Scholarship Fund. New brochures can be found in the narthex.
- Approved our Christian Education Committee to hold a spaghetti lunch fundraiser for February 11th following worship.
- Discussed the Spring Spirituality Retreat opportunity sponsored by the Christian Education Committee of the presbytery. Up to four scholarships were approved for folks who want attend and need financial assistance. Pastor Yvonne announced this in worship.

Lord, I Hate Buttermilk

A visiting priest was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio farm country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began:

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”

The Priest opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.”

Now the Priest was overly worried. However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on,

“And Lord, you know I don’t care much for raw white flour.”

Just as the Priest was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued,

“But Lord, when you mix ‘em all together and bake ‘em up, I do love fresh biscuits.”¹

“So Lord, when things come up we don’t like, when life gets hard, when we just don’t understand what you are sayin’ to us, we just need to relax and wait ‘till you are done mixin’, and probably it will be somethin’ even better than biscuits.” Amen.

Thanks to my baby brother, Tim, for this story.



Are you Hungry yet?

The Pastor’s Ponderings

Holy week is the last week of this month. It begins with Palm/Passion Sunday and goes through Easter Sunday. For the Palm/Passion Sunday service, I am planning to begin with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and take us through events of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

¹ <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/jeff-mauro/grapevine-kentucky-buttermilk-biscuits-recipe2-2037527>

and early Thursday of Holy Week. Then on Maundy Thursday, I am planning a service which will gather us with the disciples in the upper room to celebrate the Lord’s Supper and then we will move through the events of Good Friday, ending with Jesus being laid in the tomb. We will sit in grief and confusion with the followers of Jesus through Holy Saturday and then regather on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection and all blessings that it showers upon us.

As a way to help us reflect on Holy Week, I have included the following article from the February 29, 2016 issue of The Presbyterian Outlook.

Easter through the Doorway of the Cross by Glen Bell²

Easter is a paschal mystery. We can only approach an encounter with Christ’s resurrection through the doorway of the cross.

I am acquainted with the power of doors. I have a four-inch scar to remind me every day. It is a very different emblem than those [displayed] by our four children, most of whom have embraced the millennial discipline of tattoos. Our oldest sports a Bible verse in Tshiluba and French, a reminder of a short-term mission experience in Congo. Our youngest has both an image of Ferdinand the Bull and a quote from T.S. Eliot on her arm. My arm scar, in contrast, is a mark without design or intention, beyond reflection – except perhaps by a surgeon who would find satisfaction in the healing it represents.

I was only four years old. My mother was preparing to drive my older brother, a second grader, to school. I was hurrying, excited, running through the house toward the door. The door represented freedom and future, the promise that I too would leave home and head off to school in just another year or two.

² Glen Bell is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, Florida. He currently serves on the strategy team of the NEXT Church and the board of the Presbyterian Outlook.

My older brother expected that I would see that he was fully through the doorway, releasing the screen door and about to step off the front porch. I thought he would continue to hold the door open for a second or two more. It was an easy mistake. My arm struck the glass just as I reached the threshold.

I don't remember much, except lying an hour or so later on the table under the bright lights of the hospital operating room. I woke up after the surgery with twenty-five stitches in my right arm.

Our journeys, our scars teach us.

In our busy world, filled with moment-to-moment demands and the endless news of global disasters, you and I are tempted to move swiftly, multitasking all the way, from the Sunday of palms and joyful shouts to the Sunday of empty tomb and new life. In our hurry as we [travel from now through] Holy Week, we may be content to disregard our surroundings and mindlessly mimic the words of Jesus as we untie the colt for the entrance into Jerusalem. And we are not surprised when his very next word is one that recognizes our lack of understanding, "If you, even you," Jesus says, "had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But they are hidden from your eyes" (Luke 19:42).

Understanding is often beyond us, for we wish to sing praises of the king who comes, the king we worship and serve – as long as the experience serves our wants, is always convenient, and is not too demanding in our busy routine.

We yearn to move easily from triumph to triumph, enjoying the enthusiastic welcome for Jesus on Palm Sunday and the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday. We turn away from the agony of Good Friday and the difficult waiting of Holy Saturday. More than we have the courage to admit, we are eager to live without pain, to cover and hide the scars we have suffered.

Yet every doorway into Easter leads through the cross. In Luke's Gospel:

- » The angels who appear to the women at the empty tomb make explicit reference to the crucifixion of the One who was raised.
- » On the road to Emmaus, Jesus reveals himself in the breaking of the bread, as his disciples remember the sacrifice of his body.
- » When the resurrected Lord appears to his followers, he shows them his hands and feet, demonstrating the mark of the Risen One is his suffering.

Even as we are sorely tempted to turn from our memories of pain or the prospect of self-sacrifice, we discover that Christ's suffering provides the necessary framework of Easter. In "Letters and Papers from Prison," Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Man's religiosity makes him look in his distress to the power of God in the world ... [yet] the Bible directs man to God's powerless and suffering. Only the suffering God can help."

The reality of Holy Week and Easter – entrance into Jerusalem, betrayal, arrest, suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection – gives [structure and purpose] to our spiritual lives only as we flesh out the story and journey through our own cross-shaped experience. The doorway of the cross leads us into Easter.

We cannot live as Easter people until and unless we are shaped by the cross, moving through its doorway daily, hourly and moment-to-moment. The temptation is great to choose other [doors] as the guiding feature for our spiritual lives. We are beckoned each day to orient ourselves by walking through the door of success, the door of wealth or the door of popularity. We yearn to be the best and the brightest. We are tempted to scrub every [mark] of imperfection or loss from our presence on Instagram or Facebook.

When I was in middle school and high school, my mother and father owned and operated a motel. My adolescence was marked by life at the family business; we lived in an apartment there in the motel. My brother and I delivered extra towels, cleaned the pool and replaced faulty televisions. With my father, I checked the boiler room late at

night. I still remember interrupting one family holiday meal after another to check in guests on Christmas Day.

Although my classmates thought it strange, there were advantages. My brother and I swam early and often at the motel pool in the summer. Our home had more rooms and more doors than any other in town, even the largest mansion. Depending on the doorway, I might find myself stepping into the linen room, the boiler room, the storage room or any number of guest rooms. Some rooms had newer furniture and TVs and others were almost ready to be renovated; all held the promise of conversation with guests from another part of the state or country.

As I grew older, those doors came to represent the [multitude] of choices available as I prepared to leave for college. Who would I become? Diligent student or dedicated partier? Earnest disciple or fallen-away former Christian? What doors would I step through? What identity would I embrace? Peyton Pond, a gifted architect from northern Virginia, reflects on this reality in his essay on the significance of doors. "In architecture today, there are at least two camps, the materialists and the symbolists. The materialists look at building elements with regard to materials, details and relationships to an overall constructed design. The symbolists see architecture as [holders] of constructed symbols that reflect the human condition.

"Doors are a lost opportunity as tools for an examination of our current culture and [present existence]. We live in a binary world: in/out, one/zero, happy/sad, [winner/loser], [full]/hungry, something/nothing, alive/dead. Our experiences, while often complex and more subtle, usually can be summarized as a 'this or a that'. However, one notices the value of a door as a symbol of circumstances and aspirations as well as fears. One hopes to know what is on the other side of a door, but one never knows until one dares to open it and cross its threshold."

Today's church faces a dilemma. You and I have gathered inside our beautiful buildings, and we are afraid to go outside. We may tell ourselves that our doors are open wide and the welcome mat is out. We may be convinced that we are hospitable and eager to embrace others in Christ's name on Easter. But you and I still wait for our neighbors to cross our threshold.

We still look and act and think far too much and far too often in ways that reflect the world rather than the faith. We still wait for the world to come to us, rather than defining our witness by going out in Christ's name. Our lives are not formed by the giving, serving, hoping shape of the cross.

Instead of the "triumphant religion" that most of our neighbors identify with Western Christianity, Douglas John Hall invites us to move into the world through the doorway of the cross. "The theology of the cross is bound to this world in all of its materiality, ambiguity and incompleteness ... We, whose movement in one way and another had always been away from the world, whether into our own private little worlds or to some theoretic super-world of our own devising – we, through our 'baptism into his death' (Romans 6:lf.), are being directed toward the world where his life is being lived, hidden among the lives of those especially whom the world as such seems to have denied fullness of life (Mathew 25:31f.)."

In short, Hall recognizes, "the object of the Christian presence in the world – of discipleship – is to engage the world."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ frees us from the power of sin and death, from the impossible demand that we must create the door that leads to freedom. The shape of Easter is the doorway of the cross. It leads us beyond the false idolatry of self-centeredness, resting in an idealized place of safety and security, separated from all our neighbors.

Instead, the cross becomes the shape of our spiritual journey, beckoning us to our own encounter with Christ's resurrection, discovered in the midst of the world's brokenness.

Almost 40 years ago, the congregation I serve dedicated a beautiful large sculpture as the entryway to the church buildings. Preschool students to older adults walk through it. Created by the late Thornton Utz, a church elder, "this work is a bout Christ as the Way, the Way into the Church, the Way to God, and the Way back into the world God loves. Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us, is the Way."

The congregation chose the Utz Cross as the emblem of its centennial celebration several years ago. "The symbolism of the cross embodies us for a vision for the future," they wrote. "We will continue to walk in the Way of the Living Cross."



My friend Margaret LaMotte Torrence pointed out that the Utz Cross is built on a series of vaguely elliptical platforms, which serve as steps. The steps, when viewed from above, form the shape of a butterfly. As Margaret said, "Thornton Utz included it anyway, even though there is no vantage point on the church property from which that shape can be discerned. He knew that when we are facing the cross, we cannot see the resurrection. But always it is there in God's eternal eye."

Easter is this invitation for each of us to walk into the world, embracing the challenges of human sin and brokenness and natural disasters and climate change. The cross, as we carry and represent it, becomes our doorway into the depth of Easter joy as we celebrate with all those around us. (End of article)

So, what are your scars and how can they be a doorway for you to see the grace and mercy of God in a new way? How can they help you understand the suffering that Jesus endured so that new life and resurrection can be yours in a more powerful way? And how can your scars provide a doorway for you to engage others, who are wounded and suffering in the world around us, and help them hear the good news of Easter: Jesus has died. Jesus has RISEN! Jesus will come again. Hallelujah. Amen.

Pastor Yvonne

Some Bible Trivia

1. What king hosted a banquet where a phantom hand left a message on the palace wall?
2. What king led Israel into sin by allowing his evil wife to introduce Baal worship into the country?
3. What king wanted to see miracles when the arrested Jesus was sent to him?

Henry Harney Scholarships

Now is the time to complete an application for a Henry Harney Scholarship for the 2018-2019 college year.

Below are the new guidelines for those funds. Applications can be obtained from the Scholarship Committee – Mary Lou Furr, Priscilla Schoenen, Betty Williams – or from the pastor.

1. Completion of an application, which includes answering several essay questions, providing a current official transcript of grades (with a minimum GPA of no less than 3.0) and 2 reference letters. The application must be

complete when submitted. In other words, an incomplete application will not be considered.

2. The student must be a recent high school graduate or currently enrolled in a college, trade school, university or apprenticeship. (We will not award scholarship funds for graduate schools or to pay back a student loan.)
3. All documents must be received by May 01st before the fall of the year the student wishes to receive the funds.
4. Scholarship checks will be made out to the academic institution **only**.
5. Only 2 scholarships will be awarded each academic year.
6. If the student does not complete the coursework for which the scholarship is awarded, QMPC will require that the money be returned by the student to the scholarship fund. The applicant is required to sign a statement to this effect when he or she applies for the scholarship.

5 Things You Probably Do Not Know about Your Cell Phone

1. The emergency mobile number worldwide is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage of your cell network area and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the phone will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. And interestingly, this 112 number can be dialed even if the keypad is locked.
2. If you have a remote keyless entry to your car or truck, this might come in handy someday. When you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys (with a wireless remote) are at home, call someone at your home on their cell phone with your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button on the key remote, holding it near the phone on their end. Your car will unlock. This saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance does not matter as long as the

other person has a second key remote to your car. – You can also open the trunk this way.

3. Imagine that your cell battery is very low and you do not have a charger handy. To activate your phone's hidden battery power, press the keys *3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and the display will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will also be recharged when you plug your cell phone into the charger.
4. It is possible to disable a stolen phone with the correct information. To learn your cell phone's serial number, key in the following: *#06#. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your cell phone. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. Then if your phone is stolen, you can call your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your phone so that even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably will not get your phone back, but at least you will know that whoever stole it cannot use it or sell it either.
5. Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they do not have to do so. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: (800) FREE411 or (800) 373-3411. You will be connected without incurring any charge to your account.

Bible Trivia Answers

1. Belshazzar – Daniel 5:1-9
2. Ahab – I Kings 16:19-33
3. Herod – Luke 23:8

Forget It

I am the type of person who can walk from one room to another and not know why I have gone there. I know I had a reason when I began my trek, but I lost it on the way. Sometimes I try backing up in hopes it might come to me.

My family can usually tell this is the problem by the bewildered look on my face. Walking in

reverse also seems to be a giveaway. Sometimes they try to help and other times they just let we wander aimlessly, figuring I will wise up or wear out.

I try to blame this forgetfulness on age. But those who have known me for years remind me that my wires have never all been touching, although turning forty has seemed to loosen a few more.

I read in an article that after we turn forty, one thousand brain cells die each day. But according to the writer, it doesn't matter because we have millions, or was that billions ... anyway lots of them. My problem is the cells I have been losing were filled with valuable information I meant to retain – like where I am going, how old I am, the names of family members, etc.

Names. Isn't it embarrassing when you know you know but you draw a blank? I realize that our names are important to us, and we do not want to be forgotten. That is why I think name tags should be mandatory. They should be pinned on us at birth and removed after the funeral. Think of all the awkward moments that could alleviate.

The guy, oh, what's his name ... who sang "I Left My Heart in San Francisco", doesn't know how lucky he is. I left my bifocals in Indiana, my alarm clock in Ohio, my Bible on an airplane heading for Texas, my slip in Colorado, and heaven only knows where my watch is ... probably with my sunglasses and keys.

Have you ever been digging through a drawer when all of a sudden you realize you do not know what you are looking for? If anyone is watching me, I just keep digging. I have found a lot of lost items that way.

It is also disconcerting for me to dial the phone, and by the time the call connects, to find my mind has disconnected – I have forgotten whom I am calling. Sometimes I hang up until I remember. Other times I listen in hopes I will recognize the voice. Occasionally, I have been brave and confessed to the anonymous party that I cannot

remember whom I dialed and hope they will claim me.

Anyway, the point I am trying to make is ... is ... oh, forget it!

Doings at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Elders on Call

March 04th-10th – Lelia Bruder
March 11th-17th – Kathy Staton
March 18th-24th – James Sanford
March 25th-31st – Anita Woods

Ministry with the Children

March 04th – the children will participate in communion, Christine Rose (downstairs)
March 11th – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Gladys Ross (downstairs)
March 18th – Gladys Ross (sermon), Betty Williams (downstairs)
March 25th – Heather Kramer (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, **March 11th** Daylight Savings Time begins
Tuesday, **March 12th** – Circle # 1, Ruth Preston's home @ 10:00 am
Sunday, **March 25th** – Session meeting
Tuesday, **March 26th** – Circle # 2, fellowship hall @ 6:00 pm
Thursday, **March 29th** – Maundy Thursday communion service @ 7:00 pm
Sunday, **April 01st** – Easter
Saturday, **April 07th** – Chicken Pie/Country Ham dinner, fellowship hall, 4:00-7:00 pm

Birthdays

Kara Cali – March 03rd
Katelyn Reel – March 04th
Ainsley Kramer – March 19th
Caroline Reel – March 19th
Mary Lou Furr – March 23rd
Kathy Staton – March 28th
Becky Pollard – March 28th