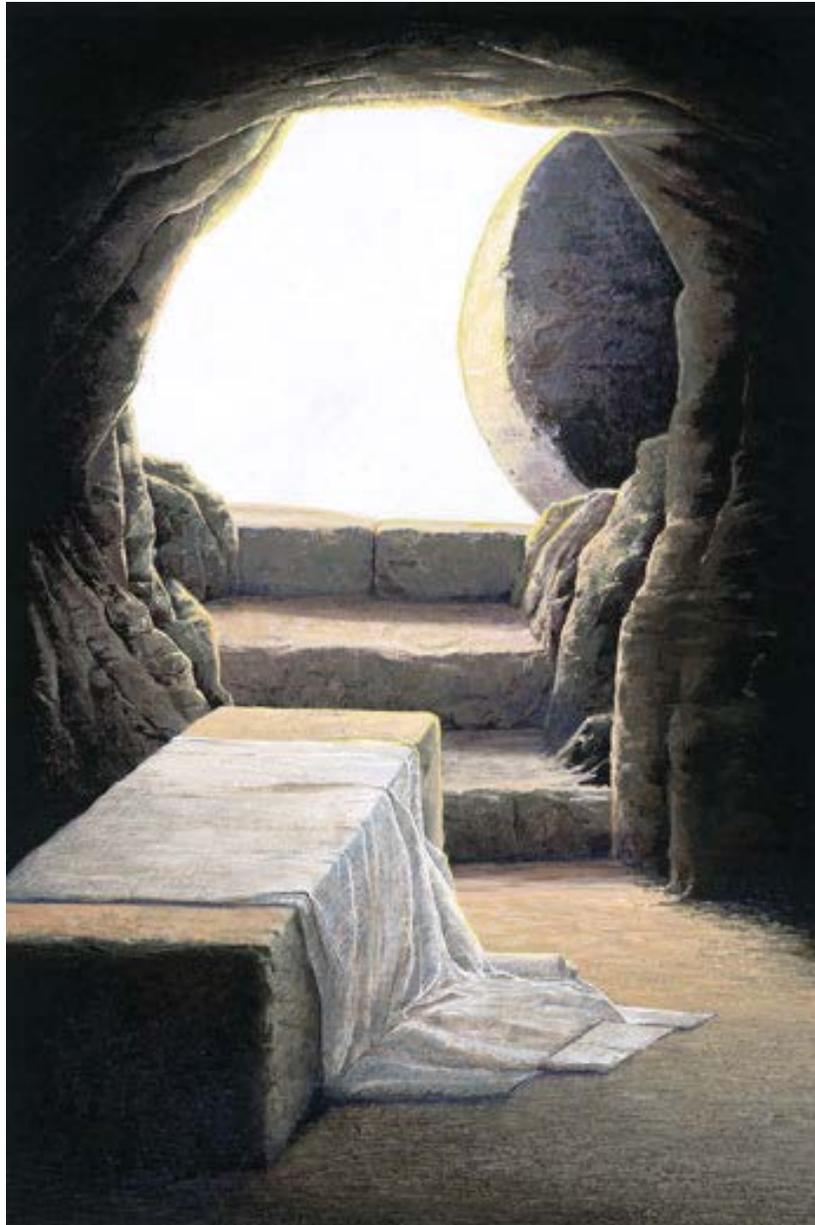


“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”

A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

April 2018, Issue



February and March 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.

FEBRUARY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6977.92
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$5,444.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,533.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$137.21)

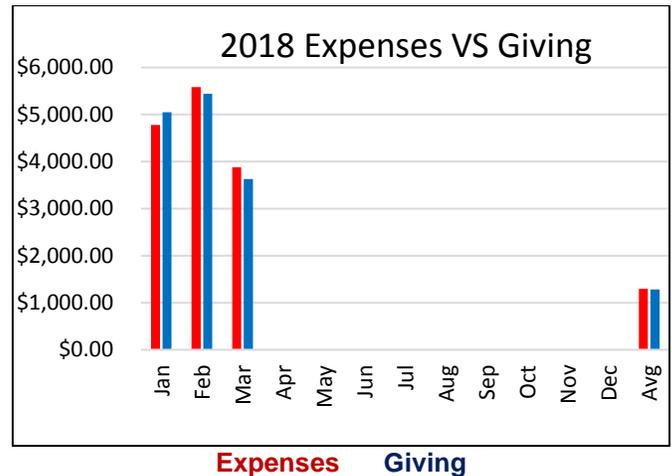
MARCH

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (3 weeks)	\$5,233.44
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (3 weeks)	\$3,629.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,604.44)
Total Expenses (3 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$248.60)

YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (11 weeks)	\$19,189.29
Actual Tithes and Offerings (11 weeks) received	\$14,120.00
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$5,069.29)
Total Expenses (11 weeks) This results in a shortage to expenses for the year	(\$118.54)

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



Session Highlights

February 25th Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the January 2018 financial report with a correction.
- Received a letter from the Finance Committee confirming their review of the 2017 financial records.
- Reviewed and approved the minutes for the January 28th meeting.
- Discussed the need to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. Riddle Smith, Kathy Staton and Lelia Bruder agreed to obtain prices for several different types of carpet and bring that information back for consideration at the March meeting.
- Discussed the purchase of a used lawn mower from Ann Dietz for \$950.00. A motion was made to table the decision until Bennett Ross could go look at the mower and give us details on it.
- Received the January financial report from Circle # 2.
- Approved the following calendar items:
 - Chicken Pie/Country Ham Suppers on April 07th, July 07th (to fund the Guatemala educational scholarships, and September 29th

- July 29th – Pastor Yvonne’s birthday covered dish lunch following worship
- October 14th – Pastor Appreciation covered dish lunch following worship
- Heard a report on the Oak Hill Church Collaborative’s February grandparents’ meal
- Received the 2017 Statistical Report which is submitted to the presbytery.
- Approved Rich Bruder to attend an Active Shooter seminar on our behalf.
- Approved a yard sale for Saturday, May 12th to raise funds for audio equipment for the new fellowship hall. Kathy Staton will be in charge of this event.

March 04th Called Meeting

The Session:

- Heard an update regarding the purchase of a lawn mower. Bennett Ross recommended the purchase, however the Session postponed a decision until the March meeting.

Some Bible Trivia

1. Who was the first disciple chosen by Jesus?
2. Who constructed the first altar?
3. What is the first color mentioned in the Bible?
4. What was Jesus’ second miracle?
5. Who was the second Christian martyr?

The Pastor’s Ponderings

Easter is this coming Sunday and I found an interesting article in the February 28th Christian Century which can give us some things to ponder as we celebrate the great love God has shown us through Jesus Christ. The article is “The Three Nails” by Samuel Wells.¹

There’s a great tradition on British radio. At 7:48 a.m., six mornings a week, a religious leader speaks live for two minutes and 45 seconds on BBC Radio 4 about an issue in the news and its theological significance. It’s called “Thought for

the Day,” and it attracts around 6 million listeners (albeit most of whom are brushing their teeth or dropping children off at school). I [imagined being one of the speakers] from when I first tuned in at age 12, so I was delighted to be asked [to speak] five years ago; since then I’ve become a regular [listener].

Not long ago I was finishing a meeting with a colleague when my phone rang. The voice said simply, “Sam” – and immediately I was transported back to my early days in ordained ministry, more than 25 years ago. He was a firefighter. He started coming to church about the time I began in the parish. He was in my first adult confirmation class. I ushered my colleague out and sat down intently to hear what had triggered this call – rapidly processing the range of terrible events that might be about to cascade down upon me.

“I heard you on the radio this morning and thought I’d leave a message – I never expected you to pick up the phone,” said my long-lost parishioner.

“I’m so glad I did,” I said, before adding, nervously, “Is something the matter? Is your wife, daughter, son ... ?”

“They’re fine,” he said, to my relief, and then updated me on 20 years of news since we last spoke. After a gratifying 15 minutes I interrupted and said, “Hey, this is great, but it’s mid-Tuesday morning, and I need to ... “ And I went back to being busy and important, to justify ending such a joyful interruption.

Ten minutes later the phone rang. It was him again. “I was so surprised you picked up, I forgot what I really meant to say. It’s taken me a long time to get back in touch. I have a confession to make.”

I paused. “Well,” I said, “I’m in the business. Take your time.” He didn’t seem too [reluctant], for a man about to bare his soul. “Do you remember your first Easter at St. Luke’s?”

¹ Samuel Wells is the vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

What a wonderful question. It was 1992. I was overjoyed to be in the thick of parish life. There's a lot I could say – but what did he mean?

“Two weeks before Easter, at the Sunday service, you gave each one of us three nails. You said, ‘Put these somewhere where you’ll be close to them every day. And on Easter morning, bring them back with you and put them in the [baptismal] font and celebrate what those nails really mean.’”



<https://rsc.byu.edu/archived/volume-14-number-1-2013/crucifixion-reclamation-cross>

“How ‘bout that,” I said. “Tell me about your confession.”

"The truth is, [he said], I never brought the nails back.”

This is the point where, if it's a face-to-face conversation, you look over your glasses and say nothing and just make an encouraging nod to indicate you're really listening. But on the phone you can't do that, so I said, “Go on.”

“When I took the nails home,” he said, “I knew what I wanted to do. The next day, I took them to the fire station. I picked up my firefighter's overalls and I sewed each one of them into its own pocket across my chest. And then I gave each one of them a name.

“The first one, the largest one, I called Faith. The second one, the rusty one, I called Courage. And the third one, the twisted, almost broken one, I called Hope. And from then on, for the next 20 years, every time the bell went off and we jumped down the chute into the fire [engine] to go out on a job, I would put my hand on my chest. My hand would cover the pocket with the first nail, and I would say, ‘Be close to me, I need you with me.’ I would move across to the second nail and would

say, ‘Give me the strength to do what I need to do today.’ And then I'd find the third, twisted, smaller nail, and I'd say, ‘Help me make it through to live another day.’

“I kept those three nails in my overalls until six years ago when I retired. And when I heard your voice on the radio, I thought it was time to tell you why I never brought them back that Easter Day.”

I was silent for about as long as you can be silent on the phone without making your companion nervous. I was in awe. Twenty-five years ago I'd had an idea for a way to help members of a congregation get a glimpse of Christ's passion. Turned out one of them spent the next 20 years living resurrection every day. There I was thinking I was in the thick of ministry. Turned out the Holy Spirit took the stumbling, forgetful gestures I made and, through the wonder of the [Easter] mystery, embodied salvation without me ever knowing it. There I was thinking going on the radio was my chance to preach the gospel to the nation. Turned out it opened the door for someone far more faithful, courageous, and hopeful to preach the gospel to me.

And what is that gospel? That Jesus donned the overalls of our flesh and, though we were hard as nails, painstakingly sewed us into his heart that we might be close to him, be safe around him, and dwell with him forever.

I was scratching my head about the nails, but by the time he finished I was thinking, Hmmm, I used to do that kind of thing. I'd almost forgotten. I wish I still did that kind of thing now.

Pastor Yvonne

The Dead Church

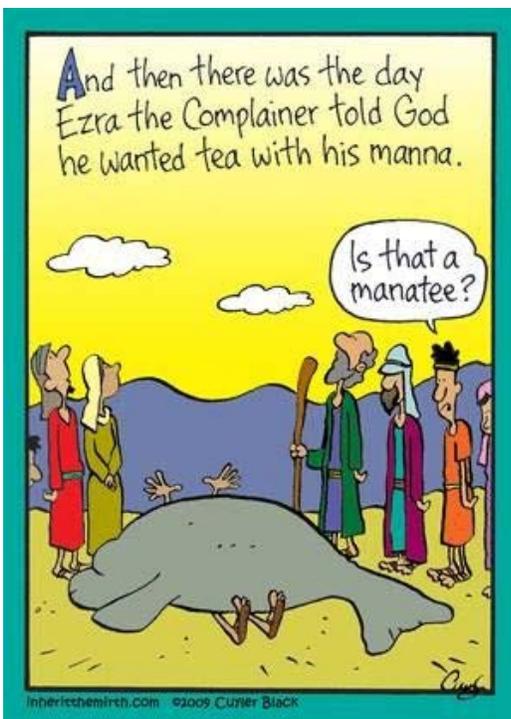
A new pastor in a small town spent days making personal visits to each church member, inviting them to come to his first service. But it was to no avail. Months went by and, Sunday after Sunday, attendance was dismal.

This led the pastor to place a notice in the local newspaper, stating that because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice stated.

Morbidly curious a large crowd turned out for the 'funeral'. In front of the pulpit they saw a closed coffin smothered with flowers. After the pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse, the people lined up to look into the coffin. Each mourner peeped into the coffin, then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror!



Spring Surprises Mary-Ellen Grisham

<https://www.inspirationalstories.com/7748.html>

Sometimes our most carefully laid out plans and projects just don't work out very well. Other times, with little effort, our attempts seem to

prosper. I frequently go through elaborate efforts for family gatherings only to find that the unexpected get-togethers are far more fun! With household projects and gardening, I have also experienced this same result: the spontaneous [actions] seems to go better and be more fun.

For years I have tried to plant tulips and daffodils – with no good results! Last fall a friend at work brought in a huge collection of bulbs for all of us to take. Finally, because no one else took any, I brought both boxes full home. One spring-like day in December about two weeks before Christmas, I took a small scoop and walked around casually turning up soil all over the yard – in gardens, in borders, here, there, everywhere – and popping in the bulbs. Of course, I was careful to put the bulbs the right way up and not to get them too deep, but I really did not trouble myself over the task.

You guessed it! This spring I have many hearty, healthy, gloriously colored tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths all over the yard! Perhaps these flowers are a gift of love rather than a product of rule-following effort!

God works like that in our lives. When we worship and serve him out of love for him and others, we find that flowers of grace, mercy, compassion, and thanksgiving pop up everywhere. So, plant the bulbs of love all around in your life, then enjoy the blooms which follow.



<https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-photography-front-yard-spring-flowers-tulips-hyacinths-daffodils-image29777317>

Email Surprise

<https://www.atimetolaugh.org/emailsurprise.html>

The preacher's wife got a very surprising email from him. She did not respond well.

Mr. Wilfred Johnson, a businessman from Provo Utah, went on a business trip to San Diego California. He promptly sent an email back home to his wife, Teresa Johnson.

Unfortunately, he typed one letter incorrectly, and the email ended up going to a Mrs. Tonya Johnson of Spokane Washington, the wife of a preacher who had just passed away.

The preacher's wife took one look at the email and promptly fainted.

When she was finally revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read: "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here."

Bible Trivia Answers

1. Simeon Peter – John 1:42
2. Noah – Genesis 8:20
3. Green – Genesis 1:30
4. Healing an official's son in Cana – John 4:43-54
5. James, the brother of John – Acts 12:1-2



Doings at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Elders on Call

- April 01st-07th – Anita Woods
- April 08th-14th – Judy Galey
- April 15th-21st – Doris Whisnant
- April 22nd-28th – Lelia Bruder

Ministry with the Children

- April 01st – the children will participate in communion, Gladys Ross (downstairs)
- April 08th – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Betty Williams (downstairs)
- April 15th – Gladys Ross (sermon), Christine Rose (downstairs)
- April 22nd – Heather Kramer (sermon), Gladys Ross (downstairs)
- April 29th – Ruth Pershing (sermon, Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, **April 01st** – Easter
- Saturday, **April 07th** – Chicken Pie/Country Ham Supper from 4-7 pm in the fellowship hall
- Wednesday **April 11th** – March/April birthday lunch, Friday Friends @ 11:30
- Wednesday, **April 18th** through Saturday, **April 22nd** – Pastor Yvonne will be out of town serving on a retreat team
- Sunday, **April 29th** – Session meeting

Birthdays

- Daisy Clement – April 01st
- Peggy Freeman – April 05th
- Dennis Abernathy – April 06th
- Patsy Carswell & Teeny Cobb – April 14th
- Doris Whisnant – April 20th
- Beth Bruder – April 25th

Cover Image:

<https://richbrownforewords.wordpress.com/2013/03/28/3255/>