

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”

A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

May 2018, Issue



March and April 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.

MARCH

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.02
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$5,288.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,689.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$1,277.64)

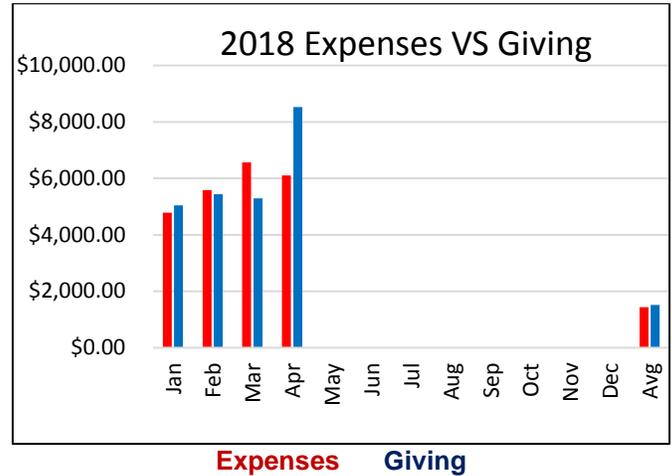
APRIL

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.02
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$8,528.75
This results in a budget overage for this month	\$1,550.83
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month	\$2,427.74

YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (16 weeks)	\$27,911.69
Actual Tithes and Offerings (16 weeks) received	\$24,307.75
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$3,603.94)
Total Expenses (16 weeks) This results in an overage to expenses for the year	\$1,280.16

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 4 of 5):



Session Highlights

March 25th Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the February 2018 financial report, with a correction.
- Discussed some revisions to the cemetery and columbarium policy. A revised policy will be distributed soon.
- Approved Anita Woods and Bennett Ross to contact Southern Steeple Jacks to come inspect our steeple and give us an estimate on replacing the louvered windows and any other parts that need to be repaired or replaced.
- Received the financial report from Circle # 2.
- Lelia Bruder was elected as the commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting at Montreat on Tuesday, April 24th.

Two Jokes Heard at the Pilgrimage Retreat

What do you call bears without ears? Bs

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a tropical fish. The pet shop owner asks him if he wants an aquarium. The man replies, "I don't care what astrological sign the fish is."

Some Bible Trivia

1. The serpent in the Garden of Eden was the first talking animal in the Bible, What was the second?
2. Eve is the first woman in the Bible. Who is the second?
3. Joseph, the husband of Mary, was warned in dreams to do four things. What were they?
4. What three Egyptian officials did Joseph interpret dreams for?

The Pastor's Ponderings

I have been thinking a lot about pilgrimage lately. The main reason is because six of us from this congregation attended the recent Georgia Presbyterian Pilgrimage which was held at Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, Ga. There was much preparation to get ready for that weekend and much work that was done while we were there. So, as I was pondering an article for this newsletter the topic of 'pilgrimage' quickly came to my mind.

To us, the word 'pilgrim' reminds us of the quaint folks who came over on the Mayflower in 1620. We may think about them with their broad brimmed hats each year at Thanksgiving as we gobble down our turkey dinner. (Pun intended.) We do not usually identify much with them, but maybe we should. The pilgrims came to this country partly in search of religious freedom.

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey or a spiritual expedition which is taken with a specific destination or purpose in mind. We might say that the Bible is the story of pilgrimage. It is the story of how God's people travel from one place to another – literally or spiritually – in obedience to God.

Here is a summary of the pilgrimages which come to my mind:

- Abraham's journey from the land of his father (Ur of the Chaldeans) to a land which God will show him. During this pilgrimage, Abraham endures many challenges, is visited by angels

and eventually has two sons – Ishmael and Isaac.

- Jacob's journey to escape the anger of his brother, Esau, to his uncle Laban's home in Ur and back to reconcile with Esau. During this pilgrimage, Jacob has a dream (vision) of the stairway to heaven, marries Leah and Rachel, has 12 children, endures many conflicts with his father-in-law and wrestles with an angel.
- Joseph's journey from the land of Israel to Egypt. During this pilgrimage, Joseph falls from the favorite son of Jacob, to slavery and imprisonment in Egypt, and then rises – with God's protection and provision – to be a respected official in the Egyptian government and savior of his family.
- Moses' journey from a baby cast adrift in a river to the leader of God's people. During this pilgrimage, Moses grows up in the luxury of Pharaoh's palace, kills an Egyptian in a fit of righteous anger and goes into hiding, becomes a shepherd with a family, encounters God at the burning bush, confronts Pharaoh with God demands to free the Israelites from slavery, announces the ten plagues upon Egypt in response to Pharaoh's defiance of God, leads the Israelites across the Red Sea into freedom, and is the instrument through which God gives his people the Ten Commandments and the Law.
- The journey of the people of Israel as they wander in the wilderness and eventually enter into the land that God had promised them. During this pilgrimage, the people complain a lot, are fed with quail and manna by God, receive water from rocks, become afraid at the absence of Moses and make a golden calf to worship, rededicate themselves to following God and cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.
- The journey of the Israelites as they go from a wandering desert people to a nation. During this pilgrimage the people have to defend themselves against neighboring tribes, avoid the constant threat of idolatry and unfaithfulness to the Law of God, and develop form a people with a tabernacle (a tent for

God's dwelling place) to a nation with a king, a capital city – Jerusalem – and a grand Temple.

- The journey of the Israelites from a nation whose God is the Lord to a people scattered and in exile because of their lack of faithfulness to God and their outright rebellion against his commandments. During this pilgrimage many, many prophets are sent to tell the people the truth about their situation and to call them back to God, but they are so comfortable or attached to their ways of living that they often refuse to listen.
- The journey of the exiles people of God from Babylon back to their homeland. During this pilgrimage they must rebuild their shattered lives and reclaim their identity as the people of God.
- The journey of the disciples of Jesus from their lives as fishermen and tax collector to proclaimers of the resurrection of Jesus to all the nations around Jerusalem. During this pilgrimage the disciples competed with each other for Jesus' attention, they were often confused by what Jesus said, they witnessed some amazing miracles of healing and restoration, and they were changed forever by the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- The journey of the Church from a small group of twelve followers of Jesus to a faith community which spread across the whole world. During this pilgrimage, the people of God suffered persecution and death of every kind while continuing to proclaim faith in God.

What do all of these pilgrimage stories have in common? First the people are just like us in many ways. They are sinners who struggle to keep going when things get tough, when God seems distant and when life gets long. They have their ups and their downs – they fight with each other, they do what they can to get ahead in life, they suffer losses and they grow old. But they also learn to forgive, to act with compassion and mercy, and they hold onto their faith in God – sometimes, by their fingernails.

Second, these pilgrimage stories all have this in common: God promises, over and over again, to be with the people on these journeys, no matter what happens. Even in the exile in Babylon, God was at work correcting the behavior and attitudes of his people, replacing their hearts of stone with hearts of flesh and re-establishing their trust and commitment to his will and his ways.

So, what about us? What kind of pilgrimage are we on – individually and as the congregation of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church?

One journey that we are all on, in one way or another, is the journey from who we were to who we will be. Most of us are not as young or as fit or as quick thinking or as full of energy as we once were. But that does not mean that we are done. There is life still to live and we all can probably do some things which will help us live well for the rest of the time we have in this world. And God is still with us, providing us with what we need to live each day.

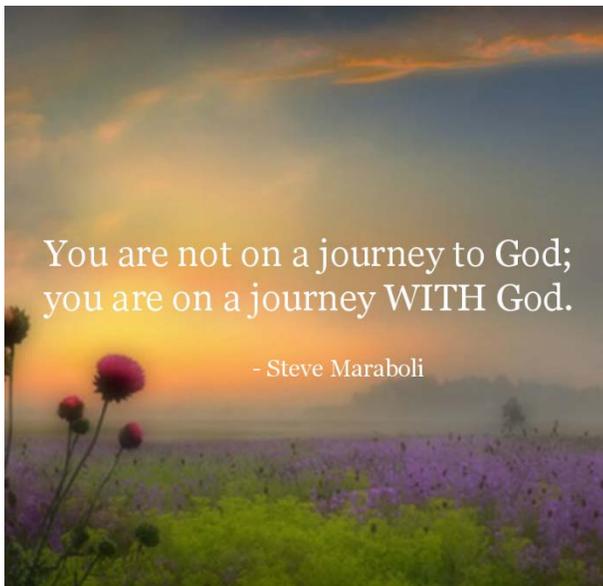
The same is true for our congregation. We might not be as large or a financially stable as we once were. Our steeple needs repair, the carpet in the sanctuary needs to be replaced, sometimes we have enough children in worship for a children's sermon and sometimes we skip it, worship attendance is dropping, financial giving is decreasing, and But God is still with us and is not only providing what we need to continue as his people in this place – for now – but he just might be leading us forward to a new way of being his witnesses in the world.

A truth that scripture teaches us is that a life with God is a life of pilgrimage. God was not confined to the Tabernacle in the wilderness nor to the Temple of Jerusalem. And God is not confined to our past experience of him in our lives. The God we worship and serve is the Living God who is an active and creative force in the universe even now and who is not willing to allow us to become too settled in any one place or in any one understanding of our purpose in life. So, as we approach Pentecost Sunday, with its story of how

the Holy Spirit visited the small gathering of Jesus followers and empowered them to go into all the world with the story of God’s presence and power for everyday people and everyday living, I ask you to consider this question: What is God leading us to be and do as we continue our journey with him into the future?

I look forward to our continuing pilgrimage together.

Pastor Yvonne



Senior Text Acronyms

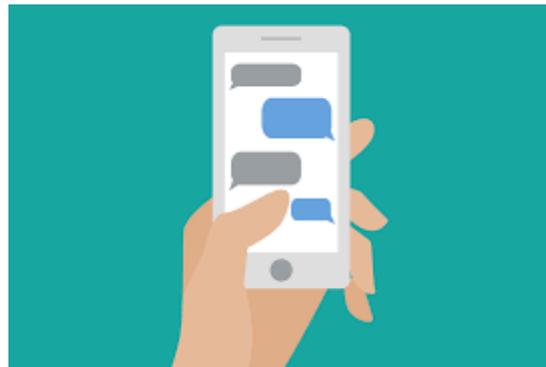
Texting has become a language all its own for many people. Text shortening came about because there is a character limit for text conversations. So, people began to use only the first letter of a word or letters combined with numbers to indicate what they were saying without using so many letter characters. I am not a person who uses acronyms much myself because I like words, but there are a multitude of acronyms being used these days that older adults do not understand without asking a younger person. For example: BFF means “Best Friend Forever” and BTW means “By the way”.

¹ Taken from the sermon by Reverend Betsy Anderson for Brian Palmer’s ordination, 8/10/14.

So, for senior adults who might want to use codes in conversation with friends, here are some appropriate acronyms:

- ATD – At the Doctor
- BFF – Best Friends Funeral
- BTW – Bring the Wheelchair
- BYOT – Bring Your Own Teeth
- CBM – Covered by Medicare
- SYATSC – See You at the Senior Center
- DWI – Driving While Incontinent
- FWIW – Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL – Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA – Got Heartburn Again
- HGBM – Had Good Bowel Movement
- LMDO – Laughing My Dentures Out
- LOL – Living on Lipitor
- TOT – Texting on Toilet
- WAITT – Who Am I Talking To?

Hope these help. GGLKI (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)



Prayer¹

A Roman Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, and a guru sat seriously discussing the best position for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

“Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray,” the priest said.

“No,” said the minister, “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.”

“You’re both wrong,” the said guru. “The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor.”

The telephone repairman could contain himself no longer and interrupted. “Hey, fellas, the best prayin’ I ever did was when I was hangin’ upside down from a telephone pole.”

Whatever position you use for prayer, the most important thing is that you actually pray.

Some Bible Trivia Answers

1. Balaam’s donkey – Numbers 22:28-30
2. Cain’s wife who is not named – Genesis 4:17
3. To marry Mary, to take a different route out of Bethlehem, to flee to Egypt and to return from Egypt at a later time – Matthew 1:18-2:23
4. Pharaoh, his cupbearer and his baker – Genesis 40-41

**Doings at Quaker Meadows
Presbyterian Church**

Elders on Call

- April 29th – May 05th – Kathy Staton
 May 06th - May 12th – James Sanford
 May 13th – May 19th – Anita Woods
 May 20th – May 26th – Judy Galey

Ministry with the Children

- May 06th – the children will participate in a communion lesson, Betty Williams (downstairs)
 May 13th – Gladys Ross (sermon), Christine Rose (downstairs)
 May 20th – Heather Kramer (sermon), Gladys Ross (downstairs)
 May 27th – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 03rd – Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30

Thursday, May 10th – Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30

Saturday, May 12th – Yard Sale (to rent a table or ask a question call Kathy Staton)

Monday, May 14th – Circle # 1, Ruth Preston’s home @ 10:30

Thursday, May 17th – Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30 (unless Pastor Yvonne is on vacation)

Thursday, May 24th – Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30 (unless Pastor Yvonne is on vacation)

Sunday, May 27th – Session meeting following worship

Monday, May 28th – Circle # 2, fellowship hall @ 6:00

Thursday, May 31st – Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30

Birthdays

None



Happy Mother’s Day

to all of you who have filled the role of a mother in someone’s life. Thank you and we love you.

Cover Image: <https://adrcswwi.org/iowa/may-news-and-views-newsletter/>