

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



May and June 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.

MAY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.92
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$4,984.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$1,993.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$2,648.59)

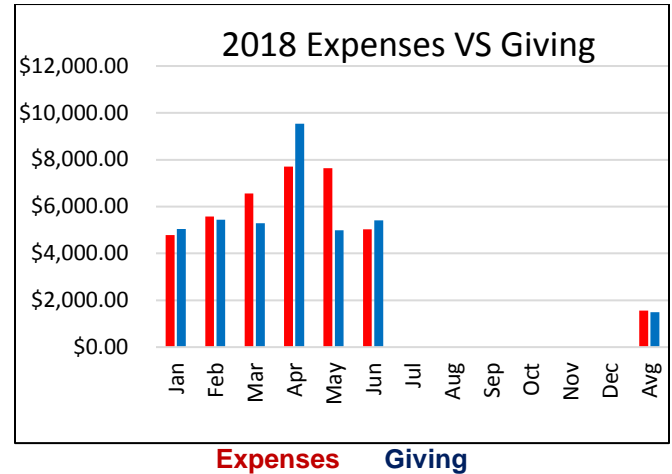
JUNE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (3 weeks)	\$5,233.44
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (3 weeks)	\$5,407.00
This results in a budget overage for this month	\$173.56
Total Expenses (3 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month	\$391.80

YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (24 weeks)	\$41,867.54
Actual Tithes and Offerings (24 weeks) received	\$35,700.51
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$6,167.03)
Total Expenses (24 weeks)	\$37,286.00
This results in a shortage to expenses for the year	(\$1,585.49)

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



Session Highlights

May 27th Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the April 2018 financial report.
- Discussed additional revisions to the cemetery and memorial garden policy.
- Received the financial report from Circle # 2.
- Continued our discussion regarding replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and down the steps. The estimated cost will be about \$5,000.00. We will not move forward on this project until we can raise the money.
- Heard an update on the purchase of sound equipment for the fellowship hall. At present we have received \$4,346.00 for the job, which should cover the cost. Once the cabinet is made for the storage of the equipment, the project will move forward.

Some Bible Trivia

1. Which prince had his hair cut only once a year?
2. What leader plucked hair out of his own head and beard when he heard that the Jews had intermarried with pagan women?

3. What belligerent man ran to meet his brother and kissed him, after a long time of separation?
4. Who outran a team of horses?
5. Who ran to the priest Eli, thinking Eli had called him in the night, though it was actually God who had called?

The Pastor's Ponderings

As I was reading the June 06, 2018 issue of The Christian Century, I began to ponder the following article, which led me to place it in this newsletter for your pondering.

What We Know Together By Peter W. Marty

My wife still laughs about it 35 years later. She had purchased a Bible trivia game, believing it was the perfect gift for her fiancé and his divinity school friends. When she brought it out one evening, however, and my friends and I saw that we were going to be competing with each other, we quickly lost interest. Nobody wanted to risk exposing his or her biblical ignorance in front of fellow seminarians. After some awkward laughter, we agreed to modify the rules and play the game as a single team.

I thought about that experience recently when a colleague of mine laughed at me for never having watched "Game of Thrones". Not only have I not seen the program, I don't know what it's about. I could display similar ignorance in several dimensions of pop music and film culture, if you allow me to hoist my white flag of vulnerability.

Most of us are guilty at one time or another of snickering at friends who don't know something we know. "You mean you've never been to IKEA?" "You don't know who Kendall Jenner is?" "Everybody knows what a chatbot is!" The "Oh, my" we mutter next, paired with our own little eye roll, completes the not-so-subtle mockery. When we know something well, we find it hard to imagine that others around us don't know the exact same thing. A kind of [pride] sets

in – a twinge of superiority. Something in us seems to enjoy knowing little bits of information that people around us don't know. Our chuckle lets them in on our pride.

Bernard of Clairvaux writes of people who seek knowledge for the sake of curiosity. He writes of other people who seek knowledge to serve and [build up] their neighbor through love. But still other people, says Bernard, "desire to know in order that they themselves may be known: that is vanity." I wonder if some quiet vanity creeps into some of our knowledge claims, convincing us that we know and understand more than we actually do.

In their recent book, *The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone*, Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach say we're not so good at knowing what we don't know. We underestimate our own ignorance, confusing the knowledge that's within our own heads, with what we constantly rely on from other people and external associations. In other words, knowledge is communal. Complex webs of shared information allow a lot of our [common] knowledge to reside in other people's heads. As individuals, we know surprisingly less than we often think we do, even if we have our own little domains of expertise.

Something in the Christian life ought to inspire us to limit our arrogance about certain things we know and, at the same time, nurture a disposition of gratitude for those who know what we don't. Theologian Leslie Weatherhead once noted that the word 'agnostic' has a constructive place in Christian conversation. The agnostic who is uncertain about God – different from the atheist, who denies the existence of God – and who says with powerful honesty, "I don't know," may be on the road to great faith. That would be true of the apostle Paul, who celebrated what he didn't know or understand about God. And it can be true of us who discover that knowing God is a shared endeavor more than just an individual experience. (The end of the article.)

And now some comments from me, your pastor. Judaism, and then Christianity, are each a religion developed in and for a community. It does not take very long in the book of Genesis to see God saving a whole family from the cleansing flood of chapter 7. Only a few chapters later, in chapter 12, God makes a covenant with Abram for the benefit of the whole world. And some of Jesus' last words to his followers in Luke 24:44-49 include both continuing in fellowship with each other as a community and sharing the Good News of God's care for humanity with the world.

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The faith system that we have today is the result of God interacting with many people for many centuries. Our scriptures, creeds, confessions and hymns are witnesses to us, and the world, of the various ways that God has interacted with humanity in the past and how God still interacts with us on a daily basis.

What do we know about God? We know a lot, but we do not know it all, nor do we have to remember it all, by ourselves. We know what we know about God as a community; we know it together.

Pastor Yvonne

Freedom, the Eagle

Jeff Guidry is a rock and rhythm-and-blues guitarist who lives in Monroe, Washington, and

volunteers his spare time working as a member of the educational team at the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, a wildlife care center located in Everett, Washington which provides food, shelter, and rehabilitation to orphaned and injured wildlife. Jeff penned the following story, recounting his ten-year experience with Freedom and his own battle with cancer.



Freedom and I have been together 11 years this summer. She came in as a baby in 1998 with two broken wings. Her left wing doesn't open all the way even after surgery, it was broken in 4 places. She's my baby.

When Freedom came in, she could not stand and both wings were broken. She was emaciated and covered in lice.

We made the decision to give her a chance at life, so I took her to the vet's office. From then on, I was always around her.

We had her in a huge dog carrier with the top off, and it was loaded up with shredded newspaper for her to lay in. I used to sit and talk to her, urging her to live, to fight; and she would lay there looking at me with those big brown eyes. We also had to tube feed her for weeks.

This went on for 4-6 weeks, and by then she still couldn't stand. It got to the point where the decision was made to euthanize her if she couldn't stand in a week. You know you don't want to cross that line between torture and rehab, and it looked like death

She was going to be put down that Friday, and I was supposed to come in on that Thursday afternoon. I didn't want to go to the center that Thursday, because I couldn't bear the thought of her being euthanized; but I went anyway, and when I walked in everyone was grinning from ear to ear.

I went immediately back to her cage; and there she was, standing on her own, a big beautiful eagle. She was ready to live. I was just about in tears by then. That was a very good day. We knew she could never fly, so the director asked me to glove train her.

I got her used to the glove, and then to jesses, and we started doing education programs for schools in western Washington. We wound up in the newspapers, on the radio (believe it or not) and even some TV spots. Miracle Pets did a show about us.

In the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I had stage 3, which is not good (one major organ plus everywhere), so I wound up doing 8 months of chemo. Lost my hair – the whole bit. I missed a lot of work.

When I felt good enough, I would go to Sarvey and take Freedom out for walks. Freedom would also come to me in my dreams and help me fight the cancer. This happened time and time again.

Fast forward to November 2000. The day after Thanksgiving, I went in for my last checkup. I was told that if the cancer was not all gone after 8 rounds of chemo, then my last option was a stem cell transplant

Anyway, they did the tests; and I had to come back Monday for the results. I went in Monday, and I was told that all the cancer was gone. So the

first thing I did was get up to Sarvey and take the big girl out for a walk. It was misty and cold. I went to her flight and jessed her up, and we went out front to the top of the hill.

I hadn't said a word to Freedom, but somehow, she knew. She looked at me and wrapped both her wings around me to where I could feel them pressing in on my back (I was engulfed in eagle wings), and she touched my nose with her beak and stared into my eyes, and we just stood there like that for I don't know how long. That was a magic moment. We have been soul mates ever since we came in. This is a very special bird.

On a side note: I have had people who were sick come up to us when we are out, and Freedom has some kind of hold on them. I once had a guy who was terminal come up to us and I let him hold her. His knees just about buckled and he swore he could feel her power course through his body I have so many stories like that.

I never forget the honor I have of being so close to such a magnificent spirit as Freedom!!



Thanks to my brother, Tim, for this story.

Shampoo Warning

I don't know why I didn't figure this out sooner!

I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body. The other day I noticed this warning printed very

clearly on the shampoo label: “For extra volume and body.”

No wonder I have been gaining weight!

So now I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with Dawn dish soap instead.

The label in the Dawn bottle reads: “Dissolves fat that is otherwise difficult to remove.”

Problem solved! If I don’t answer the phone, I’ll be in the shower, getting rid of some fat!

Thanks to Grace Glenn for this helpful hint. ☺



We have several projects for which we need to raise money:

- Carpet for the sanctuary and stairways – about \$5,000.00
- A new lawn mower (low end commercial grade) most inexpensive ones are around \$3,000.00

If you would like to give an early Christmas financial gift to Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church towards one (or both) of these projects, please send your check(s) to us marked with the project name on the memo line and we will apply your gift to that purchase.

Interesting Job History

1. My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. I couldn’t concentrate.

2. Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but just couldn’t hack it, so they gave me the axe.
3. After that, I tried being a tailor, but wasn’t suited for it – mainly because it was a sew-sew job.
4. Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.
5. Then, tried being a chef. I figured it would add a little spice to my life, but just didn’t have the thyme.
6. Next, I attempted being a deli worker, but any way I sliced it ... couldn’t cut the mustard.
7. My best job was a musician, but eventually found I wasn’t noteworthy.
8. I studied a long time to become a doctor, but didn’t have any patience.
9. Next, was a job in a shoe factory, but I tried hard but just didn’t fit in.
10. I became a professional fisherman, but discovered I couldn’t live on my net income.
11. Managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.
12. So, then I got a job in a workout center, but they said I wasn’t fit for the job.
13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian – until I realized there was no future in it.
14. My last job was working in Starbucks, but had to quit because it was the same old grind.
15. So, I finally tired retirement and have found that I’m perfect for the job!!



Thanks to Grace Glenn for this humorous entry.

Some Bible Trivia Answers

1. Absalom – 2 Samuel 14:26
2. Ezra – 9:1-3
3. Esau – Genesis 33:4
4. Elijah – 1 Kings 18:46
5. Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:4-5

Doings at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Elders on Call

July 01-07 – Anita Woods
July 08-14 – Judy Galey
July 15-21 – Riddle Smith
July 22-28 – Doris Whisnant
July 29-August 04 – Lelia Bruder

Ministry with the Children

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

Upcoming Events

The Thursday Bible study group will attempt to meet through the summer this year. On July 05th at 12:30 in the pastor's home, we will begin our study of Nehemiah. You are welcome to join us.

Saturday, **July 07th** – Chicken Pie/Country Ham Supper from 4-7. The proceeds will go to our Guatemala Educational Scholarship Fund.

Sunday, **July 15th** – a cookout is being planned following worship, with hamburgers, hot dogs (and all the fixings), chips, desserts and drinks,

Sunday, **July 22nd** – Session meeting after worship

Sunday, **July 29th** – covered dish lunch following worship to celebrate the pastor's birthday.

Tuesday, **July 31st** – presbytery meeting, Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, 9-2

Summer Sermon Series

This summer we will leave the lectionary selections to focus on "God's Work in the Lives of His People". That means, we will be looking at some of the 'heroes' of the faith and how God worked in and through them to accomplish the plans God had for his people. The first one you will hear on the Sunday this newsletter is available.

For those of you who are not able to attend worship with us, you can hear these sermons by clicking the worship tab on our website: www.quakermeadowspc.org, and looking at the bottom of the page for the date you want. Each sermon is usually posted by the following Monday afternoon.

June 24th – David, God helps him slay the giant, Goliath

July 01st – Esther, God saves the Jews from behind the scenes

July 08th – Joshua, God's encouragement in times of disappointment

July 15th – Jeremiah, God in times of hardship

July 22nd – Elijah, God in the silence

July 29th – hymn singing, where you will have the opportunity to join in celebrating how God has worked in your lives through song.

Birthdays

Heather Kramer – July 15th

Randy Caudill – July 19th

Yvonne Thurmond – July 26th

Geri Lowdermilk – July 28th

Cover Image: <http://gaconline.org/fourth-of-july-at-the-gac/>