

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



*Homecoming Sunday*  
*August 26, 2018*

## June and July 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.

### JUNE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.92
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$6,594.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$383.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in an <b>overage</b> for the month	\$985.68

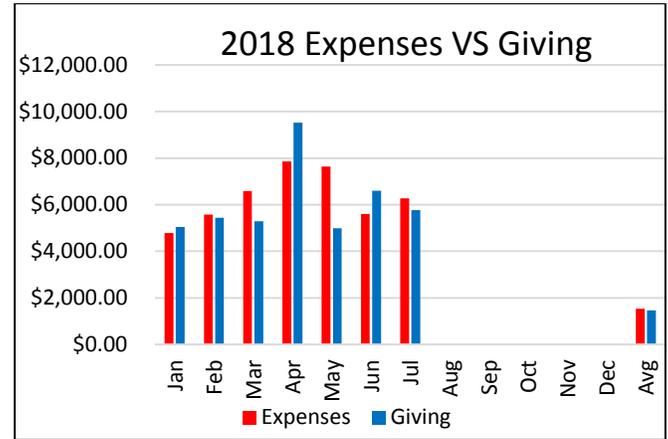
### JULY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,977.92
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$5,760.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$1,217.92)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a <b>shortage</b> for the month	(\$515.20)

### YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (29 weeks)	\$50,589.94
Actual Tithes and Offerings (29 weeks) received	\$42,641.75
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> to this point	(\$7,948.19)
Total Expenses (29 weeks)	\$44,319.32
This results in a <b>shortage</b> to expenses for the year	(\$1,677.57)

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for July 2018 (through week 4 of 5):



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### Session Highlights

#### June 24<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the May 2018 financial report.
- Approved the following events from the Christian Education Committee:
  - Ice cream social – Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Allison’s Family Resaurant @ 2:00
  - Vacation Bible School to be held at Steele Creek from 10-3 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The children will particiapte in several Bible lessons/activiites and enjoy swimming and the water slide.
- Considered a request to change the deadline for the Henry Harney Scholarships. The Session decided not to change the policy but did vote to extend the deadline for this year by 30 days. This adjustment was made since this is the first year we have had a firm deadline and some people interested in applying for a scholarship did not know of our new deadline. We received 1 application within the 30 day extension.

- Approved Lelia Bruder as the commissioner to the presbytery meeting at Less McRae College, Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the June 2018 financial report.
- Considered a request to buy a dishwasher for the new fellowship hall. This request was denied. We have several higher priority projects for which we are raising money at this time.
- Wrote a Thank You note to Jackie Clement Ford and John Ford for their donation of \$500.00 towards the new carpet in honor of Daisy Clement.

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**Some Bible Trivia**

1. According to Isaiah, what sort of people can run and not grow weary?
2. What prophet ran after another prophet to accept the appointment as his successor?
3. When a man of Benjamin saw the Ark of the Covenant captured by the Philistines, to what Israelite did he run to tell?
4. Who had a vision of one angel running to meet another?
5. What two women ran from Jesus' empty tomb to tell the disciples what had happened?

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**The Pastor's Ponderings**

From time to time, I ponder how we are doing as a congregation being witnesses for Christ in the world around us. I know some of you talk about your beliefs as you are out and about in your daily lives. One or two of you have even been accused of trying to 'steal sheep' from another pastor's flock. But what about the rest of us? Are we available to speak a word of hope in the world? Are we available to help a person in need? Are we taking time for others or are we just too busy

and preoccupied with ourselves to be available for God's work in the world.

Below is an article which could help us put our lives in perspective and answer those questions. It is from the July 09, 2018 issue of The Presbyterian Outlook, and is written by the editor, Rev. Jill Duffield.

**“Sitting in the Right Spot”**

Scheduled to give a lecture at the 2018 Festival of Homiletics, I arrived at the designated venue well before my slotted time. I worshipped twice, listened to a good lecture and even had time to grab a quick lunch. I looked at my watch: 30 minutes until I was up. Not enough time to retreat to the hotel, too much time to sit eagerly on the front pew. Reading through my manuscript one last time couldn't hurt.

I looked for a spot close to where I needed to be in a quarter of an hour, but not so close that the organizers might want to go ahead and test the mic. Somewhere in the sanctuary? I could sit inconspicuously in the back. Nope. People had gathered to meditate with the contemplative music. Downstairs? Nope. Too many people shopping for books, getting [perks] from sponsors, eating lunch. Outside on the church steps? Nope. Too hot while wearing my "I'm a professional" jacket.

I spotted a folding chair, unfolded, just inside the narthex. Perfect. I settled in and began to flip pages. Soon someone came up to me. "Excuse me. Are you here to register people?" "No," I responded. "Go through the sanctuary, out the right-side door and down the stairs." I returned to my notes. I think I look deeply engaged but another person approached me. "Excuse me. Could you tell me if this is where those who want to go do the advocacy action at the Capitol are supposed to meet?" "Yes." I said. "They leave at 1:30." (I was tempted to add, "But you won't want to miss my lecture!")

Now, where was I? Oh, right. The transition from part one to part two of my three-part lecture.

“Excuse me. Could you tell me where the bathroom is?” “Just inside those big doors, to the left.” I looked at my phone. Time to go. But I couldn’t help but wonder if I was not more helpful right where I was, seated in the narthex, accessible even without a name tag, table or sign. Just sitting in the right spot, I was a magnet for those seeking information, directions and help.

Where, I keep asking myself, is the right spot for Christians to be when people mistrust religion, devalue institutions and have less and less experience with church? Being in the narthex, available but not in-your-face attentive, is a useful metaphor for where the church, Jesus’ disciples, ought to position themselves. That liminal space between the world and the sanctuary is a place to encounter those seeking, questioning and willing to participate, but not exactly sure where or how.

What are the metaphorical narthexes in our communities? Where might we sit so that others see us available and willing to respond to their questions, concerns, needs? Where can we be engaged in the work of the Lord – from study, to prayer, to meetings, to mission – where people notice and find us approachable?

In one church I served, the Christian Education Committee decided to meet one month at a local brewery. We discovered other church members there, some [off to the side], willing to come speak and engage with us in ways they wouldn’t within the walls of the sanctuary or fellowship hall. We met friends of committee members, told the server where we were from and what we were doing. Some volunteered to join the committee if this is where we met to do our work. Some were curious and asked questions about our congregation. All because of where we chose to sit – in the world, but not completely of it.

I know this is not news to emergent church folks or those who have been doing pub theology or communion in the park or ashes to go for years. But perhaps it serves as a reminder to all of us that no matter our context, we need to be

intentional about putting ourselves in positions where people feel free to approach us – places where we have no agenda, just a willingness to respond with kindness to whoever comes our way. It is a simple witness, but in a climate of suspicion, fear and anxiety, it is a powerful [position to be in]. (End of article)

So, what are some of the ‘right spots’ for us to be in as the people of God at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church? Perhaps the most important thing to remember as we ponder this question is that being in the ‘right spot’ physically also means being in the ‘right spot’ mentally and spiritually. Mentally, we must be willing to be helpful to others; we must be willing to be inconvenienced in service to God, we must be willing to share what we have. Spiritually, we must have a living relationship with God. We cannot give to others from what we do not have.

So ... as we think about our lives as believers in God, let us be willing to be in the ‘right spot’ to share with others the faith, hope and love, mercy, forgiveness and peace, which we have received from God. There are people seeking these things. Will you be available to be in the ‘right spot’ to give?

*Pastor Yvonne*

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### **Some Historical Trivia**

Did you know the saying “God willing and the Creek don’t rise” was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the United States to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, “God willing and the Creek don’t rise.” Because he capitalized the word “Creek” it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

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In George Washington’s days, there were no cameras. One’s image was either sculpted or

painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs', therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg." (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

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As incredible as it sounds, in times past, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today, we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

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In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' This term has been adapted in business as, 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

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Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to

stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. This led to the expression, 'losing face'.

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Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced', wore a tightly tied corset.

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Common entertainment included playing cards. There was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but it was only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades'. To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck'.

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Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TVs or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinions and, thus we have the term 'gossip'.

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At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A barmaid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts', hence the phrase 'minding your Ps and Qs'.

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One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those

cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, a problem arose: how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem, how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'brass monkeys'. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

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### Progress Report

Below is an update of the funds we have received, through Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, for several projects for which we need to raise money:

Project	Needed	Received	Remaining
New Carpet	\$5,000.00	\$ 525.00	<b>\$4,475.00</b>
Lawn Mower	\$3,000.00	\$3,090.00	<b>\$ (90.00)</b>

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### Some Bible Trivia Answers

1. Those who trust (wait upon) the Lord – Isaiah 40:31
2. Elisha – 1 Kings 19:19-21
3. The priest Eli – 1 Samuel 4:12-18
4. Zechariah – 2:3
5. Mary and Mary Magdalene – Matthew 28:8

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### A Tribute to a Man Who Did Make a Difference: Bob Hope

On turning 70: "You still chase women, but only downhill."

On turning 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

On turning 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

On turning 100: "I don't feel old. In fact I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

On giving up his early career, boxing: "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

On never winning an Oscar: "Welcome to the Academy Awards or, as it's called at my home, 'Passover'."

On golf: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

On Presidents: "I have performed for 12 presidents and entertained only six."

On why he chose showbiz for his career: "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations, you have an eight-pound ham'."

On receiving the Congressional Gold Medal: "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

On his family's early poverty: "Four of us slept in the one bed When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

On his six brothers: "That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

On his early failures: "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

On going to heaven: "I've done benefits for all religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."



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**Doings at Quaker Meadows  
Presbyterian Church**  
Summer Sermon Series

- August 05<sup>th</sup> – Moses – the glory of God's presence
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Joseph – God warns in dreams
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – Daniel – God discloses the future
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – "Lessons from the Woman in the Window", a sermon about the stained glass window in the front of our sanctuary

Elders on Call

- August 05-11 – Kathy Staton
- August 12-18 – James Sanford
- August 19-25 – Anita Woods
- August 26-September 01 – Judy Galey

Ministry with the Children

- August 05<sup>th</sup> – the children will participate in a communion lesson, Betty Williams (downstairs)
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Heather Kramer (sermon), Christine Rose (downstairs)
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Anita Woods (downstairs)
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Anita Woods (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, **August 02<sup>nd</sup>** – No Bible Study
- Thursdays, **August 09<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** – Bible study, pastor's home @ 12:30
- Wednesday, **August 08<sup>th</sup>** – June/July birthday luncheon, Judge's @ 11:30. Everyone is welcome. Be prepared to buy your own lunch.
- Wednesday, **August 15<sup>th</sup>** – Vacation Bible school and Fun Day, Steele Creek. Meet at the church at 10.
- Sunday, **August 19<sup>th</sup>** – Session meeting following worship.
- Sunday, **August 26<sup>th</sup>** – Homecoming with a covered dish lunch following worship

Birthdays

- Kira Good – August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Rachel Marler – August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Gladys Ross – August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Fred Williams – August 12<sup>th</sup>
- Faye Acker – August 14<sup>th</sup>
- Mary Gordon – August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Keith Burkett – August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Virginia Whisnant – August 29<sup>th</sup>

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Cover Image: Photo taken by Pastor Yvonne for Homecoming and the Dedication of the new fellowship hall on August 30, 2015.