

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”
A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church
April 2019, 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 2019 = \$1,709.06. This figure is based on a total 2019 budget of \$88,871.00 which was approved by the Session.

FEBRUARY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,836.23
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$3,723.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$3,113.23)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$1,891.85)

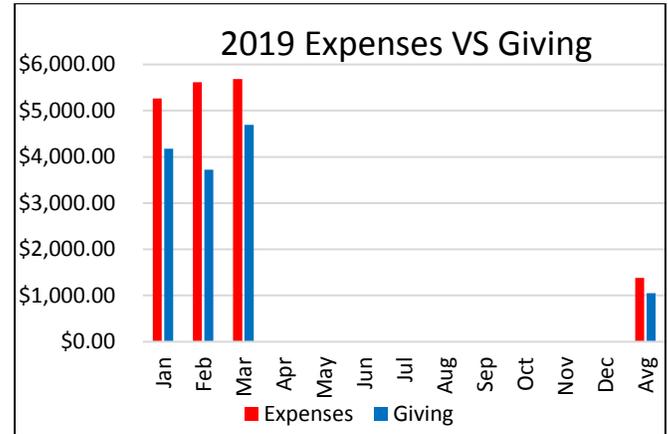
MARCH

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,836.23
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$4,691.00
This results in a budget shortage for this month	(\$2,145.23)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month	(\$997.12)

YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (12 weeks)	\$20,508.69
Actual Tithes and Offerings (12 weeks) received	\$12,590.00
This results in a budget shortage to this point	(\$7,918.69)
Total Expenses (12 weeks) This results in a shortage to expenses for the year	(\$3,974.76)

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for March 2019 (through week 4 of 5):



Some Bible Trivia

The Theme for this month is: prophets.

1. This kinsman of Jesus ate locusts, preached repentance and baptized repentant people in the Jordan River.
2. This New Testament character prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem.
3. These four young women, daughters of a Christian evangelist, were considered prophetesses.
4. This court prophet confronted King David about his adultery.
5. This man, who anointed the first two kings of Israel, was considered both a judge and a prophet.
6. This prophet of Moab had a confrontation with his talking donkey.

Session Highlights

Stated Meeting – February 24th

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the financial reports for January.
- Discussed and approved recreating a Shepherd's Fund to help members with specific needs. We will initially fund this account with money we will save in our trash

- collection account this year.
- Approved the following calendar items:
 - Mother’s Day luncheon – Saturday, May 11th
 - Father’s Day cookout – Saturday, June 15th
 - yard sale – Saturday, September 14th, money to go to missions
- Elected a new president and vice president for the corporation, Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church of Morganton, Inc.: Anita Woods – president, Bennett Ross – vice president.
- Reviewed the 2018 statistical report for the congregation.
- Reviewed and updated the Elder Shepherd list with correct birthdates, anniversary dates and phone numbers.

Needed: Yard Sale Donations

We have a yard sale and silent auction scheduled for Saturday, April 13th (that is less than 2 weeks from now) and we need your help. Please look through your closets, basements, attics, storage sheds, etc. and find all those items that you want to ‘get rid of’. If those items are in good condition, please consider donating them to the church so that they may be sold in our yard sale. Any money we raise from donated items and bake sale goods will be used for our various mission projects this year.

We will need the donations by Wednesday, April 10th so that we can organize them and price them. Contact Kathy Staton (828-433-1140) with questions and to arrange the drop off your donations.

The Pastor’s Ponderings

Well, we are half way through the season of Lent. For some of you that does not mean anything special, for you it is just a series of Sundays and

weeks leading up to Easter. But for others, Lent is a time to ponder the dark forces that eventually tried to eliminate Jesus through his death and burial and how those same forces are still at work in our lives to bring us harm and ultimately death.

Lent is a time in our Christian experience to focus more of our attention on some of the symbols of our faith and ponder all the aspects of their meanings. With that in mind, I offer you the following article from the March 16, 1016 issue of The Christian Century.

Within the Cross

By Stephanie Paulsell¹

One of the great gifts of the city of Rome is that anyone can walk into any church, free of charge, and experience art created for that very space. You can ponder Caravaggio’s painting of Jesus calling Matthew away from the tax collector’s table in the church of San Luigi dei Francesi or wedge yourself into the crowd around Michelangelo’s Pieta in St. Peter’s, knowing that for hundreds of years others have stood before these same luminous works and felt their own callings and griefs blessed and transformed. To be able to stand at the intersection between our lives and theirs, between the present moment and the past, is a gift Rome gives to the whole world.

With Good Friday coming, images of the cross catch my attention and draw me in as I walk through the city. Low-church Protestant that I am, the crosses I grew up with were usually empty, proclaiming a resurrection already accomplished. But in Rome the crosses are full of bodies. In the mosaics of the church of San Clemente, an emaciated Jesus hangs crucified, his disciples perched up and down the arms of the cross in the form of doves. In the church dedicated to his memory, St. Andrew hangs on his X-shaped cross while angels beat their wings above him, waiting to bestow his crown. Caravaggio’s decidedly angel-less depiction of the crucifixion of St. Peter

¹ Stephanie Paulsell is a Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies at Harvard Divinity School.

draws crowds day after day in the church of Santa Maria del Popolo. Here Peter is a frightened old man who looks on helplessly as workers strain to lift his aging body nailed on an upside-down cross.

All of these images offer potent Good Friday meditations. But the cross that's struck me the most during these weeks of Lent is not drawing big crowds. It's a small marble cross that my daughter and I came upon in a corner of the Museo Nazionale del Palazzo di Venezia. My Blue Guide calls it the least-visited museum in Rome, but it is full of amazing things – large, painted sculptures of Mary and her child, a dreamlike depiction of the vision of St. Bernard, a painting of Jesus arguing with those who want to stone a woman accused of adultery, and an altar piece with a Virgin of Mercy sheltering a crowd of people under her mantle, including a group of flagellants.²

The marble cross caught my attention because it holds the Madonna and child.



² Flagellants are people who practice an extreme form of self-punishment for sins by whipping their bodies with various instruments.

The 15th-century artist Andrea Guardi communicates in marble the warm tangle of their intimacy: the baby's chubby leg slung across his mother's arm, her hand on his knee. My daughter especially loves images of Mary holding her baby, and we admired this one for a few minutes before we realized that the image was held within a cross.

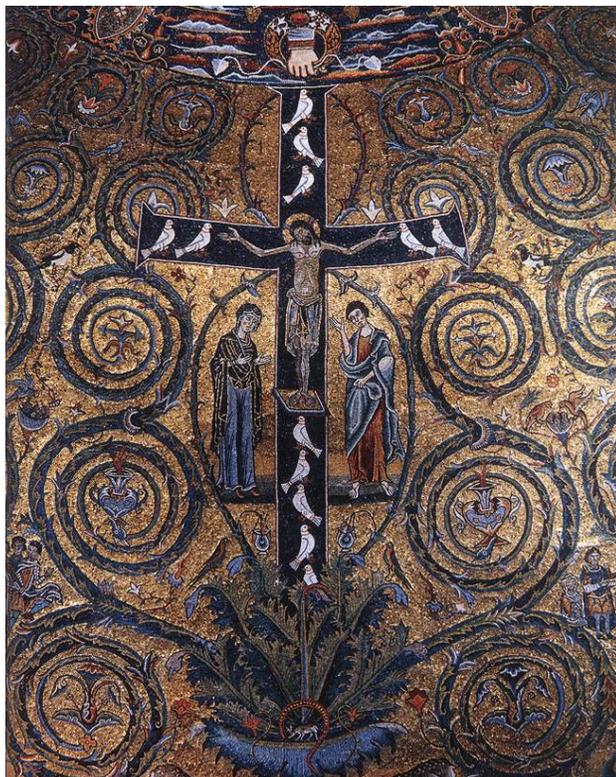
When we realized what we were looking at, it took our breath away. To see a mother and child lovingly engrossed in one another, yet held within the cross that waits for them on the horizon of their lives, was as heartrending as an image of a broken and bleeding body. Although they are surrounded on all sides by the cross, they can't see it. Guardi eloquently reminds us that when Good Friday does arrive, Jesus will not be alone in his suffering. I read later that the cross is two-sided and that Christ hangs crucified on the other side. But the side bearing the mother and child seemed to plumb an equally profound truth: that Christ's crucifixion happened not only to him, but to all who loved him.

On Good Friday we ponder the mystery of incarnation, the mystery of God's vulnerability to everything that can happen to a human being. The marble cross reminded me that it's also a day to ponder that the [direction] of Jesus' life, from the arms of his mother to the arms of the cross, is a path upon which mothers and children are still often forced to travel. Because it's even more dangerous for them to remain at home, mothers send their children on journeys across Central America, across the Aegean Sea, and on the many perilous refugee routes that crisscross the globe. The arms of the cross stretch wide for the children traveling on these routes.

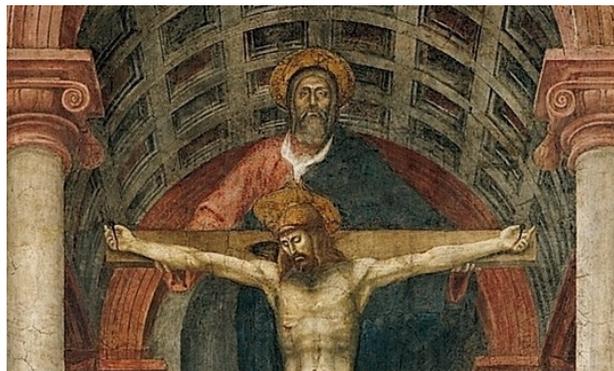
The works of art that have the power to draw us in also have the power to draw us out if we will let them, to send us back into the world around us with our vision transformed. As we stand, sit, or

kneel before the images that move us this Good Friday, may they teach us to stand with those who are crucified with Christ. And from that solidarity, may safe routes through the world and safe homes be built so that children and caregivers can delight in each other. (End of article)

Here is the crucifixion of Jesus as depicted in a mosaic in the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome, Italy which Paulsell mentions – the one with the disciples shown as doves. The figures to the left and right of the cross are Jesus’ mother Mary and the Apostle John. Directly above the cross is heaven and the hand of God, holding a circular crown of victory.



On a slightly different note ... have you ever wondered what God, the Father and the Holy Spirit were doing during the crucifixion? I found the following images which attempt to answer that question. The first one is “The Holy Trinity” by Masaccio (circa 1425) in Florence, Italy.



I could not find any detailed information on this sculpture below.

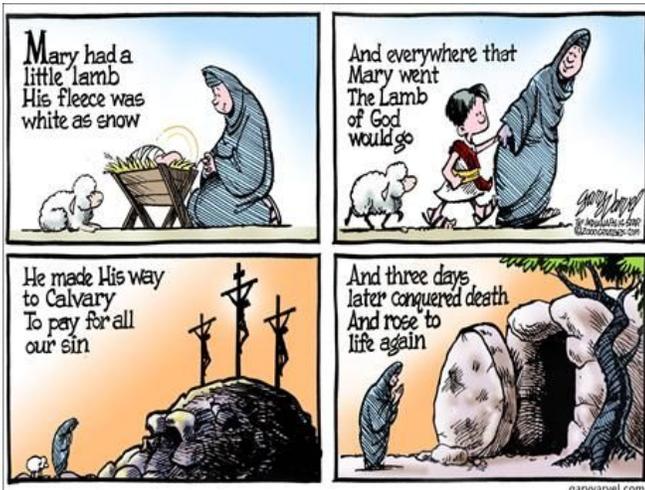


The crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection on Easter Sunday are foundational stories and images of our faith. As you ponder their meanings, may you feel the love of God towards you and may you experience the power of the Resurrection to transform your life.

Pastor Yvonne



I used this cartoon three years ago but it is still relevant.



Some Bible Trivia Answers

1. John the Baptist – Matthew 3:4-6
2. Jesus – Luke 21:20-24
3. The daughters of Philip – Acts 21:8-9
4. Nathan – 2 Samuel 12:1-15
5. Samuel – 1 Samuel 9:27 and 16:13
6. Balaam – Numbers 22

Doings at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Ministry with the Children

- April 07th – Pastor Yvonne (sermon), Christine Rose (downstairs)
- April 14th – Kathy Staton (sermon), Rita Whisnant (downstairs)

- April 21st – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)
- April 28th – Heather Kramer (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, **April 03rd** – March and April birthday luncheon, AJs @ 11:30 Everyone is welcome to participate. Be prepared to buy your own lunch.
- Thursday, **April 04th, 11th and 25th** – Psalms Bible study, pastor’s home @ 12:30
- Saturday, **April 13th** – yard sale and silent auction from 7-1 Ham, sausage and gravy biscuits will be for sale as well as coffee, juice and other baked goods.
- Thursday, **April 18th** – Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae service @ 7
- Sunday, **April 21st** – Easter Sunday
- Sunday, **April 28th** – Session meeting following worship

Birthdays

- Peggy Freeman – April 05th
- Dennis Abernathy – April 06th
- Patsy Carswell and Teeny Cobb – April 14th
- Doris Whisnant – April 20th
- Beth Bruder – April 25th
- Grace Glenn – April 27th

Mosaic Image: https://www.wga.hu/html_m/zgothic/mosaics/1clement/index.html

“The Trinity” image: <https://indiancatholicmatters.org/o-mystic-marvel-the-holy-trinity-by-masaccio-1425/god-the-father-and-christ-jesus/>

The Trinity sculpture: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/81487074486061865/>

Resurrection and Lamb cartoons: <http://jointhecrew.info/christian-easter-cartoons/easter-cartoons-the-back-pew-the-back-pew-christian-easter-cartoons/>

Cover image: <https://stushieart.com/2015/04/04/easter-sunday-art-anastasis-resurrection-by-stushie/>