

**“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”**  
**A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church**  
October 2019, Issue



## August and September 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.

### AUGUST

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,836.23
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$6,374.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$462.23)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in a <b>shortage</b> for the month	(\$502.48)

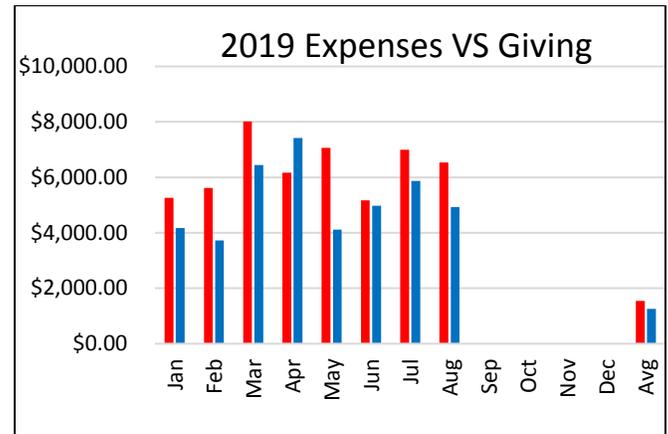
### SEPTEMBER

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 of 5 weeks)	\$6,836.23
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 of 5 weeks)	\$5,331.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$1,505.23)
Total Expenses (4 of 5 weeks) resulting in a <b>shortage</b> for the month	(\$1,096.39)

### YEAR TO DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (38 weeks)	\$64,944.19
Actual Tithes and Offerings (38 weeks) received	\$48,433.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> to this point	(\$16,522.19)
Total Expenses (38 weeks) This results in a <b>shortage</b> to expenses for the year	(\$9,164.69)

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the ‘picture’ of our YTD finances for September 2019 (through week 3 of 4):



Expenses VS Income

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### Session Highlights

#### Stated Meeting – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Session:

- Reviewed and approved the financial reports for July and August.
- Heard a report about a possible security system. It was determined that we are not able to install a security system at this time.
- Discussed the results of two conversations with Russ Reighley regarding outreach to the community. A motion was made and approved that we participate in the Backpack Ministry at Table Rock Middle School, providing food weekly for 7 students.
- Approved a congregational meeting for October 20<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of electing two elders for the class of 2022.

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### Some Bible Trivia

The theme for this month is: voices

1. Who heard the “still, small voice” of God?
2. In the Psalms, what trees are broken by the power of God’s voice?
3. Which Gospel mentions the dead awakening to the voice of the Son of God?

4. According to Proverbs, what lifts its voice in the streets?
5. Who heard God's voice in the Temple in the year that King Uzziah died?
6. Who heard the voice of Jesus many months after he ascended to heaven?

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### **The Pastor's Ponderings**

I was asked to share the following information by the person who asked the question mentioned below.

In one of the meetings with Russ Reighley, one of the members of the congregation asked, "Why do we always sit in the same seats?" Russ's answer was that most of us do not like change and so resist it as much as possible.

I offered two other theories. First, we sit in the same seats because church is one of the places where we can find some stability in our lives. When we enter the sanctuary, we are fairly certain of what to expect. The worship, the music, the people in the sanctuary with us, the leadership, etc. are familiar and therefore provide a sense of security and order to our lives. So, sitting in the same seat reinforces that sense of security. Second, we sit in the same seat each Sunday because we have experienced God in that location and want to keep that space open for more encounters with God. This is very similar to the Santa Claus Theory below.

Bobbi White told a story in response to this question that went something like this: she was in worship at a church in our presbytery and noticed that everyone sat on one side of the sanctuary. When she asked why, she was told that some years before, the roof of the sanctuary on the empty side had leaked and the people on that side moved to the dry side and never moved back after the leak was repaired. It seems that they always expected that side to leak again.

Jon Acuff, who is the bestselling author, has a few theories.<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. The Santa Claus Theory

Kids at Christmas sometimes get afraid that Santa Claus won't be able to find them if they go out of town for the holidays. Like maybe Santa doesn't know where Aunt Maude's house is and will show up where Timmy is 364 days a year and finding him not home will head back to the North Pole without delivering his presents. Maybe we think the same thing will happen with God. We've connected with Him before in seat 4 in the front middle row and if we move to the balcony one Sunday we're afraid God will show up to our old seat and say, "Whoa, you're not Mark. My bad. Where is Mark? This is his seat. Weird. I guess he doesn't want this blessing. Adios."

#### 2. The Visitor Identification Theory

At small churches, maybe people sit in the same seat so that it's easy to identify the visitors and show them some love. For instance, if you know that the first row, third seat down is affectionately known as the "Larry Shaw" because Mr. Larry Shaw has sat there for fourteen years straight, when a fresh faced young man sits there one Sunday, you'll know he is a visitor.

#### 3. The Clear Line of Sight Theory

I don't know what happened, but last Sunday my wife and I found ourselves in a forest of giants at church. We must have missed our normal section by a row or two because there were about a dozen sermon blockers forming a wall on every side. During worship, I couldn't really see the stage or the video screens that well and thought I would be forced to watch a reflection of Andy Stanley off the head of the sweaty scalped man in front of me. Maybe that happens to other people too. You realize where in the sanctuary you can see well, factoring in things like angle to worship, visibility of pastor, visual access to the baptismal [pool], possible cameraman obstacles etc. And then, on a piece of graph paper or perhaps an engineering program like AutoCAD, plot out your best

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<sup>1</sup> <http://stuffchristianslike.net/>

possible seat. Then you sit there for the next 30 years.

I know that being [territorial] about where you sit at church isn't the greatest way to welcome visitors, but as I confessed, my wife and I hang out in the same area every Sunday at church. It's not because of any of the theories above. We figured out the perfect spot for seeing the stage and making a lightning fast exit to get our kids after it's all over.

So, (your pastor speaking now) why do you sit in the same seat every Sunday?

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Now that you understand a little better why you might sit in the same seat, what might be some reasons to move to a different one? Chuck Lawless, who is Dean of Doctoral Studies and Vice-President of Spiritual Formation and Ministry Centers at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, provides some answers.<sup>2</sup>

1. Most of us get too comfortable at church in general. We develop all kinds of habits, like parking in the same area, going in the same door, following the same route to our small group room, sitting in the same place, and often going to the same restaurants after the service. Nothing changes – including, frankly, the depth of our walk with God. We also don't expect God to do anything different when we gather, and we then get what we expected.
2. You'll get to know different people. You might already know everybody in your church, but sitting among different people will give you opportunity to get to know somebody more deeply. If you don't know everybody, moving your seat will allow you to know somebody new. You'll appreciate the Body of Christ better.
3. You'll see and hear the service differently. It's strange, actually, how changing your seat

alters your perspective on the service. You look at the preacher from a different vantage point. You hear the music and the singing differently. You notice things about the building you had never seen before. You'll often even listen to the sermon differently, simply because everything feels new (and, if you think I'm nuts here, at least try it . . .).

4. You'll learn to be more comfortable with change in general. Here's my crazy suggestion: sit in a different place every week. Don't let yourself get stagnant in your approach to church, beginning with the simple decision of where you sit. Change your place each week, and you'll likely be more open to change as your church moves forward in the future.

So, (your pastor speaking again), surprise me and confuse me and change your seat for a Sunday or two ... or permanently. I dare you. Who knows, you might like your new location in the sanctuary better than your old location.

*Pastor Yvonne*

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WE VALUE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP HERE,  
WHICH IS WHY WE ONLY HAVE SEATING FOR  
EIGHT

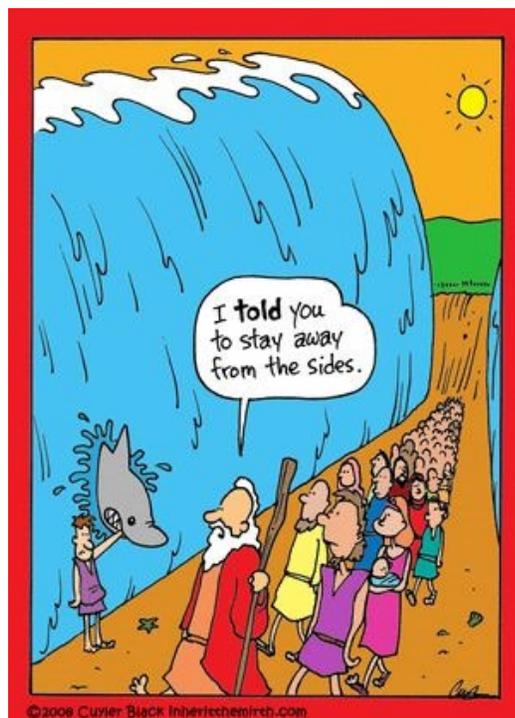
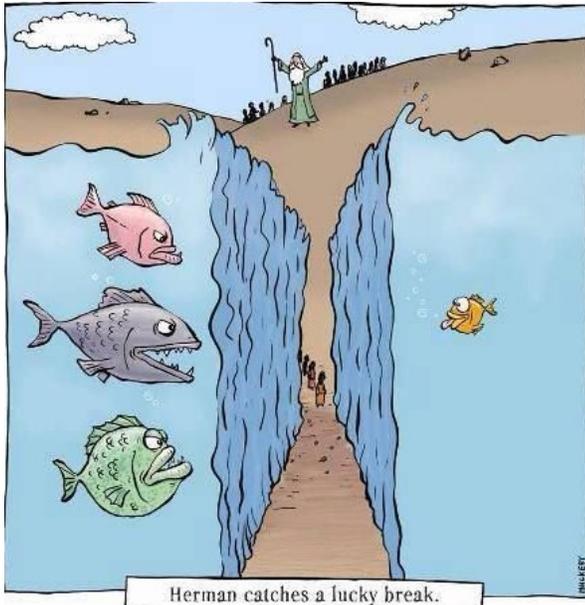
<sup>2</sup> <http://chucklawless.com/2017/08/6-reasons-to-sit-in-a-different-seat-at-church-this-weekend/>

## Some Bible Trivia Answers

1. Elijah – 1 Kings 19:12
2. The cedars of Lebanon – Psalm 29:5
3. John – 5:25
4. Wisdom – Proverbs 1:20
5. Isaiah – 6:8
6. Paul – Acts 9:4

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These next two are especially for you  
Elly, Lelia and Ruth.



## Doings at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

### Ministry with the Children

- October 06<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Yvonne (sermon, Christine Rose (downstairs))  
October 13<sup>th</sup> – Heather Kramer (sermon), Rita Whisnant (downstairs)  
October 20<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Staton (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)  
October 27<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Pershing (sermon), Lelia Bruder (downstairs)

### Upcoming Events

- Thursday, October 03<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – Bible study, pastor's home @ 12:30  
Tuesday, October 08<sup>th</sup> – September/October birthday lunch, Harbor Inn @ 11:30  
Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Covered dish lunch in fellowship hall for Pastor Appreciation  
Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Circle # 1, Ruth Preston's home @ 10:00  
Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – congregational meeting following worship to elect two elders  
Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Circle # 2, cookout at Mary Lou and Jimmy Furr's home @ 6:00

### Birthdays

- Carol Maxine Benton – Oct. 01<sup>st</sup>  
Greg Kramer – Oct. 03<sup>rd</sup>  
Ronnie Whisnant – Oct. 04<sup>th</sup>  
Judy Galey – Oct. 08<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Schoenen – Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Donna Harney – Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Lelia Bruder – Oct 15<sup>th</sup>  
Reid Withrow – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Dorothy Paschall – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Priscilla Schoenen – Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Naomi Kramer – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Austin Staton – Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

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Cover image: <http://clipartportal.com/religious-harvest-clipart-1/>