

“THE MEADOWS MESSENGER”

A Communication of Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

October 2020

“The LORD bless you
AND Keep you;
The LORD make His Face
Shine UPON you; AND BE Gracious
to you;
The LORD lift UP His
Countenance UPON you,
AND Give you Peace.”

NUM 6:24-26

August and September 2020 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 2020 = \$1,485.13. This figure is based on a total 2020 spending plan of \$77,227.00 which was approved by the Session.

AUGUST

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Total Tithes and Offerings needed (5 weeks) | \$7,425.67 |
| Actual Tithes and Offerings received (5 weeks) | \$6,915.00 |
| This results in a budget shortage for this month | (\$510.67) |
| Total Expenses (5 weeks) resulting in an overage for the month | \$5,245.67 \$1,669.33 |

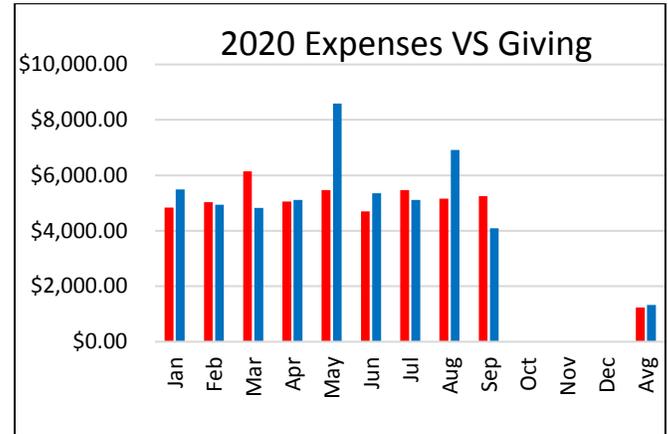
SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Total Tithes and Offerings needed (3 of 4 weeks) | \$4,455.40 |
| Actual Tithes and Offerings received (3 of 4 weeks) | \$4,092.00 |
| This results in a budget shortage for this month | (\$363.40) |
| Total Expenses (3 of 4 weeks) resulting in a shortage for the month | \$5,245.67 (\$1,153.67) |

YEAR-TO-DATE

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Total Tithes and Offerings needed (28 weeks) | \$56,435.12 |
| Actual Tithes and Offerings (28 weeks) received | \$50,425.00 |
| This results in a budget shortage to this point | (\$6,010.12) |
| Total Expenses (28 weeks) This results in an overage to expenses for the year | \$47,118.00 \$3,307.00 |

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our finances through 3 weeks of September 2020 (28 weeks):



Expenses VS Income

Session Highlights

Called Meeting – September 07th

The Session met with Tamika Garrison and Rick Leissner to extend a call to them to serve as co-commissioned pastors for this congregation for the next year. They will be commissioned at the Presbytery meeting on October 24th which will authorize them, from that point forward, to officiate at the Lord's Table and perform baptisms, weddings and funerals. Each of them will be responsible for preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, and administrative duties. They will receive \$220.00 for each sermon and worship leadership from October 04th through December 27th and will preach on a three Sunday rotation. Each of them will also have a small discretionary fund. They will report the expenses used from these funds to the Session – keeping the names of those receiving the funds and the exact nature of many of the expenses confidential.

Tamika and Rick's compensation package for 2021 will be included in the spending plan (the budget) which the Session will prepare and post for your information and review later this year.

What's Next?

Beginning on the first Sunday of October this congregation will be led by two people who have completed the The Church Leadership School, also known as the Commissioned Pastor (CLP) Training. Tamika Garrison is an elder in the Waldensian Church of Valdese. She is married and is the mother of two young boys. Rick Leissner is an elder at First Presbyterian of Morganton. He is also married. Both of them preached for me while I was on sabbatical last May and June, so they will not be total strangers to you.

On October 04th Rick Leissner will be preaching and leading worship with assistance from Barbara Ross. Barbara will officiate at the Lord's Table so that you do not miss the celebration of communion while Tamika and Rick are awaiting their commissioning by the Presbytery for full pastoral leadership.

As part of their coursework in The Church Leadership School Tamika and Rick completed the following classes: Old and New Testament Theology, Pastoral Care, Church Government, Preaching and Worship Leadership, Church Administration, Christian Education, and Special Services (Baptism, Ordination and Installation of Officers, Funerals and Weddings). So, they are well prepared to lead you and serve you for the next year(s).

Some Bible Trivia

The theme for this month is: the company of the apostles

1. Who healed the crippled man at The Beautiful Gate of Jerusalem?
2. What was Barnabas' original name?
3. Whom did the Sanhedrin put into jail for disturbing the peace?
4. Whom did Paul oppose when he met him in Antioch?
5. To whom did Jesus say, "Feed my lambs"?
6. Who preached to the intellectuals of Athens?

7. Who had a vision of a sheet filled with unclean animals?

The Pastor's Ponderings

Well, this is my last "Pastor's Ponderings" and I have decided to make it one of thanksgiving and blessing.

First, I am thankful that you folks have been the first church I served as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. I came here not exactly knowing how to be a pastor but willing to learn and grow, and willing to adapt as needed. My former experiences as a public school teacher, accountant with The Home Depot, student at Columbia Theological Seminary, and chaplain at Atlanta Medical Center prepared me for many things and gave me tools and resources to draw from, but there is no substitute for "on-the-job-training."

Thank you all for being patient with me and forgiving me when I made mistakes, did not meet your expectations or had a conflict or misunderstanding with you.

Thank you for praying for me and taking care of me when I was sick or needed something.

Thank you for all the gifts and cards to help me celebrate birthdays, holidays and other special occasions and for support in the losses of members of my biological family. I tried to send out Thank You notes for all the gifts but I know that I probably missed some along the way.

Thank you for sharing your stories, testimonies, joys and sorrows with me and for trusting me to baptize your children/grandchildren and to participate in the burial of loved ones you lost. Through these experiences I got to know you more fully and join you on your journeys of faith through all the seasons of life.

Thank you for trying new things that I introduced into worship and for participating in my Doctor of Ministry Project during this past Lenten season. Even though COVID-19 changed that

project from an in-person worship experience to an in-home one, many of you participated each week. I would not have a good and completed project to write about if you folks had not been committed to continuing worship in spite of COVID-19 and committed to supporting me in completing my doctoral degree. I am still working on finishing the paper, but I am well on my way.

Thank you for working with me to accomplish all the things we have done in the last eight years. I listed many of them in the letter I sent back in July, but I want to remind you of them again:

- The long-awaited fellowship hall was built and it has been a great asset to your ministry.
- Several times, God has provided you with the resources you needed, through donations, fund raisers and grants, to maintain and make improvements to the church's property:
 - a safer and more effective handicap ramp was built onto the sanctuary,
 - a significant water leak in the old fellowship hall was repaired,
 - a stinky plumbing problem in the downstairs restrooms was corrected,
 - a new roof was placed on the manse,
 - the church steeple was repaired and repainted,
 - a new lawn mower was purchased,
 - two sound systems were installed. The one in the sanctuary has made Sunday morning worship better for many people and allows the sermons to be recorded and shared with those who are absent from worship and others who listen online through your web site,
 - new carpet was installed in the sanctuary, making worship safer for everyone, and
 - now there is a new heating and air-conditioning system in the church.
- Through your generous giving you have also:
 - supported continuing education of young adults – yours and others – through

scholarships from the Henry Harney Scholarship Fund,

- supported education for all ages through the Guatemala Educational Scholarship Partnership,
- provided food and other items for Burke Hospice and Palliative Care, the Back Pack Ministry, and those who came to the pastor and the church for help from your food pantry, and
- provided financial support for members and neighbors who needed help with power bills, heating fuel, prescriptions, and other living expenses.

There is more ministry to be done and I am confident that Tamika and Rick will bring new energy and talents to your worship and service and that they will lead you well as you continue forward into the future that God has for you. If you past is any indication of what is ahead, God will do some mighty and miraculous thing in and through this congregation! I look forward to hearing about it in the years to come.

You will always have a special place in my heart because I love this church and this part of North Carolina. You will also have a special place in my heart because of how much I have grown as a pastor while worshiping and serving with you. I will remember you with love and gratitude and I will continue to pray for you.

As I close this last "Pastor's Ponderings" I want to leave you with the blessing I included at the end of my last sermon on September 27th. My deepest desire for you is summed up in Aaron's Blessing. They are words from God which have been spoken to God's people for over 3,500 years! They are ancient words, indeed, but they are also promises from God which have power and reality in the present. So, hear Aaron's Blessing, as I have adapted it for this day and time:

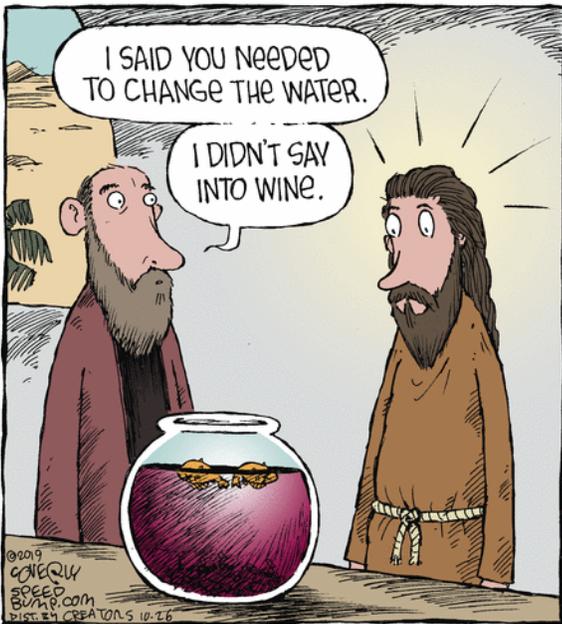
May the Lord continue
to bless you and keep you –
each one of you;

May the Lord God make his face
to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you –
each one of you;
May the Lord lift up
his countenance upon you,
and give you peace –
each one of you,
every day, forevermore.
Amen.

Pastor Yvonne

Some Bible Trivia Answers

- Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10
- Joseph – Acts 4:36
- Peter and John – Acts 4:1-4
- Peter – Galatians 2:11-21
- Peter – John 21:15-19
- Paul – Acts 17:16-34
- Peter – Acts 10:9-16



<https://www.gocomics.com/speedbump/2019/10/26>



<http://ellsworthiowa.us/Cartoons1.html>

Birthdays

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



Cover Image: <http://mel-is-a-fan.blogspot.com/2011/03/bible-verses.html>

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