

Synopsis of Session Actions - May 19, 2019

PRESENT: Moderator: Steve Mitchell. Elders: Jerry Cole, Linda Horky, Sharon Browning, Tom Clifford, Kathy Jones, Nancy Hamilton and Mary Miller (Church Treasurer). EXCUSED: Curtis Moore and Dianne Dalto (clerk). Presbytery of Charlotte Liaison Dale LeCount also present for the beginning of meeting.

DEVOTION: Nancy Hamilton opened the meeting with prayer.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY LIAISON: Dale LeCount, a lay member of the Committee on Ministry, stopped by to introduce himself to the members of Session.

REPORT OF THE CLERK: • Approval of minutes: April 7th (regular); approved as read.

TREASURY REPORT – (Mary Miller)

- Mary Miller (Financial Assistant) supplied hard copies of the financial balances as of 5/14/19
- BB&T Checkbook balance \$3,305 BB&T
- Savings balance: \$5,138 (undesignated funds)
- Undesignated funds are held in reserve to cover operating expenses in summer •

MINISTRY GROUPS –

- UPWARD/INWARD – Written report (Sharon/Kathy/Nancy)
 - Confirmation Update - Online class going well.
 - VBS – Committee will present plans and needs to Church on June 2nd. A music leader is needed, as Alex is not available. **Motion made that all volunteers are required to complete a background check via www.protectmyministry.com and are expected to cover the \$12.95 fee. Once completed, this certification is valid for three years. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.**
 - Brunch to honor the men of the church planned for June.
 - **Motion made to schedule brunch on June 9th and to re-schedule the June Session meeting for June 16th (Father's Day). Motion seconded and passed unanimously.**
- FORWARD – Written report (Jerry/Tom/Curtis)
 - A/C service is scheduled for May 29th.
 - Committee discussed Alex's use of vacation and sick days (4), and decided not to penalize her for unexpected sick days.
 - Queen's Grant HS requests to use church facilities for AP testing; approved by committee.

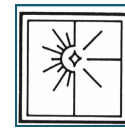
OLD BUSINESS –

- Moderator Mitchell reminded the Session to notify Barbara Smith with all changes to committee meeting schedules, as these dates should be noted in the weekly bulletin in the event any congregant wishes to attend. Barbara is also the contact person if an update needs to be made to the church's email list.

NEW BUSINESS –

CALENDAR REVIEW –

- Next Session Meeting: Sunday June 9th @ 11:15 a.m. (note day change due to Father's Day)
- Next Presbytery Meeting: Tuesday May 21st – Cook's Memorial PC @ 9:30 a.m. Motion made that Nancy Hamilton be designated as our Presbytery Commissioner at this meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.



Lectionary Gospel Texts

June 2

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Communion Served
 Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26
"Peace Unity and Purity . . . Really"

June 9, 2019

Sunday of Pentecost
 Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21
"A Higher Power?"

June 16, 2019

Trinity Sunday
Communion Served
 Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5
"Enduring"

June 23, 2019

Second Sunday After Pentecost
 I Kings 19:1-15a
 Galatians 3:23-29
"That Elijah Feeling"

June 30, 2019

Third Sunday After Pentecost
 Galatians 5:1, 13-25
 Luke 9:51-62
Freedom . . . Sort of"



In his recent book *Presidents of War*, Michael Beschloss describes at length several of our U.S. Presidents who were involved in major wars that the nation fought, every conflict from the War of 1812 to the most recent Vietnam experience. In his treatment of the Civil War, and how Abraham Lincoln dealt with it, the author notes that towards the end of the war, President Lincoln spent more time reading the Bible. He told one of his secretaries, John Hay, to read the Bible "as far as reason will take you, and then [read] the rest on faith, for in it one will find life and happiness." Indeed, Lincoln's speeches, the ones that have stood the test of time, tend to be profound in their use and understanding of Scripture. He found power and meaning in reading the Good Book.

Not just political leaders, but Christians of all types still read the Bible. Certainly, it is the basis for how we live our lives as people of the Reformed/Presbyterian brand of Christendom. It is our tradition to start with Scripture and discern where it is calling us to go and what to do as servants of the Christ. It is not the other way around, where we figure out what want to do, and then decide if Scripture has any prohibitions against what we propose. Scripture sets our purpose and not the other way around. That then, is why we study scripture as disciples, leaders in the church, parents, etc.

Unfortunately, a lot of people in Christendom go at it the other way, and employ Scripture texts that will agree with their opinions and particular comfort levels.

But what about just reading the text, and letting it speak without filters? For some Scripture becomes a rulebook, or an instruction manual on how to not fry when this life is over. And by extension, "Church" becomes a way reminding people what is acceptable and what is not.

I'm not sold on that approach, as I think that Lincoln was closer to the reality that reading the Bible lets you see what life in the presence of God is like, with all of its stories, psalms and admonitions. Reading the scriptures for more than just how to get to heaven, enables the reader to experience what it means to be in the kingdom of God now. For the Bible does not sugarcoat the messiness of being faithful, but shows people who live in God's light. Nor is the Bible is not a book for self-improvement, but a journey reinforcing the reality that God is with us no matter what, and that the promises of abundant life are not about establishing certainty, but recognizing that blessings can come in strange and difficult wrappings.

But all that is not going to stop people from using the Bible for their own purposes, no matter what the conviction is. The only thing that I will ask them to do is read the rest of the verse, for the writers of the Bible know that there is always more to the story...enough to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted"... as needed. Let scripture set the direction.

Faithfully,
 Steve Mitchell



Calendar Reminders

June 2	Worship with communion	10:00 a.m.
June 4	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
June 9	Worship Service (Pentecost)	10:00 a.m.
	Men's Brunch	11:15 a.m.
June 10	Session Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 10	Registration begins for VBS	
June 11	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
June 16	Worship with communion	10:00 a.m.
	Father's Day	
June 23	Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
June 24	Forward Ministry Meeting	6:30 p.m.
June 25	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
June 30	Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
	Upward Ministry Meeting	11:15 a.m.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

June 2	Deb Smith
June 5	Hannah Mitchell
June 7	Ashley Smith
June 12	Luca Kohles
June 16	Paul Nestor
June 17	Carmine Dalto
June 18	Alice Smith; Lilly Thefanie
June 21	Sally Highsmith
June 22	Joan Owen
June 25	Lynn Cromer
June 29	Mary Highsmith

TWELVE MONTHS OF GIVING . . . During the month of June we will be collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss and mouthwash for Servants Heart.



Volunteer Schedule

BEADLES/GREETERS

June 2	Travis & Sharon Meredith
June 9	Tom & Lynne Clifford
June 16	Lisa Pianka/Clara Hoeffler
June 23	Mary Miller
June 30	Curtis & Mary Moore

COUNTERS

June 2	Lynne Cole/Sharon Browning
June 9	Jerry Cole/Skip Smith
June 16	Jan Davis/Linda Horky
June 23	Tricia Bunn/Robert Hamilton
June 30	Lynne Cole/Sharon Browning

LAY LITURGIST

June 2	Deb Smith
June 9	Steve Guthrie
June 16	Steve Guthrie
June 23	Ted Highsmith
June 30	Ted Highsmith

NURSERY

June 2	Deb Smith
June 9	Clara Hoeffler/Beckie Boggs
June 16	Joe & Nancy Nestor
June 23	Don & Robert Kesler
June 30	Brenda McIntosh/Nancy Hamilton

MEN'S BRUNCH

On Sunday, June 9 at 11:15 a.m. the Fellowship Team would like to thank the men's breakfast team for buying our new coffee maker. We will have a light brunch as a thank you. Everyone is invited. If you have not already signed up, please call Nancy Hamilton at 704-847-6472 and leave a message.

Need a Little Home Improvement?

Let our ASP veterans help a bit. If you have some work to be done around the house and you need some physical expertise with a saw, a hammer or some painting...call on them, with Tom Clifford (704.654.5132) as the coordinator. We will do the work for free labor, just help with the materials and a nice donation to the ASP will help. We have some of those particular sets of helping skills that you need.



MorningStar Presbyterian Church partnered with Locust Presbyterian Church for a weekend Appalachia Service Project trip to Jonesville (Lee County, Virginia) on May 2-5, 2019. It involved travel on Thursday, May 2, to the center to be housed and fed during the work period, with work onsite Friday and Saturday, and returning to our home congregations Sunday morning the 5th. Participants included Tom Clifford, Bryan Smith and Steve Mitchell from MorningStar PC, as well as Amy Bates, Lee Ennis and Joan Hall from Locust PC, in Locust NC. We thank them for their work, ministry and witness.

And looking ahead to the Fall...the available weekend in the Jonesville center's schedule for a weekend only team will be September 26-29 (Thursday through Sunday). Cost should be the same for participants: \$130 which includes food and lodging while the team is there.

We are hoping to involve other congregations beyond Locust and ourselves. Let Steve Mitchell or Tom Clifford know if you want to be a part of this work...



Plans are underway for the return of VBS to MorningStar Presbyterian Church at the end of July, (July 29th through August 1st). The age range for children will be rising K through rising 5th graders. The theme for the week will be about Biblical heroes. The cost is \$8.00 to help cover the cost of the t-shirt. Hours are 9 am to noon, with snacks and a sitcom t-shirt for all the participants. Signups are easily taken care of through going to the MSPC website and following the link for VBS with the accompanying instructions for registration and fee payment. Kickoff for VBS is Sunday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m. Hotdogs, chips, drinks and dessert will be served. Hero firefighter and his fire-truck will be here. Please call the office no later than Wednesday, July 24 if you will be attending. Please leave a message if no one is available to answer.