



THE COLUMNS



February 2022, Volume 60, Issue 2

First Presbyterian Church
Waynesboro, Virginia

First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.

I know there is much uncertainty among the faithful here at FPC. Our lunch discussions about the future clarified certain important truths, but left us without a clear course into the future. The Session continues to wrestle with the question, what next? In the interest of transparency, here are three factors the Session has identified.

Energy. Our discussions confirmed the findings of the Church Assessment Tool, and what many of us have observed: there is little energy among our members. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers for even the most basic undertakings, and those willing and able find themselves called upon more and more, leading to exhaustion and burnout. With the resignation of Terry Crickenbarger, the Session has been reduced to five members, and the terms of three Elders expire this summer. The pool from which our leaders are called is getting smaller and smaller, and it is uncertain whether the congregation can undertake and support effective ministry.

Upkeep. Under the best of circumstances, our church facilities require utilities, regular maintenance and constant attention; since my arrival, serious issues with the HVAC systems have proven to be complex and expensive, and are nowhere near resolution; leaks in both the education building and sanctuary have required repair and remediation, including the replacement of some flooring; and unacceptable levels of mold remain in some classrooms. Added together, building and grounds expenditures often exceed our annual income.

Stewardship. How do we weigh the value of worship and fellowship in this place with the costs – financial, certainly, but also spiritual, as we look around see what used to be?

We will discuss these factors and more at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 20, following worship. In the meantime, keep the Session and congregation in your prayers. Pray for me, too.

Take care,



Sunday Morning Worship

Live service 11:00 a.m.
Simulcast at firstpresway.com

Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
– Friday – Closed
Pastor: Monday – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Music Notes for February

We are in the season of Epiphany, when we commemorate the first manifestation of the divine Christ. Over the centuries, the word “epiphany” has evolved to also mean (according to Merriam-Webster):

1. A usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.
2. An intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking.
3. An illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure
4. A revealing scene or moment.

Throughout the pandemic, much has been revealed. Life is not the same as it was two years ago, and we are all working through our new reality. With that in mind, here is a review of the music heard over the last year at FPC.

Services were still only online when 2021 began. From January until Easter, we recorded hymns, anthems and voluntaries with assistance from our audio/visual engineer, Craig Cavanaugh. Instrumental soloists included violist Celia Daggy, violinist Jake Roege and Cathy Cunningham playing harp, as well as our playing recorder/organ and piano duets.

What a blessing it was to celebrate the Risen Lord together – in person – at First Presbyterian Church! Even behind masks, the smiling eyes of the congregation lifted everyone’s spirits. Kathy Brown and Terry Crickenberger rounded out the quartet for the anthem on Easter, *The Strife is O’er*. On the second Sunday of Easter, Charles Simpkins played a minuet by Beethoven on the piano. And on the third Sunday of Easter, Cathy Cunningham shared her gifts with FPC, playing *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* on the harp.

In May, we celebrated Mother’s Day with Jacques Berthier’s *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*, sung by Terry Crickenberger and Joe Earhart. Cathy Cunningham, our resident harpist, played an arrangement of *Wondrous Love* and *Wondrous Cross* on 16 May. And Jean Hashagen sang *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* on 30 May.

On 23 June, Celia and Roger celebrated Father’s Day playing a minuet by Brahms. And on 27 June, Cathy and Mike Cunningham, Terry Crickenberger and Joe Earhart joined us to play a rendition of *Amazing Grace* on handbells.

Kathy Brown celebrated our nation’s birth singing *Lift Every Voice and Sing* on 4 July. On 11 July, the Blue Ridge String Quartet from the Heifetz International Music Institute in Staunton played the slow movement from the String Quartet by Maurice Ravel. Diane Kingsbury played organ on 18 July, and on 25 July, Cathy Cunningham played *Pantyfedwen* on her Celtic harp.

Diane Kingsbury played organ once again on 8 August, and Charles Simpkins played a piano rondo by Mozart on 15 August. Terry Crickenberger sang *Zion’s Walls* by Copland on 22 August, and violinist Isabelle Gorman played the fiddle tune *Ashokan Farewell* by Unger and the Allegretto from the *Sonata for Piano and Violin* by Franck.

In September, we began singing anthems with small ensembles, and are so grateful to Betsy Ruehl, Jean Hashagen, Cathy and Mike Cunningham, Bill Pannell, Terry Crickenberger and Joe Earhart for gathering to sing on various Sundays for the rest of 2021. Those anthems included *In Remembrance* by Red on 5 September, Hal Hopson’s arrangement of *The Gift of Love* on 12 September and *The Beatitudes* on 19 September.
continued

Music Notes, continued

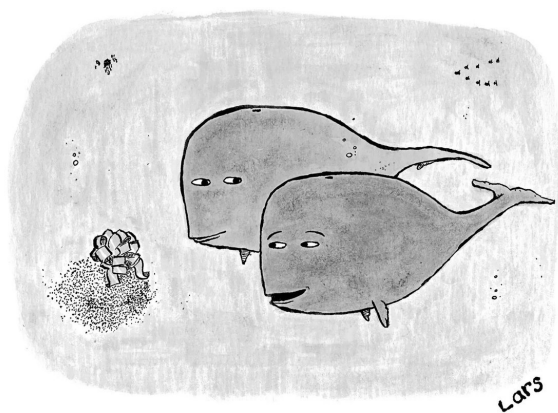
Resident harpist Cathy Cunningham opened the month of October playing *Shall We Gather at the River*. On 10 October, the choir assembled for the anthem *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*. The choir gathered again on 17 October for *All Praise to Thee* by Thomas Tallis. And Paul Jones shared his gifts on 24 October, singing the spiritual *Glory, Glory, Since I Laid My Burden Down*.

In November, FPC was blessed to hear Dr. David Berry, professor of piano at Eastern Mennonite University and the next artistic director of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. Dr. Berry played two of his own arrangements: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* and *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jerico*. (The piano was ready to roll around the Sanctuary with Dr. Berry's thunderous rendition!) Our choir assembled on 14 November to honor those who have served our country with *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* and again on 21 November for the final Sunday of the church year, singing *For the Fruits of this Creation*.

The season of Advent opened with three Taizé hymns: *Come, Come Emmanuel*, *Prepare the Way of the Lord* and *Wait for the Lord*. The choir came together on 5 December to sing Bach's arrangement of *Zion Hears the Watchman's Voices*, on 12 December for *Gabriel's Message* and on 19 December for *Creator of the Stars of Night*.

In the past, FPC has held a service of Lessons and Carols on during Advent. This year, the service moved to Christmas Eve, and what a lovely service it was! The choir sang three anthems, *Personent Hodie*, *Gabriel's Message* and *Rise Up, Shepherd*. Max sang with us for the service, as did Celia, who also played two viola solos - *I Wonder as I Wander* and *O Holy Night*. It was a blessing to gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord, singing the carols that have been in our hearts and minds for our entire lives.

As we enter the second year of the pandemic, may we all keep in mind that that, no matter what may be, God's love for us is eternal. May we share that love with all as we ask for God's help in being the Christians God has called us to be.



*Blessings,
Roger and Kimberlea Daggy*

*Happy
Valentine's Day!*

"A swarm of krill! How did you know?"

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 11, 2022

- Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Terry Crickenberger who is moving to Richmond to attend Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Rev. Pettit will be on Study Leave January 17-24. Terry Crickenberger will preach on January 23.
- Office Situation – Colleen is working remotely at home on an FPC-purchased laptop. Jean Hashagen helps coordinate with the office computer. Other volunteers answer the phone and attend the door during office hours.
- Financial Situation – Deposits are being made and bills paid. Many folks continue to support the church financially.
- Property Situation – There is mold in room 206 and a leak in the Fellowship Hall.
- Worship Committee – At present there is no replacement for the Worship Chair. Duties include supply liturgists, pulpit supply, calendar for communion and special services. Session plans to hold a daytime Maundy Thursday service on April 14. There will be no Lenten Luncheons.
- All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be held on February 8.

Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

O God:

Give me strength to live another day.

Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people.

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness.

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them.

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly
that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity.

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things.

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth.

Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness,
and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls;

In the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In the bleak mid-winter
when it's hard to see God at work.

Rev. Ken Rummer

Twelve degrees and cloudy-gray, with snow in the forecast. I'm looking out at Christina Rossetti's "bleak mid-winter."

Across the trail, the builders have a good start on a house for the last open lot in the new subdivision.

Several other houses are moving toward completion. Keeping an eye on the progress, I've been getting a picture of the step-by-step of home construction.

First comes a hole in the ground and big piles of dirt. Footings and foundations follow. Then framing and sheeting, shingles and house wrap, windows and doors and siding. All these proceed, weather permitting, with surprising speed.

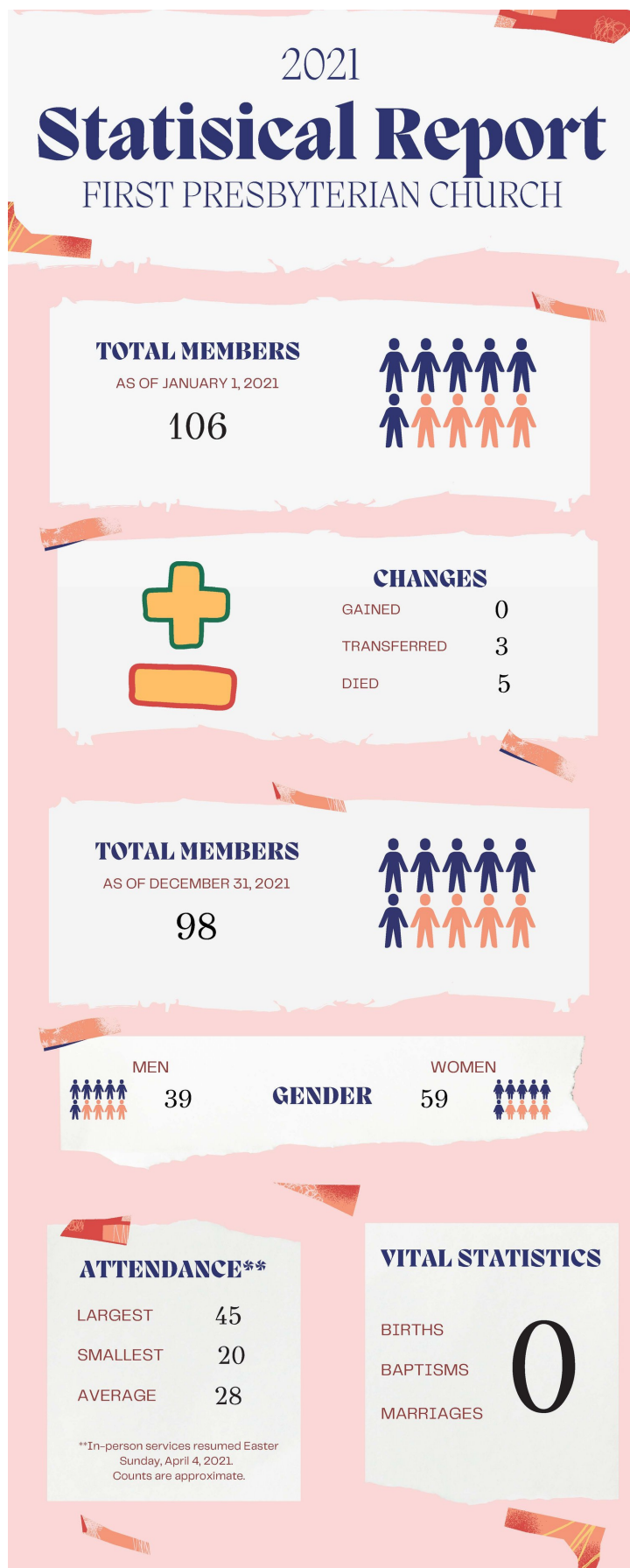
But then days and weeks go by with no noticeable change. From the outside, there's nothing new to see.

Of course, on the inside important work is being done: running wires, gluing pipes, insulating walls, hooking up the furnace, mudding sheetrock, laying flooring, nailing trim, hanging lights, spraying paint, setting countertops, grouting tile. The list is long, but the progress is hidden.

Fast and easy to see, but then slow and out of sight. I think the spiritual life may be like that.

When I look back over my journey of faith, the headlines stand out: the turning points, the guiding arrows, the prayers answered, the growth spurts. If I were a house under construction, those are the times when the progress of the builders would be easy to track. I also see times between the big moments when it didn't seem like anything was happening at all: no feeling of God's closeness, no whispers of revelation, no measurable growth.

continued





FOOD BANK
FEBRUARY 3
6:00 - 8:00 PM

FEBRUARY 10
2:00 - 4:00 PM

FEBRUARY 17
6:00 - 8:00 PM

FEBRUARY 24
2:00 - 4:00 PM



SESSION
FEBRUARY 8
2:30 PM

Construction, *continued*

If I were a house under construction, those are the times I'd wonder if the builders had been pulled off the job site to work on a different house.

But perhaps that's just when the construction has moved inside, with only a ladder in a window to hint that important work is still going on.

What might God be doing on the inside?

Wiring our hearts to handle a greater capacity for compassion? Patching the crack made by a slamming door. Cleaning the drink cans out of our duct work to unblock the flow of the Spirit? Installing lighting in all the dark, interior places we fear to enter? Adding faucets from which justice can flow?

The construction in our lives of love and joy and peace, the building of patience, the installation of kindness and generosity and faithfulness, the assembling of gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23 NRSV) – these, too, are inside jobs, hidden work.

So, if you are finding yourself, as I find myself, in a bleak, mid-winter season, if outside construction is at a stand still and spiritual growth is hard to see, then I invite you to watch for the electrician's van out front, or a light shining from a window in the darkening late afternoon.

God may be working in less visible ways just now, but God is working still.



Ken Rummer, a retired Presbyterian pastor, writes about life and faith from the middle of Iowa by the High Trestle Trail.





The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the U.S. That September, the Harvard-trained historian **Carter G. Woodson** and the prominent minister **Jesse E. Moorland** founded the *Association for the Study of Negro Life and History*, an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent. The group sponsored a national Negro History week in



Woodson.

1926, celebrating the achievements by African Americans and recognizing their central role in U.S. history. They chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.



Moorland.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976. Since then every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month theme for 2022, **Black Health and Wellness**, explores the legacy of *not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g. birth workers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.*



February 2 *Terry Crickenberger*

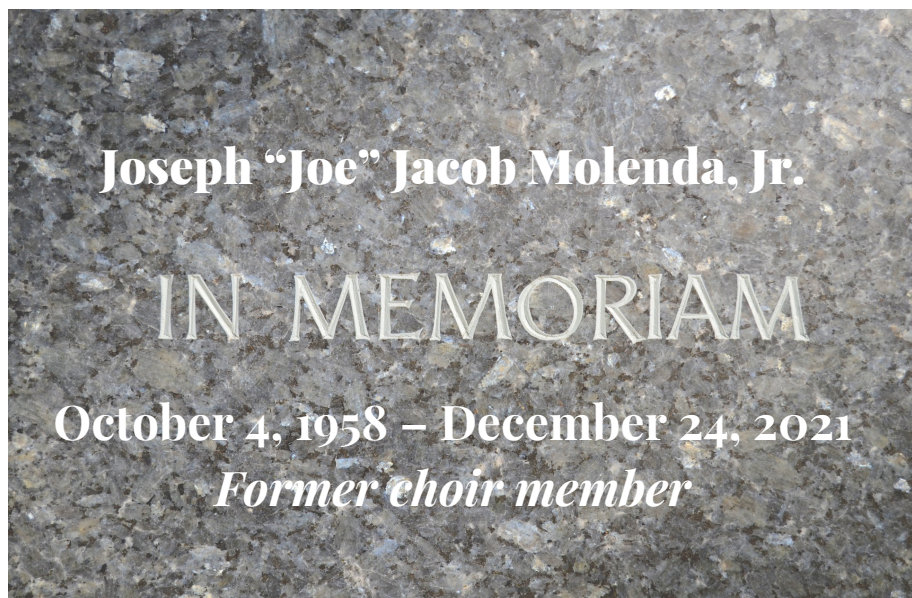
February 5 *Anne Johnson*

February 7 *Cathy Cunningham*
Nancy Snyder

February 16 *Amber Brown*
Sandi Henderson

February 18 *Phyllis Poluito*
Valerie Purcell

February 27 *Arnett Tomey*



Preschool Pics



IS IT

OR

PRESIDENT'S DAY,
PRESIDENTS' DAY



WASHINGTON
& LINCOLN'S
BIRTHDAY??

It may depend on where you live.

Although the holiday is most often referred to as "Presidents' Day", the observed federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday."

NEITHER CONGRESS

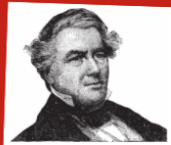
NOR THE PRESIDENT

has ever stipulated that the name of the holiday observed as *Washington's Birthday* be changed to *Presidents' Day*. Additionally, Congress has never declared a national holiday that is binding in all states; **each state has the freedom to determine its own legal holidays.**



Calling the holiday **Presidents' Day** helps us reflect on not just the first president, but also the founding of our nation, its values, and what Washington calls in his Farewell Address the "beloved Constitution and union, as received from the Founders."

Today, Presidents' Day is thought to honor all persons who have served in the office of president of the U.S.A....



...even this guy!**



Today, many calendars list the third Monday of February as "Presidents' Day," just as quite a few U.S. states do, too. All the 3-day retail store sales are called "Presidents' Day" sales and this vernacular also has been influential in how we reference the holiday.

IN 1968,
CONGRESS PASSED

the **Uniform Monday Holiday Act** to "provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays."

By creating more 3-day weekends, Congress hoped to bring substantial benefits to both the spiritual and economic life of the Nation.

**MILLARD FILLMORE. THAT'S WHO.

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