

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

February 2023



Well, well, well...just when you thought you were rid of me, here I am showing back up in the newsletter! You can't get rid of me that easily...

There is simply no way for me to adequately express my deep gratitude for the privilege of pastoring you, and being welcomed into the CPC family. It's going to be a strange transition for all of us, perhaps, but as I have said repeatedly, I am very confident that our relationship will continue in a new form.

These are challenging times for the American protestant church. Within the lifetimes of many of us, the "mainline" protestant churches were the backbone of American society. That, obviously, has changed. That doesn't mean the church in general, or the specific expression of it that we know as the Presbyterian Church (USA), is any less important or relevant than it ever was. What it means, however, is that we will have to be more deliberate, assertive and effective in being the body of Christ in such a way that people want to "come and see" how transformative, fulfilling and meaningful following Jesus can be.

In my last meetings with the Personnel Committee and session, I shared some thoughts

about ways in which I think CPC might adapt to changing times, while maintaining our fundamental commitment to faith in Christ. Change is hard, but it is an essential part of growth. Unwillingness to change is a self-imposed sentence to stagnation and, ultimately, death. St Maries in particular, and the body of Christ universal would suffer if that were to happen. So I hope all of you will energetically and hopefully share ideas with each other and your leaders on Session about what new ways the Spirit is calling you to be the presence of Christ in the community, and the world.

You will constantly be in my prayers, as I know I will be in yours. I look forward to joining you for worship and fellowship again in the near future.

With great gratitude, and all the blessings of God the Father and our Savior Christ Jesus, now and always,

Pastor John



MaryAnne Wheeler	2/08
Dennis Humphrey	2/13
Raymond (Ray) Wilson	2/13
Ellen Hinton	2/18
Pamela Anderson	2/20
Bridger Burns	2/21
John Shepherd	2/23
Jett Barbour	2/27
Sandy Treloar	2/28

BAZAAR FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

January 13, 2023

Our 41st Bazaar, held on Dec 2, 2022, was fantastic. A great day of reward for our labors and of sharing with friends. After paying our expenses and the sales tax, we had \$8527.00 to disburse.

Disbursements are as follows:

Capital Campaign fund:	\$5,000.00
Vacation Bible School:	\$ 500.00
Operation Christmas Child:	\$ 500.00
Suicide Prevention Awareness:	\$ 500.00
Youth Support (Headstart & Middle School)	\$ 500.00
Emergency Fund church:	\$ 300.00
Camp Scholarships:	\$ 200.00
Veterans Support:	\$ 200.00
Vacuum for church:	\$ 200.00
Lighted Cross:	\$ 200.00

The remainder of \$427.00 plus whatever the sheet music angels bring in will go for seed money for 2023 Bazaar.

THANK YOU each and everyone for your dedication, donations, and purchases!

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The Session

From the Book of Order

The session governs a particular congregation. It is made up of elders elected by the congregation, plus all the installed pastors on the staff, including pastors, co-pastors, and associate pastors. (G-10.0101)

The session is responsible for all decisions regarding the program and policies of its congregation, except for the two powers reserved for the congregation: the election of officers, including the pastoral staff, and the buying, selling, and/or mortgaging of church property. The constitution spells out 19 specific duties for the session. (G-10.0102, G-7.0304)

The session is composed of elders elected for specific terms of service as well as the installed pastor(s) and associate pastor(s). It is presided over by the moderator, who is the pastor or a minister member of the Presbytery when the pastor is not available. (G-10.0101, G-10.0103, G-14.0201)

The session elects its own clerk, who is called "Clerk of the Session." The clerk of the session must be an elder, but not necessarily one serving currently on the session. The session elects the clerk for such

term as it shall determine. The clerk of the session has many duties regarding the records of the church, and also serves as secretary of meetings of the congregation. (G-9.0203, G-10.0300)

2023 Elders

Mike Anderson	Class of 2023
Pinky Humphrey	Class of 2023
Bill Cowin	Class of 2024
Leon Armstrong	Class of 2024
Jenifer Miller	Class of 2024
Penny Carpenter	Class of 2025
Marianne Besaw	Class of 2025
Jane Thornes	Class of 2025

2023 Nominating Committee

Marianne Besaw, chairman
Clark Carpenter
Ginnie Oakes
Gail Barbour

2023 Personnel Committee

Bill Cowin, chairman
John Shepherd, congregational representative

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Last Will and Testament:

Steve had lived all his life in the Florida Keys and is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and his two sons are with him.

He asks for two witnesses to be present to record his last wishes and when all is ready, he begins to speak.

"My son, Doug, I want you to take the Ocean Reef houses."

"My daughter, Kelly, you take the apartments between mile markers 100 and Taverinina."

"My son, Kevin, I want you to take the offices over in the Marathon Government Center."

"Cathy, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the bay side on Black Water Sound."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holding, and as Steve slips away, the nurse says, "Your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property."

The wife replies, "The jerk had a paper route."
– Marjorie Martin

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## The Deacons

Acts 6:1-6

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch, They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Meaning of Deacon: "...the church chose the title "diakonos\*\*" that, in its most literal sense, means a person who serves food to other people in a home or a restaurant, perhaps even "slave." Since their duties required them to meet the needs of others, even washing the feet of travelers, it was not always the most enviable of jobs.

Why did the early church choose such a humble title for their new officers? Obviously they took it from the ministry and example of Jesus Christ who taught His disciples that if anyone wants to be first in the Kingdom of God he or she has to be the servant of all (Mark 9:35; see Is. 53 and the concept of the Suffering Servant).

\*\* *diakonos*: The most popular Greek word for minister which means, 'a servant,' or 'one who executes the command of another.'

The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Book of Order).

The Deacons of Community Presbyterian Church are organized as a board of which the pastor is an advisory member. Currently, our Board of Deacons is made up of the seven members who are elected by the members of our church at our Annual Meeting.

Deacons are normally elected for a 3-year term and they are on rotating terms, with 3 new members elected each year.

Our Deacons take responsibility for the following committees:

Bulletins, Shepherding, Coffee Hour, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Funeral Dinners, Home Communion, The Kitchen, Meal Coordinator, Potluck, The Prayer Chain and a representative to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Moderator: Kathy Martin  
Secretary: Sandy Treloar

## Committees

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bulletins:         | Lexie Barbour                  |
| Coffee Hour:       | Pam Anderson & Tei'Anna Osborn |
| Communion Prep:    | Pam Anderson & Sandy Treloar   |
| Funeral Greeter:   | Sandy Treloar & Lexie Barbour  |
| Funeral Dinners:   | Lexie Barbour & Gwen Edwards   |
| Home Communion:    | Kay Cowin & Gwen Edwards       |
| Kitchen:           | Pam Anderson & Tei'Anna Osborn |
| Meals Coordinator: | Gwen Edwards                   |
| Nominating:        | Pam Anderson                   |
| Potlucks:          | Kathy Martin & Kay Cowin       |
| Prayer Chain:      | Kay Cowin                      |
| Shepherding:       | Lexie Barbour                  |

## Classes

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Pam Anderson    | Class of 2023 |
| Kay Cowin       | Class of 2023 |
| Lexie Barbour   | Class of 2024 |
| Tei'Anna Osborn | Class of 2024 |
| Sandy Treloar   | Class of 2024 |
| Kathy Martin    | Class of 2024 |
| Gwen Edwards    | Class of 2025 |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Financial Secretary | Liz Hughes     |
| Treasurer           | Boni Schueller |

God's grace has blessed high school sweethearts Leon & Betty Esmay with 60 years of wedded bliss.



Valentine's  
Day  
February  
14<sup>th</sup>

### **NEW MEMBER CLASS "The Call to Discipleship"**

We all have different journeys. We come to Christian faith through many experiences and the zigs and zags of life. Common to all of us is our love for Jesus Christ. Presbyterian Christians have a history that stretches back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Protestant Reformation. Membership in the Church of Jesus is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission.

Membership requires Baptism so if you have not been baptized, that can be arranged also. The class is in development and will probably be held on Sunday mornings prior to church. This might be two or three sessions. All this is to be worked out yet but let an Elder on Session know if you are interested.

### **BAPTISM**

What is Baptism? Why should I be baptized? These are questions a lot of folks have in their faith journey. We are loved by GOD...He redeems us not because of what we have done or who we are.....He calls us to life and faith because of His grace.

One of the ways we experience God's grace is through baptism:

"Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all

people. Baptism is God's gift of grace and also God's summons to respond to that grace. Baptism calls to repentance, to faithfulness, and to discipleship."

(from the Book of Order, W-2.3006)

Your Elders are:

Bill Cowin, Jane Thornes, Leon Armstrong, Pinky Humphrey, Jenifer Miller, Marianne Besaw, Mike Anderson or Penny Carpenter.

### **ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING**

Today, I will live today.

Yesterday has passed. Tomorrow is not yet. I'm left with today.

So, today, I will live today.

Relive yesterday? No. I will learn from it.

I will seek mercy for it.

I will take joy in it. But I won't live in it.

The sun has set on yesterday.

The sun has yet to rise on tomorrow.

Worry about the future? To what gain?

It deserves a glance, nothing more.

I can't change tomorrow until tomorrow.

Today, I will live today.

I will face today's challenges with today's strength.

I will dance today's waltz with today's music.

I will celebrate today's opportunities with today's hope.

Today.

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Without our part-time Interim pastor now, we are on our own, truly.....and with GOD! This means we will be doing the best we can to provide Sunday worship; continue all the committee responsibilities; and find fill-in pastors to cover Communion, Session meetings, and special days. This means WE NEED EACH OF YOU.

Please search your hearts and offer to help out. This is not a job that just 6 or 7 lay members can carry well for very long. Reading the scripture on Sunday, reading the responsive Call to Worship, sharing the time with the

children, even giving the Sunday MESSAGE are open for your participation.

Your Worship committee members are Penny, MaryAnne, Barbara, Marjorie, Charlie, Beverly, and Mike. Let them know you'd be willing to assist! And the "sign-up" sheets on the bulletin board include Coffee Hour; Flowers; lighting candles; reading scripture.....just pick up the pen and write your name!



February 2<sup>nd</sup>

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If you want to, you can find a million reasons to hate life and be angry at the world. Or, if you want to, you could find a million reasons to love life and be happy. Choose wisely.

– Cari Welsh

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### The Feast Of St. Paul's Shipwreck



#### The History

While Paul was being transported to Rome as a prisoner, coming from Adramyttium in what is now called Turkey, the ship was hit by massive storms. As a result, the ship was severely damaged and was driven aground in Malta.

While he remained under Roman guard, he was welcomed by the islanders and some miracles were associated with his stay. According to Biblical accounts, he was bit by a snake but suffered no ill effects from it, and would end up healing the father of an island official, as well as a number of other islanders.

Paul was on the island for three months, and would then return to Rome. He would remain under Roman house arrest for another two years while he awaited trial. It's believed that Paul was killed sometime between the Great Fire of Rome and the end of Roman Emperor Nero's reign.

**Random Acts of Kindness Week 2023**  
**February 12-18**



# PSALM 27

## WORD SEARCH

A L G O O D N E S S E N T I W  
F L E N C A M P A E S I A R P  
R A L T I T T C M O T H E R E  
A H P A T H R E W S N A R K E  
I S M N O I T A V L A S A G P  
D R E T F A K E E S V S C N U  
E H T I S F F E N H R E O I E  
R D C B M N A H S O E L N V M  
I E R E D E I T F U S N F I E  
S L U A E G N A H S A U I L K  
E B E U L A T E G E L C D H A  
D M L T I R E R G A R A E N T  
A U T Y V U D B P L A I N B S  
Y T Y E E O M Y L I G H T D N  
S S T E R C E S E N Q U I R E

AFRAID  
BREATHE  
DELIVER  
FAINTED  
LAND  
PATH  
SECRET  
TAKE ME UP

AGAINST  
CONFIDENT  
DESIRED  
FATHER  
LIVING  
PLAIN  
SEEK AFTER  
TEMPLE

ANSWER  
COURAGE  
ENCAMP  
FORSAKE  
MOTHER  
PRAISE  
SERVANTS  
THINE HEART

BEAUTY  
CRUELTY  
ENEMIES  
GOODNESS  
MY LIGHT  
SACRIFICES  
SHALL  
UNLESS

BECAUSE  
DAYS  
ENQUIRE  
HOUSE  
ONE THING  
SALVATION  
STUMBLER  
WITNESS

JANUARY WORD SEARCH ANSWER: **RIGHTEOUSNESS**