

ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

February – March 2020

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The Pastor's Pen

We have started a new decade. Can you believe it is 2020? I recall thinking that the year 2000 would be a landmark year, and it certainly was. But something about 2020 stands out. Not because it is an election year...

Our church and congregation continue to be blessed with overall good health and good fortune. You remain steadfast in attendance, contributing time, effort, and finances. The job of the Session and staff is made easier under these circumstances.

Go ahead and give yourselves a pat on the back!! Many churches of all denominations would be envious of our situation.

But let us not become complacent. The work of the Lord continues regardless of local situations. Visitors return to our midst. Not because of convenience or a pretty building. Rather it is due to your gracious and loving connection to their presence. A kind and energetic greeting means a great deal to them.

Hopefully they are also returning for more music from a dedicated Choir. They realize our concern for others in our prayer time. They may even gain a thought or two from a sermon message.

You are important to the well-being of our members and friends and new friends to come. Never forget that.

Blessings, Pastor Fred

**SATURDAY MAY 2, 2020
YARD SALE DAY
YOU ARE NEEDED!!**

**SIGN UP TO WORK A COUPLE
OF HOURS EARLY, LATER IN
THE MORNING OR EARLY
AFTERNOON. NO VACATION
DAYS ALLOWED!!**

**IT IS THE BIGGEST FUND-
RAISER THAT OCCURS FOR
OUR CHURCH.**

**WE EXPECT TO SEE EVERY
ONE THAT WEEK TO HELP.**

FREE FOOD THAT SATURDAY

Brief History of women's activities in the church in 2019

- We hold a community yard sale every first Saturday in May. Victory Homes picks up unsold items to sell in their store. We gave them a gift for gasoline and their time.
- We participate with other Rabun County Presbyterian PWs to have a birthday celebration in May.
- Our treasurer shops for paper goods and supplies for all church bathrooms and kitchen.
- We hired a painter to repaint the white on 18 church pews.
- One of our members hosted students from Cumberland University who were supposed to go on a mission trip to Haiti to visit St. Joseph School in Haiti. PW gave money to cover her expenses. Haiti was under travel restriction.
- The church dishwasher was repaired.
- We had carpet cleaned in the church and fellowship hall.
- We replaced valances in Fellowship Hall and Library.
- We gave a donation to Richard's Kids for school clothing.
- We bought the workbooks for a life skills class that is taught to 10 inmates at the Rabun County Detention Center. Pastor Fred and PW moderator attended graduation of one of the classes.
- After three of our members attended a workshop in August, we gave a gift to Mission Haven for their construction work.
- We send money to Thornwell Home for Children quarterly.
- At Christmas we supported:
 - Sid Weber Memorial Cancer Fund
 - Richard's Kids
 - Heifer International
 - Thornwell
- In October four of our members went to a Women of Joy conference in Pigeon Forge, TN.
- During the summer, we traveled as a group to Social Circle, GA to dine at the Blue Willow Inn. One of our newer members, Pat Kuvick met us there. After lunch we enjoyed the gift shop and hearing about Margaret Mitchell's first wedding.
- We have an on- going blanket ministry, that sends a prayer blanket to members, family and friends as requested.
- We give Mother's Day offering to Presbyterian Homes.
- We participate in NEGA PW Birthday offering and Mission Pledge.

NEW ADDRESS:

Jenks and Joye Stonestreet
92 Glen Eagle 304B
Clayton GA 30525

Birthdays

February

1 – Bella Andrews
10 – Nancy Phillips
13 – Joye Stonestreet
19 – Noretta Sheffield
23 – Nancy Ferguson

March

10 – Judy Williams

Anniversaries

February

1 – David and Debbie
McKinney
4 – Ken and Jo Bonnette

March

23 – Sam and Mary Chalton

Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2019

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Receipts | \$92,314 |
| Expenses | \$76,875 |
| Fund Balance | \$130,913 |

ART THOU HE THAT SHOULD COME?

In the early days of television sitcoms, there was a cop-show titled 'Dragnet'. The main character, Sergeant Joe Friday, was a very solemn straight faced fellow who had just one request of the people he was interviewing, "Just the facts sir, just the facts."

That request for clear facts can be applied today when we are seeking solutions and answers. We don't want claims or data that is false or misleading.

In Matthew 11:3, we read that John the Baptist, as he resided in prison, was very concerned that his disciples were listening to Jesus and not to a false preacher trying to take credit for Christ's teachings and healings.

When two of John's disciples asked Jesus, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?". Jesus spoke to the men and He reminded them that the miracles that have been accomplished left no doubt that He was sent of God.

In verses 4, 5 and 6 of Matthew 11, Jesus wanted the men to go back and tell John of the blind that received their sight, the lame that now walk, the lepers that are clean, the deaf that hear and the dead raised up. In other words, Jesus was saying that action had spoken volumes!

During the 200 plus years of the commercializing in our nation, we have steadily lost the quality and essence of trust. The F.D.A. isn't verifying all the testing claims of products; we rely on that verification. Also in many areas the standard of pride in

workmanship has slipped. Our sense of safety and unconscious security is unraveling with each mall, school and church shooting. We often wonder what can we trust?

There are many solid truths that Bible students can always rely on. First is the assurance that the Bible is God's Word.

Second, Read John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."! Then study John 1:14 which tells us "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we behold his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.". Rest in the faith of these words.

Yes the man teaching, preaching, guiding and promising was, indeed, the real deal ... the truth and the life, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Products and other human beings will disappoint us from time to time and we must learn to not be surprised; saddened but not completely surprised. Just remember our Lord is always near and He is still in the healing, listening, showing, and most of all loving business. Rely on Him, He has always given us just the facts, the truthful facts for our well-being.

Suzanne Muir

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Clayton Presbyterian Church February 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Elder of the month – Sharon Spivey | | | | | | 1 Bella Andrews |
| 2 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Souper-Bowl Fellowship David and Debbie McKinney | 3 | 4 Ken & Jo Bonnette Presbyterian Women 10 AM NA group 7 PM | 5 | 6 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM | 7 Session – 10 AM Open for Personal Prayer | 8 |
| 9 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM | 10 Nancy Phillips | 11 NA group 7 PM | 12 | 13 Joye Stonestreet Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM | 14 Open for Personal Prayer | 15 |
| 16 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM | 17 | 18 NA group 7 PM | 19 Noretta Sheffield | 20 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM | 21 Open for Personal Prayer | 22 |
| 23 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Nancy Ferguson | 24 | 25 NA group 7 PM | 26 Ash Wednesday | 27 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM | 28 Open for Personal Prayer | 29 Presbytery Meeting in Athens |