

ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

April – May 2020

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Easter Lilies have been ordered. Please let the church office or Fred know if you would like to reserve a lily in honor or memory of a loved one.

Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Mar. 27, 2020

Receipts	\$21,933
Expenses	\$22,607
Fund Balance	\$109,443

A MEMORY HYMN

When my husband's father, Robert Lindsey Muir, came to the United States from Ayres, Scotland he brought with him an array of skills and unique talents. One of those talents was the ability to draw and paint pictures. His gifted skill would produce vivid paintings that would take your breath away.

Robert Muir's personal manner was a quiet man but from that peace his paintings spoke volumes about his home land. Whether it was a bagpiper in full kilt array or his own personal love of animals back home in Scotland the scene made you stare mesmerized in wonder.

When Robert Muir passed away, he was honored with a full service as the organist played AMAZING GRACE with the bagpipe tone resonating throughout the entire cathedral. That moment was sad but very beautiful. To this day it is difficult for my husband Colin to hear the piping of that marvelous hymn without an immediate recall of that special ceremony.

My own personal memory hymn is THE OLD RUGGED CROSS. My precious granddaddy was the song leader at our church when I was baptized at age 13. He watched me accept Christ as my Saviour then he tried his best to lead the congregation in my special song. He broke down half way through but the congregation continued on. Tears come to my eyes each time I sing that song even though 66 years have come and gone.

Every Bible student has at least one special hymn that takes them back in time to a special event or the people. Dr. Billy Graham had a favorite hymn he always used when at the end of his sermon and he called the audience to come forward to the altar. The title says it all...JUST AS I AM! We come to our Lord just as we are indeed, needing to be filled with His love and promise.

Suzanne Muir

The Pastor's Pen

I am sure there are dozens if not hundreds of scripture verses that could be of comfort to us during these unprecedented times. However, I continue to return to those times when our Lord, Jesus Christ, spoke these words, "Do not be afraid." The location and circumstances varied, depending on if you read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

It seems as if it was just a few short weeks ago that we learned of this strange flu-like virus called covid-19. Well, it was. Some even made jokes about it. In retrospect, we should have known better. It now has spread across our country, while every country in the world is also suffering, some worse than ours.

This new thing called "social distancing" will surely be the "word of the year" next year. And at some point we will be able to share our stockpiles of toilet paper with each other.

While we try to make the best of this challenge, we have missed out on worship and fellowship together. While I must apologize for not being able to "broadcast" a worship service, we may just learn new things like that very soon.

I pray that all remain safe and healthy, as best you can. Continue to pray for each other and our country, as well as those suffering across the globe.

We look forward to the day that we join together again and celebrate our common love for the Lord. We might even have a revised Easter service, no matter what the date may be.

I appreciate and thank those of you who have continued to keep in touch with members and friends, and checking on their welfare and health issues. Keep me informed of issues, challenges, as well as joys.

Blessings to you
Fred

Birthdays

April

- 2 – Alexandra Givens
- 12 – John Maclean
- 14 - Henry Newman
- 15 – Dan Miller
- 16 - Barbara Shafer
- 19 - Shirley Boyle
- 19 – James Chestnut

May

- 4 – Jo Bonnette
- 4 – Blant Ferguson
- 12 – Gwen Kempin
- 26 – Pat Myers
- 27 – Ronnie Balkcom

Anniversaries

April

- 1 – Rick & Sharon Spivey
- 7 – Bryan and Pat Kuvick

May

- 16 – Ron and Anne Spearman
- 17 – Blant and Nancy Ferguson

Face Masks

If you would like to volunteer to sew face masks, a pattern can be found at www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern. The Church will distribute the masks to the local nursing home, health care workers and clinics.





Haiti Notes

Natalie's group of fifteen from Cumberland University returned safely from their week of mission work in Haiti. The group led a two day leadership conference with a focus of servant leadership - demonstrated in part by the group performing foot washing on participants, including a miracle suicide survivor who was not expected to live after ingesting battery acid but is now an enthusiastic preacher for the word of God.

The group made food deliveries to the poorest of the poor, poured concrete, and planted fruit trees, and spread lots of love and Godly worship.

Additional challenges above the usual ones were endured – being detained by militants seeking bribes, increased threat of kidnapping which resulted in a red travel ban 'Do Not Travel', direct visual display of Haitian justice, their plane hitting a bird causing an unscheduled overnight delay in leaving, and returning to the devastation of the Nashville tornado.

The students hope to return. Why? The Haitian culture is a communal society very much human centered. Their joy stems from family and friends. They have such generous hearts, gladly sharing whatever they have and praising God with ever thankfulness. It makes an impression that overcomes everything else.