

# ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church  
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

September 2018

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## Birthdays

### September

- 9 – Maddie Clark
- 11 – Lindi Newman
- 15 – Jennifer Randall
- 15 – Bill Elliott
- 17 – Fred DiMaio
- 21 – Suzanne Holcomb
- 22 – Gene Roberts
- 23 – Bettye DiMaio
- 24 – Linda Farr
- 25 – Kerstin Dreher
- 27 – Bob Mott

## Anniversaries

### September

- 13 – Bill and Janice Elliott

## Clay in the Hand of the Potter

This is a brief report, in the vein of returning to school and the teacher asked you to write, "what did you do on your summer vacation?" During the summer, when PW don't have regular meetings some of the women accepted Sharon's generous offer to come "play in the clay." Making a piece or two of pottery sounded like fun.

The words to that familiar hymn, Have Thine Own Way, Lord "Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still!" will never be the same again for those of us who participated. The first day, you have to take clay, not totally unlike modeling clay of grammar school days, but you have to press it and roll it out until it can become molded into something you vaguely imagined. Sharon had gathered not only the clay and all the equipment to work with the clay, but she had collected various materials that we could use to impress or imprint on our pieces.



They were leaves, sea shells, doilies, pine cones, Queen Anne's lace, rubber stamps, cookie cutters and more. Hearing her talk, and seeing some of her own pieces, spurred our imaginations to see what we could create.

Let's go back to the line of the hymn about being yielding. You see raw clay has a high-water content. It's very easy to make impressions. It is very malleable, and it doesn't stand up as you would like it to if you want to make corners, or even a standing piece. At the end of the first day, we had to leave our pieces to dry out before we could paint or dip them.

Now a Biblical reference to clay and the Potter:

*Jeremiah 18: 1-8 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup> "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message."<sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup> But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so, the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. <sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me. <sup>6</sup> He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup> If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup> and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.*

After at least a week of drying, we went back to paint or dip our pieces. At this point they could stand on their own but if there were changes we wanted to make, they could be made. The treatment was painting or dipping pieces to give the color and contrast that would become the final piece. If you wanted to remove the leaf from your piece you could or you could leave it to burn off in the kiln. One of the things that we did on this day was waxing. We applied the wax to protect



*2 Corinthians 4: 7  
But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*



contrasting colors. The bottoms of some pieces had to have wax to protect them from the heat of the kiln. We placed some pieces on spacers so that they wouldn't stick to the kiln shelf.

Then our pieces were ready for the heat of the kiln. This isn't shake and bake, this takes time, a lesson I think that we all came away with—making pottery takes time.

The final day we came to see what the results of our efforts were. Some looked very nice. Most of us could see areas that we would have done differently, but aren't our lives like that? We look back and we say, I could have done better. But there are some points in life, just like the kiln, that once you pass those points, your life, just like the pottery is set. You may be able to smooth a few pinpoints but the basic form has to remain.

Miriam Risher

These are other samples of scripture that refer to clay and the Potter.

*Romans 9:20-21* But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"<sup>21</sup> *Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?*

*Isaiah 45:9* "Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'The potter has no hands'?"



*Job 10:8-12* "Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me?"<sup>9</sup> Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again?<sup>10</sup> Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese,<sup>11</sup> clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews?<sup>12</sup> You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.

## Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2018

Receipts	\$61,067
Stainback Gift	\$20,000
Expenses	\$48,031
Fund Balance	\$120,498

Clayton Presbyterian Church

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# Clayton Presbyterian Church September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elder of the month – Richard Boyle</b> <b>Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 9</b> <b>Pastor Fred and Carol will be on vacation September 11 - 26</b>						1
2 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	3	4 Presbyterian Women 10 AM  NA group 7 PM	5	6  Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	7  Open for Personal Prayer	8
9 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	10  Session – 10 AM	11  NA group 7 PM	12	13  No Choir NA group 7 PM	14  Open for Personal Prayer	15
16 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Rev. Blant Ferguson	17	18  NA group 7 PM	19	20  No Choir NA group 7 PM	21  Open for Personal Prayer	22
23 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Rev. Blant Ferguson	24	25  NA group 7 PM	26	27  Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	28  Open for Personal Prayer	29
30 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM <b>HYMN SING</b>	<b>Sunday, September 30 – Hymn Sing Sunday; Fellowship Dinner at Black Rock</b>					