

ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

December 2018 – January 2019

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Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Nov. 30, 2018

Receipts	\$103,176
Expenses	\$73,410
Fund Balance	\$115,655

The Pastor's Pen

Somewhat unbelievably, another year has passed. Our church family has endured loss, sorrow, health issues, struggles and more importantly, great joy and happiness.

I would be remiss if there were not a great deal of 'thank you's' issued as well. Without naming names and someone being forgotten, all who had a hand in church activities deserve a big "job well done." Whether it was a Sunday worship service, fellowship time refreshments, flowers, cleaning up, washing up, setting up or helping through a committee. If you helped in any way with the yard sale, game night, made announcements, donated of your time or talents, brought food for a funeral or dinner, thank you....

Those who made suggestions for our worship services, thank you. I may not have implemented a suggestion, but it was not ignored.

Thank you to those who led worship services when Carol and I were gone. And especially to the choir members who always did their very best.

Through it all, your love and devotion was at the forefront.

Most of all, thank you to our Lord and Savior who brought us together.

Have a blessed Christmas season and Happy New Year!!

Pastor Fred

Take Up Your Cross

One of the wonderful things about being a Bible student is the enjoyment when a puzzling passage can be understood. I have recently noticed there is a phrase that is used often in the New Testament ... "take up your cross and follow me". It is the 'take up your cross' that I didn't fully understand.

In the Life Application Bible, New International Version the commentator's explanation of the people in Jesus' time frame was helpful. The Romans used the large wooden crosses as a form of execution for the dangerous criminals. A prisoner carried his own cross to the place of execution, signifying submission to Rome's power.

Jesus' use of the cross represented a special meaning for His true followers...wanting to illustrate the ultimate submission of releasing our personal will which is required of His followers. The effort implies a need to do His will even when the task is difficult or the future looks bleak. Jesus wants us to chose (freely) to lose the earthly hold on our lives and replace that with His teachings and promise of eternal glory. To release the earthly pull from our past decisions and actions, clearing our minds and hearts for Him.

As our Lord said in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.". Awareness of and acknowledging your sins, asking for forgiveness then releasing them from your mind and focus completely upon the Lord.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:34-38). That one line wraps up the entire meaning of our salvation. Turning from the world's pull and depending completely on

our Lord is to walk that narrow road to eternal glory.

One of the most difficult practices for humans is to 'bury' our past mistakes and poor decisions. The healing process is to acknowledge your sins to our Lord, ask His forgiveness and KNOW that He hears you and washes away that sin forever. Your job is to believe and bury those sins from your thinking. But you must also stop tilling them up and trying to relive them. Stop hanging on to them.

As we come into our holiday time of giving thanks, rejoicing at His birth and the humble knowledge of His sacrificial death upon His cross, we know His love for us is full and complete. May we remember to stay totally focused on His cross and take up our cross, or better yet, remove our cross never to be thought of again.

Suzanne Muir

Inclement weather during the winter



In the event of inclement weather that would affect travel to a Sunday worship service you will be notified primarily via a call or email or text from your Elder. Hopefully this will be done by 9:00 that Sunday morning.

If you have any concern and have not been notified, turn on the local radio station 96.3. They should be announcing church cancellations. Or call your elder to be sure.

Elder assignments will be changing in January and a new call list is forthcoming.



**Ordination and Installation of
Elders Bob Mott and Sharon Spivey**

Session highlights from October/November

- New refrigerator was purchased and installed.
- Approved PW request for "Church Parking" signs to be installed.
- Approved expenditure of up to \$3800.00 to replace sanctuary pew cushions.
- Approved concept of "children's time" during worship service.
- Discussed status of repairs/painting of building.
- Approved donations as follows: to Flint River Presbytery for Hurricane Michael relief; balance of local mission giving to be sent to Community Pantry.
- Denied request from Hispanic group based in Canton for facility use twice a week.
- Discussed 2019 budget. Will review and/or approve in December.
- Approved motion to have a landscape plan drawn up by Landscapes by Sunshine.
- Approved church secretary, Melanie Deitz to attend Administrative Personnel Seminar in Gainesville on November 9.
- Approved vacation leave for Pastor Fred and Carol for last weekend of December. Rev. Ferguson to lead worship.

Birthdays

December

6 - Richard Boyle
10 - Rick Spivey

January

14 - Phyllis Murphy
18 - Emma Spivey
20 - Ginny Fagen
20 - Bill Farr
23 - Sam Chalton
24 - Helen Roberts
27 - Frank Holden
29 - Jef Fagen
30 - TC Williams

Anniversaries

January

20 - Colin and Suzanne Muir

Coming Events

Christmas Eve Service

Our annual Carols, Communion and Candlelight worship service on Monday, December 24th will begin at 6:00 pm.

Game Night

Wednesday, January 16, 5 - 8 pm

Children's Presentation of Noah's Ark

during refreshments on Sunday, January 20.

Clayton Presbyterian Church December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder of the month – Dan Miller Pastor Fred and Carol will be out of town Dec. 25 – Jan. 1.						1
2 1st Sunday of Advent Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	3	4 NA group 7 PM	5	6 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	7 Open for Personal Prayer	8
9 2nd Sunday of Advent Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	10	11 NA group 7 PM	12	13 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	14 Open for Personal Prayer	15
16 3rd Sunday of Advent Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	17 Session – 10 AM	18 NA group 7 PM	19	20 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	21 Open for Personal Prayer	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 PM	25 Christmas	26	27 Office closed No choir NA group 7 PM	28 Open for Personal Prayer	29
30 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Rev. Ferguson	31					