

ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

February – March 2019

The Pastor's Pen

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Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018

Receipts	\$111,091
Expenses	\$81,504
Fund Balance	\$115,655

Our church family was hit with the loss of two cherished ladies in late December – Betty Anne Griffin and Norma Jean Craker. Both had contributed greatly, in their own special way, to the life of this church; Betty Anne, with her penchant for jokes and stories and Norma Jean for her understated musical leadership. All who knew them appreciated their contributions.

Your prayers, concerns, cards, meals and phone calls remind me of the friends that joined with Job at his lowest point. They came from far and wide to sit with him silently sharing his grief and fear for seven days. They gently helped their friend transition through his trouble.

You also have been there for our friends in need – not just the past months, but whenever it is needed – those who share meals, those who invite others into their home, those who just visit. All these contacts serve a purpose – the purpose of a community of faith. Loving your neighbor as yourself and lifting each other up is keeping the promise of a Lord who never gives us more than we can handle – a Savior whose grace is freely given to all the children of God.

Thank you for being attentive and giving, and for having servant hearts.

Blessings,
Fred

He Left Glory to Become Flesh

As we reflect back over 2018, one point keeps entering our thinking, how many natural and freak disasters have occurred. This acknowledgement is humbling and very sad. Our fellow human beings have come face-to-face with immediate loss, homelessness and bleak forecast.

Watching all the stories about the responders we are reminded that we are required to offer aid in some manner. Our Lord came to earth to serve and whether the trials of today are affecting us directly or others indirectly, how we react must exemplify Christ.

An outstretched hand can be a tool to help or a plea for aid. There is an old Southern saying that sums up a situation, 'he is down on his luck.' Instead of the word luck, the correct term should often be 'he is down on life.'

How many times, in the Bible, do we read where our Lord reached out His hand? Whether it was in the consecration of laying a hand upon a head to calm or to heal, that gesture, that touch was gentle yet mighty.

His hands touched others, He healed, He blessed, He prayed, He washed, He clasped in friendship and through all this He was lovingly teaching us.

Joshua 4:24 enlightens us, "That all the people of earth might know the hand of the Lord that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever." To fear is to revere, to hold in deep affection and respect. Our Lord's might was filtered with love and concern for our spiritual life, that is why we trust Him.

Yes, He left Glory to become flesh for our sake. He endured being lower than the angels so He could teach and encourage us. He died upon the cross to save us. He who was sinless became sin for us. Cherish this loving sacrifice. Exemplify him by becoming a servant. Need is all around us, be aware.

The hand of the Lord was with the early Christians.

"And the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21). Connect with another human being whether by smile, touch or deed. You may never know that one who is in need of your uplifting connection but always let others 'see' the Bible through your attitude and your deeds.

He is powerful yet loving, just, merciful, righteous and forgiving. This is why we trust our King. He came to save us and He came to be our much needed example.

Suzanne Muir

Birthdays

February

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

March

- 10 – Judy Williams

Anniversaries

February

- 4 – Ken and Jo Bonnette

March

- 23 – Sam and Mary Chalton

Clayton Presbyterian Church February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elder of the month – Bob Mott					1 Open for Personal Prayer	2
3 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Souper-Bowl Fellowship	4	5 Presbyterian Women 10 AM NA group 7 PM	6	7 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	8 Open for Personal Prayer	9
10 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	11 Session – 10 AM	12 NA group 7 PM	13	14 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	15 Open for Personal Prayer	16
17 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	18	19 NA group 7 PM	20	21 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	22 Open for Personal Prayer	23 Presbytery mtg In Augusta
24 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	25	26 NA group 7 PM	27	28 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM		