



Volume 19
November-December 2020

The Newsletter

New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw
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Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

This letter closes out the year of 2020, but it is still October as I write this. I noticed, just now, a CD beside my computer that said, "N. W. PC Oyster Roast 22 Feb. 2020." I thought there must be a mistake; it can't be 2020! Scrolling through the pictures that Racine took last winter, I saw our congregation gathered at the DuPre's home by the creek, enjoying delicious oysters and fellowship around the rising steam of the cookers. A pelican is in the foreground, waiting for a hand-out. Teenagers were talking and watching this big bird calmly sitting amidst all the gathering like it belonged. People were smiling and enjoying themselves, close together and not wearing masks!

I would like for the church to remain in that idyllic picture stored on the plastic disk, or as imprinted upon our collective memory. This brings us to the moment, to the cusp of a new year and a question that has arisen like the tip of an ice burg in the sea. What is the meaning of New Wappetaw Presbyterian?

With so many changes all at once, coming as they have in rapid succession, I have gone to the Psalms and Isaiah in my search. Specifically, Psalms 23, 46 and 91; also, Isaiah 40:28-31. More than likely, these beautiful words were penned during a time of upheaval, a time when God's people were either being torn from their homes and taken into exile or just returning and finding everything destroyed. "See what desolation the Lord brings to the earth," the Psalmist says. At the very same time, these words are expressed: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change; though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam...there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God..." "Have you not known? have you not heard?"—the Prophet says—"the Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth..." Listen to this: "You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who dwell in the shadow of the Almighty..."

When everything around them was falling apart, these amazing words arose from people like us, who have been, of course, empowered by the Spirit. It was not the institutions or the traditions or the land, even, but God. The focus and the trust were in the Almighty. Somehow that trust was given them, brought down to them like rain from on high. They were like the dry and thirsty ground that received it gladly, not the soaked soil that causes it to run off.

I am not sure if it was God who brought about the desolation to compel the people to change their ideas. I have often wondered about that. The One who brought order out of chaos is not likely to do the reverse. I think the Psalmist and the prophet discovered God afresh in the desolation, and this was the learning that changed everything.

We do not know what the future holds, or what the present means. But together, and with God's help, we will figure it out. We will trust God as the Psalmist did many centuries ago.

God bless you, and I love you.

Steve

Christian Sympathy: The congregation extends Christian sympathy to the family of Andy Capps, son of Celie and Avon Capps, on his death September 17, 2020. A memorial service was held at the Robert Ashley Landing, McClellanville, on September 26th.

November Birthdays

Joanna Morrison	November 6
Killian Morrison, Zack Stroman	November 8
Lonnie Morrison	November 9
Mary Duke, Caroline "Baker" Leslie	November 11
Jerry Hicks, Charles Leland, Linda Salters	November 19
Alicia Bruner, Matthew Tarry	November 21
Mary Davis	November 22
Kimberly Souther Westergaard	November 23
Jane Garner	November 25
Walt Hansen, Helen Morrison	November 29
Andrew DuPre	November 30

December Birthdays

John Leland, Mary Scott	December 2
Mary Beckett Culpepper, Kay B. McCarley, Margaret Crouch	December 4

Laura Capps Tarry, Tyler Scott Furches	December 7
Eliza Crouch	December 8
Forrest Morrison, Peggy Small	December 11
Martha Douglas	December 13
Audrey Cooper	December 16
Robert Garner, Autumn Morrison	December 17
Chris McClellan	December 18
James Stannard Hurteau	December 19
Bob McCarley, Russell Tyler, Hugh "Bo" Scott	December 21
Allen DuPre	December 23
Margaret "Peg" Nichols, Kathleen Read	December 28
Kay Carlisle	December 29
Katie Tisdale Scott	December 30
Gilbert Allen	December 31

Christian Education Plans

Lynn Godwin reports that the Youth Group began meeting again on the evening of Sunday, October 11th, carefully observing social distancing and wearing masks. Fourteen students attended. For the first hour there was a lesson, with fellowship activities during the second hour. Meetings will continue monthly for now. Sonny DuPre, brother of Elder Andrew DuPre, will talk with the youth at our December meeting about his work as an Episcopalian missionary in Liberia.

The Adult Class has begun meeting each Sunday – 10:15 to 10:40 A.M in Fellowship Hall – wearing masks and separated effectively. Elder Godwin will begin meeting with teachers and parents of students in younger classes to decide about restarting meetings.

Montreat Conference Center plans on having in person retreats next summer. New Wappetaw has reserved a house, Stone Ledge, that will sleep 12. It is on the Montreat campus. The week our youth will go is [June 12-19, 2020](#). This trip will be for high school youth only.

The Church is preparing to have Confirmation classes beginning in January 2021. We will accommodate 5th graders/up plus any young adult or adult who desire to attend the classes. Upon completion, attendees will become members of New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church during the Easter Sunday worship service.

Organizational meetings will be at the church. The first meeting is November 8 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11am service. A second meeting, for those unable to attend on the 8th, will be at 6 pm November 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Both meetings will allow me to ascertain an approximate number of attendees and class supplies.

Volunteers to assist me teaching the classes will be greatly appreciated! Optimally, I would like one member per student to act as a mentor during the classes. A mentor can be a confirmed youth member as well as adult members.

Lynn Godwin

Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Election of Officers

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic New Wappetaw was unable to have its annual congregational meeting in May. It is important for the congregation to hear reports from the church officers and from the church's organizations, and to elect officers so the session will likely call for an in-person meeting in December. Announcements will be made in advance

Each year the minister reminds the congregation that our church is incorporated, that the session functions as the Board of Trustees, and that the annual meeting is a meeting of the corporation. This is important since New Wappetaw Church owns the church properties.

Members of last year's officer-nominating committee have agreed to serve in 2020. Members include: Elders Jim Scott and Townsend Warren; Kathy Leland from Presbyterian Women; Eddie Stroman from Presbyterian Men; and Mary Scott, elected from the congregation at large. The three elders in the class of 2020 – John Horres, Margy Leland, and Sandra Moseley – are eligible for reelection to one additional three-year term in the class of 2025. Elders in the classes of 2021 (Andrew DuPre, Russell Tyler, Susie Lesesne) and 2022 (Huger McClellan, Robert McCarley, Lynn Godwin), indicate that they can continue as officers. Still, members have the right to offer for service as elders or to nominate other persons (with the approval of the nominee). Contact any member of the nominating committee if interested in serving or interested in nominating a person.

Special Offerings in November and December

Thornwell Home for Children Offerings for Thornwell Home will be collected November 15 through November 29. Our donations will enable Thornwell to continue providing a safe Christian home and loving care for abused, neglected, and abandoned children.

Christmas Joy Gift Offering Our Christmas Joy Gift Offering will be collected December 6-December 20. Half of the funds collected support grants made through the Board of Pensions to active and retired church workers experiencing extreme financial difficulties. The second half of the donated funds supports education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian affiliated ethnic/racial colleges and schools.

Operation Christmas Child,

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has delivered 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world. We praise God for so many children whose lives have been changed as the result of a simple gift. This year we again will be packing shoeboxes for children filled with school supplies, hygiene items, and small toys. The boxes are located at the entry of the church if you would like to pack a box for a boy or girl, or both. Gift suggestions for boys and girls of different ages are there if you would like to pick one of those up also. The packed boxes will need to be back at the church by Sunday, **Nov. 15th**. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

Presbyterian Women

The circles have begun meeting regularly. The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 3rd. The group will practice social distancing and wear masks. All women are welcome to join. Into the Light, the circle's study book is available.

The Evening Circle will meet with Helen Morrison at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, November 9th, also practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Call Margy Leland if interested in joining the group.

Presbyterian Men

Drew Allison reports that the men will not be meeting for supper in the next few months. The group remains active. Call John Stephens (1-770-630-8681) to sign up for the monthly delivery of food to persons in the South Santee area. Call Drew (1-704 589-1304) to participate in bi-weekly recycling of materials for members of the community.



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Presbyterian Church

McClellanville, SC

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Christmas Tree Lighting

**Saturday, November 28th
5:00 P.M.**

Note the different day (Saturday)

Will be great – but different -- this year

All activities will take place at the tree – the lighting ceremony, the refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there. All are to wear masks.



Photo from the 2018 ceremony

At its meeting on November 15th the session will decide whether to have these services this year.

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Thursday, December 24th, 6:00 P.M.

Hanging of the Greens Service

At worship November 29th

The Christmas Pageant

At worship December 20th

Plans will be circulated as soon as possible

The sanctuary will be fully decorated – and members and friends are encouraged to visit