



# The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

Vol. 2: Issue 2

February 2020



An exciting adventure is beginning for us at Clifton. Clifton Presbyterian Church is now the second Presbyterian congregation in WV to sign up as a *Matthew 25 Church*. A recommendation was made by our Christian Education committee and it was approved by our Session on January 12. As a *Matthew 25 Church*, we accept the call to actively engage in the world around us. The focus of our commitment will be building congregational vitality. Vitality is a passion for following Jesus--growing in faith and discipleship, embracing people beyond our church walls, working for justice and reconciliation and serving our neighbors in need.

More information regarding the *Matthew 25 Church* initiative can be found on the PCUSA website. As we join together, our faith will be re-energized for a common and holy purpose. We plan to have a kick-off celebration at Clifton on Sunday, February 16th.

## Special Service of Connection and Communion

On Sunday, February 23 for Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, The Rev. Ed Thompson, General Presbyter of the WV Presbytery will be leading us in worship and the celebration of communion. The Rev. Thompson as the General Presbyter works with and for the churches of this presbytery. His basic job is to help us as a church and a denomination working in West Virginia to develop our vision and strategic directions as we reach into our communities. He works very closely in communicating with Pastors, Staffs and Sessions in this State. He has been described by many as a true Pastor to Pastors in the State. We are happy to welcome him to our worship celebration, and we certainly invite him to be a part of our church Fellowship time after worship as you may have questions for him as well as wishing to connect with him.

### ASH WEDNESDAY Service

February 26

A Service of Liturgy, Music,  
Remembrance and Ashes

7:00 PM

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## Office Ramblings

What an exciting time at Clifton! On Sunday February 16 we are kicking-off our new church emphasis of growing like a Matthew 25 Church. This will happen only as much as you wish to invest your time and support changing us as a church toward a very bright and productive future. A great time ahead can be had in this endeavor.



February is a very busy month this year. We have the Souper-Bowl of Caring; Valentine's Day; the kick-off of our Matthew 25 Church emphasis; the visit from The Rev. Ed Thompson of the WV Presbytery; and Ash Wednesday. On top of all that we usually get snow in February. Since this is the shortest month, the time will fly right on past us if we are not too mindful.



I hope that all of you enjoyed the Rev. Jeff Allen of the WV Council of Churches for Unity Sunday in January. We practice that unity in this church with others, but let's continue to strive to make it where people of faith work together rather than apart. We need people of faith working.

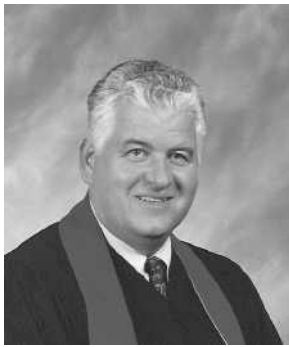


As most of you know I am at Clifton on a very limited basis in time and work as we strive to find our pastor. **The Crossroads Committee** (See *Committee Structure on Pages 5 and 6*) is still working toward the goal of finding a pastor. The committee is making contacts to hear and work on what will work best long-term for us as a church.

I am impressed with the diligence and work of this Crossroads Committee. As they have said many times, "they are looking for a pastor not to fill a spot, but one who feels this place is their calling, and we as a church feel that same thing." That is a great goal and it makes for great work!!



Well it is time to get some work done on the farm. I am working on planning some planting spots, and my son and I are working on a new building at our Farm Attraction. There is just never enough time. Stay warm-Ron



Are you interested in a  
Movie & Snack Night for  
Valentine's evening on  
February 14?

If interested let the church office  
know by February 5.

Come and Sing With Us



We are on the prowl for more folks to have a joyful worship experience singing in our Chancel Choir. Come one and all. If you like to sing, and if you are willing to give just a bit of time for our community worship, come and join the folks in the Choir. You will enjoy the time spent. See **Julie Gillilan** for more information.

This Month's Contributors of Articles  
and Pictures to the Clifton Messenger

**Suzy Meadows**  
**Houston Arbuckle**  
**Larry Davis**  
**Steve Malcomb**  
**Teresa Bostic**

SESSION NEWS and NOTES  
By R. Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated January meeting on Sunday January 12, 2020 at 12: 20 p.m. in the Conference Room of the church.

Those in attendance were moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**; temporary pastor, **Ron Miller**; session members: **Teresa Bostic, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Carol Hoover, Larry Davis, Lynne Bostic** and **Houston Arbuckle**. **Venetta Wright** and **Kereshmeh Kashefian** were excused.

Our newly appointed moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. **Houston Arbuckle** was elected for another year as Clerk of Session. **Pastor Ron Miller** discussed his hopes and plans for the coming months.

The financial report for December 2019 was received: The General fund showed an excess income of \$5,328.37. The General now has a balance of \$198,112.54. The Memorial fund received \$20.00 from donations and \$275.00 for poinsettias, the poinsettias cost \$270.00 leaving a balance of \$45,769.82. Cents-Ability offering was \$97.50 and \$200 was donated to the “Joy Gift” offering. Stone Soup fund had a balance \$3,569.10.

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for December 2019 was about **51**. The next Presbytery meeting will be February 15<sup>th</sup> in St. Albans. **Larry Davis** was elected Commissioner.

The Clerk had received from the Presbytery the Shared Mission Benevolence request for 2020 of \$2,295.00. The session approved the request. **Houston Arbuckle, clerk of session**, moved to approve the committees and chairs for 2020, noting that each chair had accepted the assignment. The session approved the committees listed in this “Messenger”

**Administration Committee**: The session and Rev. Miller **renewed their Covenant Agreement** until January 31, 2021. The contract includes: the possible termination with 30 days’ notice by either party; the duties of the pastor will be to conduct worship, call on sick and home-bound, officiate at weddings and funerals, work with committees and represent the church when asked by the session. The salary is \$2,000.00 per month with vacation and study leave as required by the Presbytery.

**Suzy Meadows, Chair of the Education Committee** gave session members information about the Matthew 25 program of the PCUSA. The session voted for Clifton to become a Matthew 25 church.

**The Worship Committee** hopes to use **volunteer liturgists** in our worship services. All those interested may sign up and help lead worship in this way. The Worship Committee recommended and the session approved the following communion dates: February 23, 2020, Transfiguration Sunday; February 26, 2020, Ash Wednesday; and October 4, 2020, Worldwide Communion day.

The session also approved the purchase of 20 more hymn books.

**Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee** reported the “**Helping Hands**” donations had been **\$751**. The mission committee approved adding \$149 from its 2020 budget in order to donate **\$300** for student’s needs to **each** of the following schools: Lewisburg Elementary, Frankford Elementary and Crichton Elementary. Mission Committee approved \$200 from the “Stone Soup Fund” in December. \$3,650.10 for local mission and \$1,800 for global mission were donated from the church’s budget during 2019.

**Kereshmeh Kashefian, Chair of the Outreach**

**Committee** is using our face book page to communicate with both members and the community. Rev. Miller's sermons and the "Clifton Messenger" can be seen on this site.

In **NEW BUSINESS** each session member was given a "budget work sheet" which included the 2019 budget and the 2019 expenses. The 2020 budget will be considered at the next session meeting on February 2, 2020.

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and **Susan Sharp Campbell** adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Frankie Bostic, Melvin Bostic, Sue Wyman,  
Carolyn Arbuckle, Buddy Baker, Marie  
Reynolds, Max Gibson, Becky Godby, Jennifer  
Skaggs, Sue Larson, Earl Roth, Crossroads  
Committee, Clifton Presbyterian, Edgewood  
Presbyterian, & Spring Creek Presbyterian  
Church**



## Clifton Mission's Committee at Work



Helping Hands Donation: Larry Davis & JoAnne Persinger of Mission Committee with Donna Nickell, Principal Crichton Elem. School

The people of our church gave generously to our Helping Hands program during the Christmas season. For many years this program has helped children in need that live in the county. This year, our giving allowed for the donation of \$300 to each of three elementary schools to be used help children that really need it.

In the photo, **Larry Davis** and **JoAnne Persinger** of the Mission Committee are giving the check for Crichton Elementary School to the Principal, **Donna Nickell**. Donna said that some of the money would be used to support the school's "Snack and Pack" program which was badly in need of financial support.

Students at Lewisburg Elementary School and Frankford Elementary School also benefited from Helping Hands donations. **JoAnne** delivered the checks in person to those two schools and tells of the great appreciation they expressed.



## GREAT-GRANDFATHER



Congratulations to **Steve Malcomb** in becoming a new Great Grandfather. It is with joy he is found holding the little one named Rhem in this picture. Baby and mother are doing just fine, and Steve is beaming with excitement.

## "Love Can Turn an Enemy into a Friend"

During Lewisburg's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, **Andrew Blake** read his prize-winning essay to the throng that was gathered in the sanctuary of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

His essay was one of three chosen to be read from among the 56 entered by fourth grade students. The theme for the essays was derived from these words of

Martin Luther King, Jr: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." Andrew also read his essay to the congregation of our church at the worship service on Sunday, January 26. Andrew is a son of **Ryan and Heather Blake**, and his brothers are **Brandt** and **John**.

The following is an excerpt from Andrew's essay. *"Love can turn an enemy into a friend. When you show someone kindness, it can soften their heart. They might even change their attitude. Love makes people feel special. It has the power to change people"*.

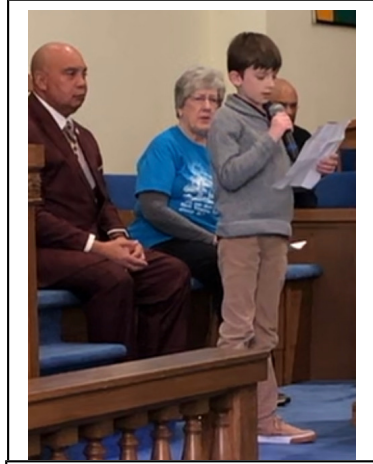


While this list may have excluded someone (we hope not), here are the honor roll students from Clifton as found in the News. Students must have a 3.5 GPA or above to make this list.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade-**Joshua Gibson**

12<sup>th</sup> Grade-**Ashton Gillilan** and **Kyle King**

Congrats to these students, and we are sure to be hearing more about all of them again.



Andrew Blake, James Wilmer, M.C., and Lois McCutcheon, charge of the essay contest.



# 2020 Clifton Committees



*Most of the work and planning of the church is done through its committees. We are always looking for ways to enrich our committees with fresh faces and new ideas. Below you will find information on the responsibilities of each committee and who to contact to become more involved.*

**Administration Committee** is responsible for church-staff relations, personnel evaluations, and for maintaining the operation of the church office, as well as assisting the bookkeeper with collecting, counting, and disbursing the church's money. They will recommend both a church treasurer and a firm to conduct the annual audit. This committee will serve as a forum to listen to any grievance by the members or the staff or the congregation. Chairs: **Houston Arbuckle & Teresa Bostic**

**The Property Committee** is responsible for the maintenance, repair and use of the church's facilities, vehicles and grounds. Chair: **Jim Miller**

**The Christian Education Committee** will oversee and support educational opportunities and programs for all members

of the church. This committee is responsible for securing and training leadership, as well as procuring appropriate curriculum and necessary supplies for all educational activities of the church. The Christian Education Committee is thus responsible for the Sunday church school; non-Sunday educational activities; Vacation Bible School; youth groups; the nursery, including proper staff and equipment; and maintaining the church library. Chair: **Suzy Meadows**

**Congregational Care Committee** has the goal of seeing that the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of each member, especially those who are home-bound, infirm, or with special needs is met to best of our church's ability. Effective communication is essential in seeing that no one goes "unnoticed". The duties of this committee may include: noting persons absent from worship for extended periods, sharing information in the newsletter, informing the pastor and session of those in need of care, establishing visitation programs, updating a church's directory, and assisting in coordinating the church's response in situations of crisis for members. Chair: **Lynne Bostic**

**The Fellowship Committee** provides fellowship opportunities and events which bring church members and guest together in order to strengthen our relationship with each other and with God. This includes fellowship time, dinners, parties, retreats and picnics in the park. Chair: **Carol Hoover**

**Mission Committee** is charged with the task of developing and supporting local and global mission projects. Chair: **Dr. Larry Davis**

**Outreach Committee** strives to communicate with the congregation and the surrounding community. The committee oversees the website, Facebook, informational brochures, the church newsletter, publicity for special events and other special communicates directed by the session. The committee shall also note persons visiting at worship, informing the pastor and helping with follow-up contacts.  
Chair: **Kereshmeh Kashefian**

**(Continued on Page 6-Church  
Committees)**





Ready to get out of the house after the cold winter weather?

The Spring 2020 Session of Adventures in Learning classes are going to start soon!

**When: Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>  
and continuing through Thursday,  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Where: Lewisburg United  
Methodist Church**

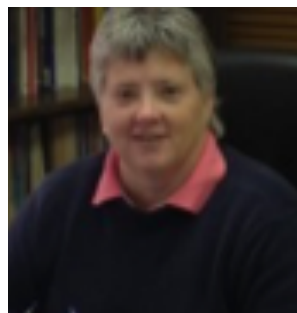
There are classes for everyone! Some favorites are still on the schedule: Currents Events with Cleve Benedict as moderator, Appalachian Lore with John Wyatt, 'The Appalachian', Book Group for those who love to read, Creative Writing with Willa Izzo for those who show their creativity through writing, and more. Newer classes include a gardening class with Brenda and Linda Spencer, a cooking class with Rich Lohmeyer - our Community Service Award recipient this year, Baby Boomer class to test our memories of past years, and so much more!

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, we are having a one-day "Lunch & Learn" session with Ilene Evans from the West Virginia Humanities Council portraying "Harriet Tubman" famous leader of the Underground Railroad network that aided in transporting slaves to freedom in the latter 1800's. Ms. Evans will perform then lunch will follow. Just let Teresa know if you would like to attend!

If you would like a brochure of our classes and registration, you can call the Shepherd's Center office at (304) 645-4196 or let **Teresa Bostic** know! Come join us for lots of fun and good food!

### **Meet the New Moderator**

While she needs no introduction to most we are happy to announce that



the new Moderator for Clifton is The Rev. Susan Sharp-Campbell, Pastor of the Frankford Presbyterian Church and Associate Education Ministry for the WV Presbytery. Susan has served this church in various capacities in the past, and it is always good to have her back in leading as we move forward.

**\*\***

**(CHURCH COMMITTEES continued  
from Pg. 5)**

**The Worship Committee** shall oversee the worship opportunities for the congregation. This committee is to make provisions for both Sunday and special worship services as well as encouraging generous giving as part of worship in response to God's grace. Its duties include recommending special



offerings, preparing the sacraments, ensuring that the music program is complete, scheduling elders for communion, and maintaining sanctuary continuity. The committee also oversees wedding and funerals.

Chair: **Venetta Wright**

**Crossroads Committee** is temporary sessional committee which will report to the session for the purpose of evaluating options for calling a pastor. Chair: **Houston Arbuckle**

**Nominating Committee**, as set in the PCUSA *Book of Church Order* is an elected committee. This committee is responsible for developing a slate of nominees to be presented to the congregation.

Chairs: **Suzy Meadows & Dr. Larry Davis.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Circle #1 will not meet until March			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cents-Ability Offering				Church Office: 9:00am-1:00pm		
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday						
Session Meeting- 12:30pm			7:00pm Church Choir Practice			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm	Happy Valentine's Day	
			7:00pm Church Choir Practice			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Matthew 25 Church Kick-off Sunday				Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm		
			7:00pm Church Choir Practice			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday			Ash Wednesday Service-7pm	Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm		
Guest: The Rev. Ed Thompson, WV Gen Presbyter				Start of Shepherd Center Learning (See Page 6)		



## Coming March 2020

### March 1

Cents-ability Offering

### March 6

World Day of Prayer

### March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins

International Women's Day

### March 17

St. Patrick's Day

### March 19

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring

**See you at the Church**



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