**Pastor’s Walk**

I wait for it every year…I have almost come to expect it…It is almost a tradition…What may you ask is this event…this expectation this tradition?

The first neighbor to put up their Christmas decorations before the Halloween Jacko lantern has even moved off the porch. And there it was as I was walking one afternoon…a guy putting up Christmas lights on November 14th! Just two weeks past Halloween and two weeks before Thanksgiving…big red and green Christmas lights! And you know what, he wasn’t alone. Just a few neighborhoods over some folks were busy filling their yard with a giant blow-up reindeer and snowman and Santa Clause. It seems everyone is ready for Christmas to hurry-up and arrive this year even more so than in previous years.

Can you really blame them! Of all our years, can you think of a better year we just want to end and end as quickly as possible. It has been a year filled with nothing but heartache and fear and strife and impossible situations and…well…you all have lived, so you know what I am talking about here today. Really…I can’t find fault in folks just wanting to enjoy a little Christmas cheer as soon as possible these days. The truth is this year has been difficult and it isn’t looking like we are going to start the new year off free of any of this difficulty. Things are going to continue to be different and we are going to have to be just as careful this Christmas season and New Year as we have been all spring, summer and fall long.

However, that does not mean Christmas is ruined…it will just be different but not ruined. The challenge is still the same, celebrating and taking part but doing so in a safe manner and with consideration for others. Because remember, as good Methodist one of our tenants is “To do no harm.” So, we go into this Thanksgiving and Christmas season with the idea of doing no harm to others or ourselves or those we love. Will that mean we can’t have that big blow out Christmas dinner bash we have every year…yes. Will that mean that the gatherings we do have need to be smaller and perhaps outside and shorter…yes. Will that mean that we will need to stay home and shop more on-line…many do that already and yes. Will that mean we will need to be always aware of rising virus totals and willing to change our plans at a moments notice…yes. But all of this…all these compromises that we may have to make does not mean that Christmas will be ruined. Because the fact of the matter is…Christmas isn’t about any of that stuff…dinners, shopping, parties, or even decorations.

Christmas is about the waiting of Advent. The prayerful reflection of the amazing gifts we have been given. It is about us willingly taking the journey once more into the wonder and the mystery that is within that wonderous gift. Christmas is about a young baby boy…who is born to a young mother who bravely said “Yes” to her Lord. Christmas is about a lowly birth in a place better suited for animals than babies. Christmas is about the recognition of all who saw this baby that he was more than just a baby boy…born to a young mother…born to a greatness no one understood then and one that, if we are honest, we still do not understand fully.

Christmas is about the journey of faith we have all been asked to take in this life…bad year and all!

My friends, won’t you join with me this year…especially this year…as we journey together through the story once more. As we discover new and wonderous things about this season…and as we say goodbye to the strife and woe of this past year and hello to Hope and Peace and Joy and Love! It was all always right there for us this entire time…we just needed Advent and Christmas to remind us where we put it…come…I pray you will take the journey with me.

Grace,

Rev. Steve Kurt



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commonwealth United Methodist Church** | | | | |
| **2021 Budget** | | | | |
|  | **LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAM** | | | **2021** |
| **EDUCATION** | | | |  |
| 101 | Literature/Supplies | | | $ 1,200.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 1,200.00** |
| **EVANGELISM MINISTRY** | | | |  |
| 201 | The Upper Room | | | $ 250.00 |
| 202 | Offering Env/Forms/Records | | | $ 100.00 |
| 203 | Lay Delegate - Conference | | | $ - |
| 205 | Pastor's Expense - Conference | | | $ 500.00 |
| 206 | Continuing Education - Pastor | | | $ 100.00 |
| 208 | Fellowship/Hospitality | | | $ - |
| 209 | Shepherd Center | | | $ - |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 950.00** |
| **WORSHIP** | | | |  |
| 301 | Funeral Flowers | | | $ 266.00 |
| 302 | Communion/Altar Candles | | | $ 100.00 |
| 303 | Special Worship Bulletins | | | $ 80.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 446.00** |
| **SALARIES** | | | |  |
| 401 | Pastor | | | $ 10,000.00 |
| 402 | Secretary | | | $ 9,733.00 |
| 403 | Organist/Choir Director | | | $ 9,240.00 |
| 404 | Church Treasurer | | | $ - |
| 405 | Pulpit Supply/Organist | | | $ 600.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 29,573.00** |
| **PERSONNEL EXPENSES** | | | |  |
| 410 | FICA | | | $ 1,500.00 |
| 411 | Travel - Pastor Kurt | | | $ 1,000.00 |
| 421 | Travel - Pastor Brumley | | | $ 500.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 3,000.00** |
| **ADMINISTRATIVE** | | | |  |
| 501 | Office Supplies | | | $ 300.00 |
| 502 | Postage | | | $ 250.00 |
| 504 | Service Contracts | | | $ 1,000.00 |
| 505 | Janitorial Supplies | | | $ 350.00 |
| 506 | Annual Audit | | | $ - |
| 507 | Computer Support | | | $ 150.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 2,050.00** |
| **MUSIC** | | | |  |
| 601 | Piano/Organ Maint. | | | $ 300.00 |
| 602 | Literature/Supplies | | | $ 50.00 |
| 603 | Copyright Licensing | | | $ 135.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 485.00** |
| **OPERATING EXPENSES** | | | |  |
| 701 | Electricity | | | $ 6,400.00 |
| 702 | Natural Gas | | | $ 3,500.00 |
| 703 | Telephone | | | $ 1,100.00 |
| 704 | Water | | | $ 2,100.00 |
| 705 | Insurance - Church | | | $ 7,500.00 |
| 706 | Heating & AC Maintenance | | | $ 2,000.00 |
| 709 | Church Maintenance | | | $ 500.00 |
| 711 | Kitchen Supplies | | | $ 200.00 |
| 712 | Sound System | | | $ - |
| 714 | Exterminating Service | | | $ - |
| 715 | Janitorial Service | | | $ 4,600.00 |
| 716 | Miscellaneous | | | $ 150.00 |
| 717 | Garbage Pick-Up | | | $ 756.00 |
| 718 | Furniture/Equipment | | | $ - |
| 719 | Yard Maintenance | | | $ 2,400.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 31,206.00** |
| **OUTREACH MINISTRIES** | | | |  |
| 801 | Conference Apportionment | | | $ 6,497.00 |
| 802 | District Apportionment | | | $ 672.00 |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$ 7,169.00** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Grand Total** | | **$ 76,079.00** |
|  | **Needs per week:** | | | **$1,463** |
|  | **Needs per month:** | | | **$6,340** |

**Our Sympathy**

**The Commonwealth church family would like to express its sympathy to Marie Rich and family. Her sister Marguerite Templeton from Texas passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.**

**May God comfort them in this time of grief and sorrow.**



**Thank You from Marie Rich**

**Thank you for the calls, cards and expressions of sympathy shown following the passing of my sister.**

**Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated.**

**Blessings,**

**Marie**





**A message from Staff Parrish:**

We will be collecting money for Staff Christmas Gifts beginning 11/22/20 through 12/20/20. If you fell led and would like to contribute, please send your contribution to the church with a note marked “Staff Gifts” or place in the collection plate in the narthex on Sunday mornings with a note marked “Staff Gifts”. We will them hand deliver to each Staff Member. Should you have any questions, please contact Dawn Beaver 704.651.2258. Thank you all in advance for your support!

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**Wednesday is Day of Prayer**

Remember to pray for those in need.

Prayer box located in the Narthex

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**Our Prayer List**

Jerline Bender (sister of Alice Shepherd) Pat and David Hampton (friends of Margieand Ron Medure), Jack Harwell (brother of Ruby Agnew), Nancy Hoy(sister-in-law of Margie Medure)Alma Horne, Pat Inman (sister of Jackie Samuels), Maxine Kincaid, Rosemary Lands, Martha Lee,Rick Morrison, Carol Painter, Donna Pruitt, Jean Stoneman

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**December Birthdays**

3 Dawn Beaver

4 Sue Morrison

4 Lynne Skelton

6 Rick Morrison

11 Tom Kehoe

29 Jennie Kehoe

30 Ruby Agnew

**December Anniversaries**

10 Sue and Rick Morrison

11 Jennie and Tom Kehoe

**Commonwealth Leadership Team**

**for the Coming Year**

Thank-you to everyone who said yes to the call to leadership for our church in the coming year…we have many who will be staying on at their post for 2021. We still have an opening for a position for Trustee. If you are interested, please let Rev. Steve Kurt know as soon as possible.

Those who volunteered for the Kitchen Committee will continue on that committee if they choose…Marie Rich will continue to head-up and recruit for that committee also.

Grace,

Rev. Steve Kurt





***Administrative Council:***

*Chair: Perry Beaver*

*Trustees: Gene Hartsell*

*TBD*

*Finance: Alice Shepherd*

*Leigh Beaver*

*Worship: Adriane Beaver*

*SPRC Rep: Dawn Beaver*

*Mission/Outreach: Sandy Painter-Kurt*

*Nurture: Marie Rich*

*At-Large Member: Sandra Pearre*

*Youth Reps: Robert Kurt and  
Gracie Beaver*

*Lay Leader: Phyllis Batts*

*Annual Conference Rep: Phyllis Batts*

***Staff Parish Relations Committee:***

*Dawn Beaver*

*Phyllis Batts*

*Adriane Beaver*

***Kitchen:***

*Marie Rich*

*Billie Gardner*

*Phyllis Batts*

*Jackie Samuels*

***Church Historian:***

*Mary Pearre*

*Rosemary Lands*

***Youth and Children:***

*Dawn Beaver*

*Sandy Painter-Kurt*

**Kindergarten in the 1950s**

Dear Pastor,

Recently I've been writing about my early life in Charlotte. I led a new blog with a story about Mrs. Ray, my kindergarten teacher around 1959 when I would have been five.

My mother, brother and I lived in the nearby Morningside Apartments of the time, for several years before she remarried. The church was so convenient. Later I attended Chantilly, until she remarried and we moved further out to Windsor Park.

My story was about being in two school plays, as a Christmas doll and later as an animal trainer. Mrs. Ray was very patient and sweet with my natural shyness. She was incredibly devoted as she loaned me a leotard of her daughter's,and sewed on netting and spangles the evening of our play. When she played the piano in our class, she'd sometimes ask me up to sit on the benchw/her.

Four years later my little brother attended, and was an auspicious "mushroom" in his play! No lines!

In reading about the church, I see you had a great school program in that time period. I can attest I got a great deal out of it -- a big boost before starting first grade.

Glad to see the church is still part of the neighborhood--sweet memories.  All Best!

Respectfully,

Carol Cameron

Plano TX

**Follow up note from Carol Cameron**

In 1970 my family moved to the West Coast of Florida, where we lived for many decades. When my mom passed away on Veteran's Day in 2007, I was released to consider other options.

In 2013 I moved to Texas, to be near our last bit of close family.I've had many adventures here.

But I always return in my heart to my early upbringing in Charlotte.

My mother and her family were from Marshville. She was part of the Morgan/Marsh clan.

A copy of my blog to book stories about that area now rests in the Monroe Public Library in the Dickerson Reading Room of Genealogy and Local History items.***BACK WHEN***, my book, is a reference item there. (I had a copy made up for this purpose)

My mother's first cousin, Carroll Edwards, helped finance the Lois Morgan Edwards Library in Marshville, to honor his mother who was a teacher, and died giving birth to his young sister in the 1940s. It is part of Union County library system.

Just sharing this in case any of your members are from Union County.

Thanks again!

Carol Cameron

\*\*If anyone has the email of Jill Ray could you send this article to her. Thanks.

**Church Monthly calendar:**

With church being closed and all church activities being canceled until further notice, there is nothing to add to the church calendar at this time. We have decided to suspend printing the monthly calendars and will start again when the church activities resume. Sorry for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause individuals.

**Fellowship Hall**

Until further notice, Fellowship Hall will remain closed to all church activities and outside group meetings until the we can resolve the asbestos issues.

**Update on Donna Pruitt**

**Donna Pruitt is back home from the VA Hospital. Please keep her in your prayers.**

**Rosemary Lands temporary address**

Asbury Health & Rehabilitation Center

Room # 302

3211 Bishop Way Lane

Charlotte, NC 28215



**12th Poinsettia delivery**



**24th Christmas Eve**

C:\Documents and Settings\Desktop\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U3T9ILL6\MC900363562[1].wmf

**25th Christmas Day**

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**31st New Year’s Eve**

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Happy New Year 2021





**1st New Year’s Day**

**Church Office Closed**





**November 1, 2020**

Church Attendance

In person/virtual -32

Offering -$1,195.68

**November 8, 2020**

Church Attendance

In person/virtual–43

Offering - $1,872.00

**November 15, 2020**

Church Attendance

In person/virtual–52

Offering -$2,443.00

**November 22, 2020**

Church Attendance

In person/virtual –n/a

Offering -$399.00

Commonwealth

United Methodist Church

2434 Commonwealth Ave.

Charlotte, NC 28205-5132

704-376-4924

November 24, 2020

*Steve Kurt* - Pastor