

Synopsis of Regular Session Meeting — April 2021

PRESENT: Moderator: Rev. Jeff Paschal Elders: Tom Clifford, Dianne Dalto, Tricia Bunn, Peter Bonney, Kathy Jones, Travis Meredith and Mary Miller (Finance). **EXCUSED:** Sharon Browning

DEVOTION: Tom Clifford gave the devotion and opened the meeting with prayer.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA: Added decorative tree replacement in the sanctuary. Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

REPORT OF THE CLERK:

Approval of minutes: March 14th (regular); approved as read.

Attendance: N/A

New Members: Beth Paschal has requested membership with MSPC. Motion to receive Beth Paschal by reaffirmation of faith was made by Travis Meredith, seconded by Peter Bonney and all approved. Beth will be introduced to and received by the congregation on 4/18/21.

TREASURY REPORT – Mary Miller (Financial Assistant) supplied financial balances as of 4/9/21.

BB&T Checkbook balance \$ 17,501 BB&T Savings balance 32,566

REPORT FROM TECH TEAM - (Peter Bonney) Equipment purchased and set up for live streaming; now live streaming all services. Thanks to Tom Clifford for cable set up, and Jay Alexander for continued audio work. Easter service has been viewed on YouTube 39 times. All previous services and sermons have been removed from YouTube. Copies of the videos have been archived. Instructions for audio written, video being written. A detailed list of all equipment, plus receipts for recent purchases, has been created and given to Financial Assistant. All non-physical assets (email accounts, YouTube, etc.) being documented. It is noted that anytime equipment (tech equipment, lawn equipment, etc) reaches a total value of \$10,000, an insurance rider will need to be added to the policy.

MINISTRY GROUPS –

FELLOWSHIP (Nancy Hamilton) – It was suggested that our annual church Picnic in the Park service be changed to June 27th. Barbara Smith has checked the date with Parks & Rec and it is available.

BUILDING & GROUNDS (Travis Meredith)– Jan Pro is back on a weekly cleaning schedule with church volunteers spraying disinfectant before services. Travis to check with Jan Pro regarding areas in nursery that are not clean. Outside door weatherstrips replaced. Contract approved for weekly lawn service with Coulter Contractors. Status of air conditioning units to be evaluated and priorities set. Brotherhood Mutual Insurance still had BB&T listed as holding a mortgage on the church. This has been removed. Completed a Sexual Acts Coverage questionnaire regarding staff and volunteers and our policy and procedures. We need to review our policy and procedures involving use of the church by outside groups and individuals including cleaning and disinfectant spraying.

WORSHIP & EDUCATION (Kathy Jones) Maundy Thursday will be held in person April 1st at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion being observed. At the end of the service the church will be stripped and shrouded in keeping with observing Maundy Thursday and Holy Week. The church will be opened for prayer from 12-1:00 p.m. on Good Friday. Easter Sunday service will be in person on April 4th with Holy Communion being observed. The Nursery and CSS will be available. The One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected during the Easter offering. The children will participate bringing their Fish Banks up during Children's Time with Pastor Jeff. Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas will be individually purchased for Easter Sunday. The Volunteer Sheets will need to be updated with a plea for new volunteers for Nursery & CSS to replace volunteers who have asked to be removed. Pastor Jeff will be starting a Bible Study in May using the Thoughtful Christian curriculum. This will be during the lunch hour 12-1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Kelly Hames and Curtis Moore will help lead the study. — **It was approved by consensus that Kelly Hames is the new Christian Education Superintendent.** Adult Sunday School will resume in September. Presbyterian Women will resume in August with Sharon Meredith leading. Women's beach trip is May 1-8.

MISSION & OUTREACH (Sharon Browning) - No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE (Tricia Bunn/Peter Bonney). Pastor Jeff was asked if he had the administrative coverage he needed when he was in the office. He confirmed that as of now everything is working fine but he will let session know if any adjustments need to be made.

NEW BUSINESS -(1)There is a need for a replacement decorative tree in the sanctuary. If anyone has a Christmas tree that they are ready to dispose of and in good condition, the church could use it. Please contact any session member. (2) There is no concrete information on the Bluegrass service at Matthews Presbyterian. Pastor will contact Alexandra to see if she has any current information. (4) It was brought to Peter Bonney's attention that there will be a CMPD program called 30 Days of Prayer May 1-30. CMPD is seeking the prayers of the faith community for these 30 days to pray for the police department employees, other public, health and safety officials. They are asking prayers for their safety and their integrity, for their physical and mental health and for compassion and empathy as they serve our community. Motion was made by Peter Bonney and seconded by Tricia Bunn that MorningStar be a part of this prayer opportunity for our local police departments. Motion carried unanimously. (5) Annual Congregational Meeting is tentatively set for Sunday June 13th. (6)Session retreat date will be Saturday May 22nd and will be held at the church. The May regular Session meeting will be held during the retreat on May 22nd. All ministry group leaders please send hard copies of your meeting agenda and any motions that will need to be voted on before the retreat meeting is held. (7) Church Growth research and dialogue...Pastor Jeff spent some time discussing important factors in church growth and how to be an effective church. This will be an ongoing discussion as we strive to figure out what our community's needs are and what our abilities and passions are to meet those needs.

CALENDAR REVIEW -

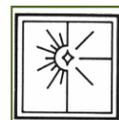
Ministry Groups: Monday April 26th @ 6:00 p.m.

Women's Beach Trip: Saturday May 1-8

Next Presbytery Meeting: Tuesday May 18th by ZOOM @ 9:30 a.m.

Next Session Meeting: Saturday May 22nd (30 min. meeting) (Please note day change)

Session Retreat: Saturday May 22nd @ 9:00 am-12:00 pm @ MSPC

ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER -

Lectionary Gospel Texts

May 2

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Holy Communion celebrated

May 6

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 16

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Holy Communion celebrated

May 23

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14;

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;

Romans 8:22-27; Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



Dear Members of MSPC,

Recently, the session spent some time thinking about how we can be a more inviting/hospitable church. We're already doing many things well. How can we improve?

We looked at a summary of a resource titled *The Inviting Church*. Here are five things that tend to help churches be more inviting/hospitable and may lead to spiritual and possibly numerical church growth:

A clear identity (a positive one)

Congregational harmony and cooperation

A pastor who generates enthusiasm

A warm and inviting welcome

A place to land.

A. Identity

includes 1. energy 2. belief in inclusion 3. affirmation of what is unique about that church (can't meet all needs--target a few)

B. Congregational harmony and cooperation

includes a low amount of conflict and bickering 2. skills for learning how to be more loving 3. can tolerate differences between people

C. A pastor who generates enthusiasm

1. Good sermons
2. Warmth
3. Spiritual depth

D. A warm and inviting welcome

1. First impressions are important.
2. Friends and family are usually the first contacts.

E. A place to land

1. Sunday School classes
2. Fellowship groups
3. Social Outreach
4. Choir etc.

What else do we know is important? A strong website that is kept up to date (thank you, Peter Bonney for your faithful ministry in this area!).

What else? In addition to in-person worship, it's vital for visitors to be able to worship with us online. Some people will "check out" a church online before attending in person. Other people will only worship online. (Again, thanks to Peter for his ministry setting up worship online at our website and on YouTube.)

What else? The congregation must be doing significant ministry/mission in the local community. Key questions in that regard: 1. What are the needs in the community? 2. What do we have the gifts to do/provide? 3. What do we have a passion (calling) to do as disciples of Christ?

My philosophy is that 1. We strive for excellence and don't get weighed down when things are imperfect 2. We try new things. Some of them work. Some of them don't. It's a learning experience. 3. Our service together is not a chore. We focus on having fun. Church is a joy.

Speaking of joy, please join us for our Wednesday 12:00 noon adult education classes using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum. Fill out the questionnaire and help select the topics. It's great to be with you at MSPC!

Blessings and peace,
Jeff

Calendar Reminders

- 2 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated
- 5 Mid-Week Bible Study Noon—1:00 p.m.
Miracles: Does God Intervene?
- 9 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Mother's Day
- 12 Mid-Week Bible Study Noon — 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion Celebrated
- 18 Presbytery Meeting 9:30 a.m. (via ZOOM)
- 19 Mid-Week Bible Study Noon — 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Session Retreat @ church — 9:00 a.m. — Noon
Session Meeting
- 23 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Day of Pentecost
- 24 Ministry Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Mid-Week Bible Study Noon — 1:00 p.m.
- 30 Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Ten Cents A Meal Offering

Volunteer Schedule

- GREETERS**
- May 2 Curtis & Mary Moore
 - May 9 Tom & Lynne Clifford
 - May 16 Lisa Pianka
 - May 23 Travis & Sharon Meredith
 - May 30 Nancy Hamilton & Brenda McIntosh
- COUNTERS**
- May 2 Jerry & Lynne Cole
 - May 9 Sharon Browning & Lynn Cromer
 - May 16 Tricia Bunn & Robert Hamilton
 - May 23 Jerry & Lynne Cole
 - May 30 Sharon Browning & Lynn Cromer
- LITURGISTS**
- May 2 Kelly Hames
 - May 9 Rhonda Harrington
 - May 16 Sharon Browning
 - May 23 Dianne Dalto
 - May 30 Mary Miller
- NURSERY**
- May 2 (combined w/SS) — Clara Hoeffler
 - May 9 Travis & Sharon Meredith
 - May 16 Tom & Lynne Clifford
 - May 23 Mary Miller & Carmine Dalto
 - May 30 Brenda McIntosh & Nancy Hamilton
- CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- May 2 (combined w/nursery)
 - May 9 Kelly Hames
 - May 16 Sharon Browning
 - May 23 Tricia Bunn
 - May 30 Randy & Kathy Jones

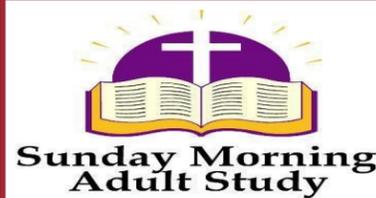


Elders Serving Communion in June:

- May 2 Peter Bonney (#1); Tom Clifford (#2)
- May 16 Tom Clifford (#1); Sharon Browning (#2)



- May 1 Wayne Harvell
- May 11 Robert Hamilton
- May 16 Brock Miller
- May 17 Alexandra Sims
- May 18 John Crane
Marti Dushak



Adult Sunday School will resume in September. Hope to see you there!!

TWELVE MONTHS OF GIVING: During the month of May we will be collecting boxed pasta!



FELLOWSHIP IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE BACK!!!! PICNIC IN THE PARK —Begin making plans for the MSPC Annual Picnic at Idlewild Park on **June 27**. We will be worshipping together in Shelter #1 (large one). Then we will enjoy hamburgers and dogs on the grills, with all the necessary condiments and tasty covered dishes that you can bring. Sign-up sheets will be available the first of June.



Becoming a thoughtful Christian means learning to think well and to think as disciples of Christ. What is challenging is to be both thoughtful and Christian in vigorous and vital engagement with and among each other. This integration may be precisely what is needed at this time in the church and in our culture.



Our Bible Study using The Thoughtful Christian curriculum will begin on May 5th at noon at the church with Pastor Jeff Paschal leading the class. Other leaders for the month will be Curtis Moore and Kelly Hames. Please join us for instruction and discussion.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42