



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

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FPC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



Zion Moorman was baptized during worship on Sunday, October 21, 2018.



Wesley Mason was baptized and joined FPC by Affirmation of Faith on Sunday December 30, 2018.



Christine Kellermeyer and James Burkett were baptized during worship on Sunday, December 16, 2018.



Evan Swanger was welcomed to FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Walt Peters served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved Amended Membership Records as of June 20, 2018, August 15, 2018, September 19, 2018, October 12, 2018 and November 12, 2018 together with Membership Records as of December 31, 2018 and January 16, 2019. • Approved year to date financials as of December 31, 2018.
- Approved the December 15, 2018 electronic vote of Session to authorize the collection of the Love Offering for Rev. Kelly and approved Walt Peters as a long term guest Preacher beginning January 13, 2019 until an interim is in place.
- Approved the December 7, 2018 electronic vote of Session approving the baptisms of James Irvin Burkett and Christine Elizabeth Kellermeyer.
- Approved the budget for the church for 2019 which keeps funding levels for the various committees at their 2018 levels and projects a \$6,450.33 surplus of income over expenses for the year.
- Approved the recommendation of the Congregational Care and Outreach Committee to end the weekly newspaper advertisement for worship services except for special occasions like Christmas or Easter and invest those funds in more outreach through FACEBOOK and other social media.
- Approved the formation of the Interim Pastor Search Committee appointing Jeff Getty, Deb Hendrickson, Cathy Levitas and David Stickler to the Committee.
- Approved the request of Learning Tree to advertise their Shoe Drive fundraiser in the bulletin and set up a collection box in the entry hall.

In addition the Session heard:

- The Rev. Matthew Glasgow, who is our liaison to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), describe the choice the church has to utilize a short process or long process to identify a permanent replacement for Rev. Kelly. The long process is typically used by churches that have significant conflict in the congregation. After discussion, Session concluded we do not have significant conflict and agreed to utilize the short procedure in looking for a permanent pastor.
- Faith Formation is planning a milestone event on the transition between pastors for February 3 after worship.
- Agnes Yount completed an analysis of the church's income and expenses for fiscal years 2014 through 2018 which showed a decline in overall income for the period and noted that the percentage of total income contributed by the Wills and Memorials endowment increased during the same period.
- Mission Committee has chosen New Bern, North Carolina for its mission trip to repair the damage from hurricane Florence in September 2019.
- Building and Grounds Committee has completed the design plans to transform the existing library into a gather room.
- Congregational Care and Outreach Committee is considering a showing at either the Embassy Theater or Palace Theater in Frostburg the movie "At the End of the Day" which is about the relationship of the church and the LGBT community in the spring.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMED

An Interim Search Committee has recently been formed and approved by session. Members of the committee are Jeff Getty, Deb Hendrickson, Cathy Levitas, and David Stickler. This group has already begun meeting and will be working with Reverend Matthew Glasgow who is the liaison from the Committee on Ministry. We will keep the congregation posted as our work progresses. Please keep us in your prayers.

WHAT'S NEXT?

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING



On Sunday, February 3rd, members of the congregation gathered to discuss concerns during the transition to find an interim pastor and a permanent pastor as well as discussed the importance of coming together during this time for support and encouragement.



BIRTHDAYS

Katie Ross	2-Feb
Marybelle Light	3-Feb
Brenda Clark, CPA	5-Feb
Abbey Workmeister	5-Feb
Meredith Irons	8-Feb
Debi Mullan	8-Feb
Martha Jane Hochard	11-Feb
Gail Plitnik	13-Feb
Barbara Aber	16-Feb
Tom Chappell	16-Feb
Linda Mellon	16-Feb
Judy Stern	16-Feb
Sterlin Rebuck	17-Feb
Laura Fiscus	18-Feb
Gwyn Chappell	19-Feb
Deb Hendrickson	19-Feb
Phil Mills	21-Feb
Bill Rudd	28-Feb



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Through our generosity, we give the gift of hope and opportunity. We don't save the recipients. We empower them to save themselves, with God's help'. (a paraphrase of a non-profit organization's letter).

Reason for the Season is one way we can do this. Many thanks to all who answered God's nudge and contributed in order to empower others.

We gave the gift of opportunity to:

*seven girls who can continue their education at Kinnaird Academy through **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB)**, in Pakistan. Their God-given talents are being honed so that one day they can use them to improve their lives, and others', rather than living in poverty doing menial labor. (\$1,935)

***women in Guatemala through CEDEPCA**, a partner with the Baltimore Presbytery. Scholarships and textbooks for classes of faith-based activities will empower them to understand their rights, take leadership roles, and begin or continue their formal education. Our donation can support 20 women in a 1 month course, or 11 students with textbooks for a 1-year class, or a combination. (\$655)

*fishermen in war-torn Yemen whose families are starving. By giving fishing nets and lines through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program** to men of the most vulnerable displaced families, you give them the resources they need to feed their families, and earn a livelihood." (\$695)

*members of this congregation who volunteer for a **Mission Work Project** to New Bern, North Carolina. It's being planned by Phil Mills to serve those impacted by Hurricane Florence. The team will have funds for supplies and transportation. Those who sign up to work will be helping hurricane victims rebuild their lives. And, they'll probably find themselves empowered by God and the experience. (\$1,055)

We gave the gift of Hope to:

*adults living in **CityReach Church's Hope Homes** in Cumberland as they work through intensive discipline, and discipleship, in a faith-filled family atmosphere to turn their lives around, with God's help, in order to live a clean, sober and holy life. (\$640)

***Hope Against Heroin**, another faith-based organization in Cumberland that works with other groups and churches. They give hope and resources to addicts and families, educate the community about addiction, and provide a safe environment for children. (\$440)

You also gave opportunities and hope to the other missions we support: This Child Here, the local Salvation Army, Union Rescue Mission, Interfaith Food Pantry, Family Crisis Resource Center, the South Dakota learning camp, NAILS, Q Mountain in Lesotho, and the Western MD Food Bank. (\$2,950)

The Mission Committee truly thanks all who gave, or prayed about the donating or missions. The total was \$8,370. Please keep all of the people and work involved with these missions in your prayers.

Linda Smith, Mission Committee

CZECH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Have you been to the Czech Republic, or long ago to Czechoslovakia?

Would you like to meet people from there?

Curious to know more about our church's partnership with Vsetin?

Just want to get out of town for a week?

You're in luck! The next joint conference of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) and Presbyterian Church (USA) Partnerships will be in the States this year. and all are invited!

Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia (near Atlanta) will be hosting the conference from April 1-5, 2019. The theme is "Hoping Together".

There will be:

- reflection and appreciation of the past 28 years of the various forms of partnership
- sharing of recent experiences
- theological reflection of both the partnership and the present situation of our churches
- envisioning new forms of ministry in this century
- sharing our concerns and dreams with our overseas partners
- opportunities to worship together
- trips to see the diversity of Atlanta and its culture
- visits to congregations involved in partnerships in the United States

Information and registration can be found at czechpres.net. Registration deadline is March 1, 2019. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Linda Smith.

Mission Outreach Dinner Address Update

The monthly outreach dinner will be held on Sunday, February 24th at **Christ United Methodist Church, 336 Race Street**. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner, help clean tables, please let Judy Stern, Phil Mills, or Linda Smith know.



**Donate your gently worn, used and new shoes
to Learning Tree Nursery School**

Now-March 31st

Help us raise funds for our school by donating your shoes! The shoes will go to support and develop micro-enterprises in developing countries.

Drop your donations in the bin found in the hallway.

Don't forget to ask your family, neighbors and co-workers to donate, also! We get paid by weight!

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

February

Address Service Requested



Like us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE REQUEST

The Worship and Music Committee is seeking input from the congregation about whether or not to hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM on March 6th. If you would like to express an opinion about holding the service, please call either Brittany at 301-777-3700.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Amado Torres on his death on Friday, January 4, 2019 in Naples, FL.

Prayers and sympathy to Martha Jane Hochard and family on the death of Martha's husband, Art, on Wednesday, January 30th.