



Stone Chippings Newsletter

February 2022

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.

I'm reading a great book these days entitled *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change* by Tod Bolsinger. It's one thing to read about becoming a leader; it's another thing to actually lead, and to learn and grow from such experiences.



In a similar way, it's one thing to identify as a Christian. There are plenty of books about that as well. But it's a whole other thing to live into that calling as a Christian.

One of those things we learn as followers of Christ is that we each have an important roll to play in making the church what it is today. As we celebrate our newest class of church officers beginning the new year of service, we are each reminded that God calls us into ministry as well. Yes, going to church on Sunday is important. Giving to the church through our pledges is important. But what is most exciting for me as a pastor is discovering how God uniquely calls us in our lives of faith. The Christian jargon term for this is *vocation*. Ruth Haley Barton (in *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*) writes beautifully about discerning our God-given vocation in life:

"Somehow we know that this moment is different. This is not about making a brilliant career move. It is not about security. It is not about success or failure or anything else the ego wants for us. It is not about choosing among several attractive options. This is about the Spirit of God setting us on our feet and telling us, "This is yours to do.""

Old Stone Presbyterian Church is stronger when we embrace God's personal calling into ministry. It may be volunteering to serve as an usher, or it may be a calling to serve in mission on the other side of the world. It may be a calling to serve on the Personnel Committee, or it may be a calling to feed the hungry of Greenbrier County. It may be a calling to pray for this church everyday from home, or it may be a calling to help build homes for those seeking such a place to call their own. When we empower one another to lead in ministry versus relying on others to do the work of the church, we all benefit. We realize that there are so many opportunities and possibilities in our walks of faith. We realize that we are the church together.

What gifts and passions might you bring to Old Stone in the days ahead?

Where is there a need in the community that we as a church might be able to address?

How may God be calling you to serve in ministry in 2022?

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Session Highlights - January 5, 2022 Stated Meeting:

After an attendance quorum was established, Tracy Morgan opened the meeting with a devotion entitled "Restart the Journey." Minutes of the previous meeting and the December congregational meeting were approved.

Stewardship and Finance Committee presented the revenue and expense budget performance for 2021: Pledges Income=\$341,093; Budgeted Income=358,706; Shortfall=\$17,613.

Unpledged giving was also down \$18,010 for a total of \$29,890 income loss. Hopefully those that did not fulfill their pledges will commit to doing that.

To date, 71 pledges have been returned in the amount of \$298,510 which is \$62,500 less than the 2021 budgeted pledges. The committee will be communicating with over 20 pledging members who have not yet responded.

Pastor Jeff's report included a plea for timely information for pastoral care concerns and a request for a February session leadership retreat. Pastoral concerns include: Death of Paul Greer, retired coach and teacher; Death of Chuck Jeffries in Romney, WV, brother of Nancy Smallenberger and Carol Bland. Dee Brown had gall bladder surgery and is recovering.

Worship attendance for Dec 5 = 102, Dec 12 = 100, Dec 19 = 101, Dec 24 = 146, Dec 26 = 39, Jan 2 = 47, Jan 9 = 33, Jan 16 = 31.

Covid-19 Reopening Task Force suggested continuing current guidelines plus suggesting members upgrade their masks to N95 and inviting people to self-report Covid positives and/or exposures.

2022 Fellowship Committee plans under the leadership of Karen Leland are off to a good start. She reported the following Fellowship activities: Jan 11 Walk & Talk, Jan 24 at 1:00 Rip & Stitch, Men's Breakfast at Shoney's second Wed of each month at 8:00. Hopefully a February addition will include Dinners for 6/8. Please contact Karen for more information or ideas.

Tag Galyean is looking for people to help plan and follow through for a spring/summer community event in front of the Educational Building.

Submitted by Elder Chuck Lewis

Gwen's Meals: A Ministry of Old Stone Presbyterian Women

Gwen Clingman was a lady of small stature, but with a big, big heart. She and the family owned Clingman's Market on Washington Street in Lewisburg, now occupied by Stardust Café. Mrs. Clingman was best known for providing free meals to the students of Greenbrier Military School, Greenbrier College for Women and later to WVSOM students, or to any one that needed a helping hand.

As Mrs. Clingman began to age, she often wondered, "who will feed my people"? After she passed away, the Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley began a program providing nutritious meals to sick and homebound individuals in the Greenbrier Valley. This program began in 2003 and is honorably named "Gwen's Meals".

The Shepherd's Center solicited area churches to prepare the meals and Old Stone was blessed to have two new church members, Homer and Arlen Myers, who took on the challenge. They initially delivered 35 meals to individuals, but their love of cooking led them to preparing the meals. They chose a menu of pork roast with gravy, noodles, green beans, roll and dessert. Betty Dempsey was also on their "kitchen crew" for many years.

After many years and Homer's passing, Arlen remained steadfast to honor him. Up until this year, she was still purchasing the food, cooking the roasts and organizing her "kitchen crew" for 60 individuals. However, she too has decided to pass the torch after 19 years and will be relocating to Illinois.

So it is with deep gratitude, Arlen, we say "thank you" for representing Old Stone/Gwen's Meals program in such an exemplary manner. We wish you nothing but the best!

For those who may be interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Tracy Morgan, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, on 479-644-7202 or ltlmorgal@icloud.com.

Stewardship Financial Update:

**Old Stone Presbyterian Church
Financial Update Through December, 2021**

	December	Actual to Date	Budget to Date	2021 Annual
	Actual			
Pledges Received	\$53,031.00	\$346,093.00	\$358,706.00	\$358,706.00
Other Offerings	\$3,875.00	\$34,033.00	\$46,279.00	\$46,279.00
Other Income	\$8.00	\$2,458.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00
Total Income	\$56,914.00	\$382,584.00	\$407,835.00	\$407,835.00
Expenses	\$34,895.00	\$351,537.00	\$407,830.00	\$407,830.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$22,018.00	\$31,046.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

Presbyterian Women Afternoon Circle:

The P.W. Afternoon Circle plans to meet in the Activity Room of the church at 1:00pm on Wednesday, February 9th.

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle:

The P.W. Evening Circle plans to meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 9th.

Confirmation Classes - Sundays from 9:45-10:45:

Christian Ed is excited to offer confirmation classes to those who are 8th grade and above, beginning February 6th. We will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45. If you know of someone interested in the course, please contact Amy Kesterson!

Fellowship Activities and Groups:

Walk & Talk: Success! The initial Walk & Talk at Hollowell Park had five brave souls last week! Due to weather conditions, this week's walk on the Greenbrier River Trail was postponed. We might need to tune up our communication system if anyone has suggestions. Perhaps those participating can share meeting dates, places, and times to post on the church's Facebook page? Let us know your thoughts!

Knit & Stitch Group: The Knit & Stitch group will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 24th at 1:00 pm. Gather up your favorite handwork and come sit for a spell! There will be help for beginner knitters or crocheters. Please feel free to invite a friend to join our group.

Dinners for 6-8: We would love to begin "Dinners for 6-8" in February, if possible. There have been 12 responses, but not all gave a contact number so let's try this again. Please contact Karen Leland (985-290-0725) or Allyson in the church office (304-645-2676) with your name, phone number/email address, and the time of day that works best for you to host/participate so we can get this rolling. Or, print and fill out the survey included with this newsletter or pick up a printed survey from the narthex when you are here for worship on Sunday. Surveys can be placed in the offering basket or in the secure mailbox on the front porch of the Education Building. Please feel free to include your friends! If you are single, please do not hesitate to join the group. Suggestions have been made to dine out in restaurants or in their homes. We'll get everything squared away and will be in contact with those interested.

Card Game/Puzzle/Bridge Group: These winter months are a great time for those interested to start up a card game, puzzle, or bridge group! We've had a few people express interest in refresher/beginner lessons so we may do that as well depending on the level of interest. Please fill

out the survey included in this newsletter or pick up a printed survey from the narthex when you are here for worship on Sunday. You can also contact Karen Leland or Allyson in the church office with your name, phone number/email address, and the time of day that works best for you to host or participate. Surveys can be placed in the offering basket on Sunday or in the secure mailbox on the front porch of the Education Building.

**All activities will follow Old Stone's Covid-19 protocols to ensure the safety of our members and guests.*

Fellowship Survey Reminder:

If you haven't had a chance to fill out the Fellowship Activities Survey yet, there are blank copies in the narthex of the sanctuary. If you haven't been able to attend worship to pick up a printed copy of the survey, please print and complete the survey below.

Place your completed survey in the offering basket during Sunday worship, or feel free to drop it off in the secure mailbox on the front porch of the Education Building at your convenience.

Fellowship Activities Survey

Please place a checkmark next to the activities listed below that you would be interested in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cookie Exchange _____ | Board Games _____ |
| Watch a Movie _____ | Card Games _____ |
| Walking Group _____ | Crafting _____ |
| Bicycling Group _____ | Crochet/Knitting Group _____ |
| Genealogy Group _____ | Sing Along/Karaoke _____ |
| Coloring/Drawing/Painting _____ | Welcome a Guest Speaker _____ |
| Favorite Things/Show & Tell _____ | |

Other Suggestions: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

If you have questions or would like to share additional thoughts, please contact Karen Leland at (985) 290-0725.

Please place your completed survey in the offering basket or in the secure mailbox located on the front porch of the Education Building.

Offering Envelope Pickup:

For those of you that requested offering envelopes on your pledge cards, they are labeled with your name and available for pickup from the glass display at the front entrance of the Education Building. Please feel free to pick them up when you are here for Sunday worship or at your convenience during normal office hours (Monday through Friday 9am-2pm). No appointment necessary.

Communion Supplies Available for Pickup - Friday, February 4th 9am-2pm:

For those of you that worship at home and follow along on the radio or YouTube videos: prepackaged communion bread/juice will be available for you to pick up on the Friday before communion. Please feel free to stop by the church between 9am-2pm on Friday, February 4th to pick up your communion supplies from the basket on the glass display at the front entrance of the



Bag Collection for Lewisburg Fairlea Food Locker:

If you shop at Kroger and receive the sturdy type of bags seen in the photo to the left, please consider donating them to the Lewisburg Fairlea Food Locker. They are always in need of bags that do not rip easily and the sturdy Kroger bags are perfect! Bags can be dropped off on the glass countertop display located at the front entrance of the Education Building when you are here on Sunday for worship (or

Monday through Friday 9am - 2pm during office hours). Thank you for your consideration!

Thank You from the Family of Chuck Jeffries:

Many thanks to our church family for the calls, texts, cards, prayers, and words of comfort and support following the loss of Chuck. When life is most difficult, we feel God's loving touch through all of you. We especially thank Pastor Jeff for leading the graveside service. It was exactly what Chuck wanted.

In Christ,

The family of Chuck Jeffries

January Birthdays

01/06 Susan Graham
01/08 Marcia Leitch
01/08 Corbin Long
01/11 Miriam "Whicky" Knight
01/12 Grace Brown
01/12 Amy Meadows
01/13 Suzanne Snyder
01/16 Julia Smith
01/16 Lauren Smith
01/17 Rodney Weikle
01/18 Beverly Kucera
01/21 Tracy Peyton
01/22 Linda Monti
01/23 Hanno Kirk
01/27 Nancy Greenstreet
01/30 Meg Kirkham
01/30 Olivia Plybon

February Birthdays

02/01 John Rodgers
02/02 Katie Buck
02/03 Paul Kucera
02/04 Trip Hamilton
02/06 Becky Neal
02/21 Charlie Gwinn
02/25 Bill Cunningham
02/27 Mary Scarborough

Virtual Worship Links and Information:

- Live Video from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Begins at 11:00am: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OldStonePresbyterianChurch>
 - Live Broadcasting on the Radio Begins at 11:00am: 103.1FM or <https://www.facebook.com/103.1BearCountry> or <https://tunein.com/radio/The-Bear-103-1031-s30113/>
 - In-Person Worship Guidelines are Available Here: www.oldstonechurchwv.com
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Just a reminder:



You will NEVER get an email or text from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than @oldstonechurchwv.com or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!