



Stone Chippings Newsletter

June 2023

Thank You!

I just wanted to share a brief note to express how thankful and grateful I am for all of your warm wishes upon my departure. For those of you who are interested, I will be serving as the interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Staunton, Virginia, beginning July 1st. Thank you again for the cards, the hugs, and especially the prayers. You all are part of my faith journey now; it has been a privilege to walk alongside you during our time together. I am excited to see what God has in store next for Old Stone in the days, months, and years ahead!



In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, April 30th: In Person: 65 / YouTube: 20

Sunday, May 7th: In Person: 120 / YouTube: 20

Sunday, May 14th: In Person: 97 / YouTube: 10

Sunday, May 21st: In Person: 72 / YouTube: 15



Pentecost and Pastor Appreciation Luncheon - After Worship on Sunday, May 28th:

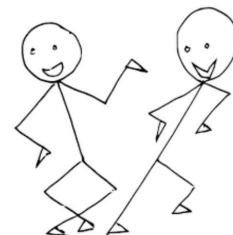
We will have a pastor appreciation luncheon and celebrate Pentecost after worship this Sunday, May 28th. If you would like to bring food, please bring a salad or vegetable of your choice. Meat, bread, drinks, and dessert will be provided. Wear your best red to celebrate Pentecost and come thank Pastor Jeff for his leadership in our church!

Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

What: Beginning Line Dance Lessons

When: Wednesdays (May 31 and June 7, 14, 21)
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Old Stone Church's Fellowship Hall (enter on Foster Street)



Lessons are sponsored by Active Southern West Virginia....FREE....Open to the community. Emphasis will be on beginning steps and dances from 6-7, with slightly more difficult dances taught during the last half hour. It is NOT necessary to attend all sessions or to stay the entire time. No partners needed, but bring your friends and neighbors.

Lessons are geared towards persons 18 and over. Youth must be accompanied by a guardian and the adult must stay with them during the activity. Participants are asked to sign a one-time waiver with **Active Southern West Virginia**. Becky Mahlburg is the ActiveSWV “Captain” for this activity.

So grapevine, shuffle, or cha-cha over and LET’S DANCE!

“Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight”, By Carol M. Bechtel:

The Presbyterian Women Bible Study Circles finished the 9-session study and are contributing their lesson books to others, who would like to use this helpful study of developing Sabbath time in your life. These are being collected in the Copy Room, next to the Church Office, on the left counter, as you enter from the hall.



Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, March 15, 2023):

The Session met for their regular Stated meeting on Wednesday, March 15. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor, and opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Jeff. In attendance were: Moderator/Interim Pastor, Rev. Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

Two sets of minutes were presented for approval, including:

- Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023; and
- Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2023.

Also approved was the email vote for a Building Use request for a birthday party to be held in Fellowship Hall. This request was received following the Session meeting and the requested date was before the next meeting so Rev. Binder sent an email to Session for a vote with a motion, second and APPROVAL of motion being retaken at the March 15 meeting.

Committee reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Building Use Task Force
- Worship Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Property Committee
- Safety Team
- Stewardship/Finance Committee
- Outreach Committee
- PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)

Committee action items included:

PERSONNEL –

- The committee presented an item concerning staff compensation – motion comes from committee so no second is necessary; motion was APPROVED.

PROPERTY –

- The committee recommends that the monies received through the Peyton Gran request be used to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. This comes as a motion from the committee, no second is necessary; motion was APPROVED.

PASTOR’S REPORT – Pastor Jeff

- Congregational Care updates were given.
- Update/summary of the recent Presbytery of WV meeting were included in the Session packet. The meeting had been attended, by Zoom, by Pastor Jeff and Ruling Elder Commissioner, Renee Ahern.
- Information for the possible leasing of a new copier for the office of the church was presented for Elder’s to review.

- Pastor Jeff gave an update on the work on his doctorate program.

CLERK'S REPORT – Nancy Smallenberger

- A letter was received from “Friends of Bluestone” requesting funding from churches for the potable water storage tank at camp. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to hold special offerings for the benefit of this project on Sunday, April 16 and Sunday, April 22.
- Worship attendance numbers were included in the Session packet for review.

NEW BUSINESS –

- A request was received from Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of WV, asking Old Stone to host one of the Record's Reviews held by the Presbytery. OSPC is being asked to host the Review that will be held on Sunday, April 30, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED.

The Session's next Stated meeting will be Wednesday, April 19th, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business requiring Session action, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Binder.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk of Session

Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, April 19, 2023):

The Session held their April Stated meeting on Wednesday, April 19, with the meeting being called to order and opened with prayer at 6:00 p.m. by Moderator/Interim Pastor, Rev. Jeff Binder. In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Jim Coleman, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Megan Kirkham, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jennifer Runyon and Gary Williams; and guests: Rev. Cam Harkness, representing the Bereavement Group and Jason Long, representing the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee).

It was declared that a quorum was in attendance and the docket was approved as presented, with the addition of the Presbyterian Women's request to hold their Birthday Offering.

Minutes presented included:

- Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, APPROVED as presented; and
- An email vote was attempted on April 4, 2023, regarding the removal of a tree behind the Education Building. There were technical issues with the email so a new motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to have the tree removed.

At this time, Rev. Harkness was welcomed by Rev. Binder. Cam has been leading the Bereavement program at the church that has met over the past 18-months. At this time, the group is wishing to join a group, via Zoom, that will be led by Linda Wheeler's niece in Florida. The group will be meeting on Sunday evenings, in the Conference Room of OSPC, for 13-sessions, beginning June 4. Members of the group will be purchasing their own workbooks. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for the group to use the Conference Room for their gatherings. A motion was also made, seconded and APPROVED for the “Grief Share” curriculum to be used. Amy Kesterson stated that this curriculum is widely used and Old Stone will not be the first Presbyterian Church to use this material.

Jason Long was then introduced as a member of the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee). The committee is asking Session to call a Congregation Meeting to be held following morning worship on Sunday, May 7, 2023. The committee feels that they have reached a positive step in their search process and have identified an individual to serve as the next installed pastor at OSPC. The candidate will be preaching that morning. Long presented the time-line for the transition period: May 28th will be Pastor Jeff's last Sunday in the pulpit with June 18th to be the first Sunday for the new pastor. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to call a Congregational Meeting for May 7th following worship. With this being the first Sunday of May, a motion was also made, seconded and APPROVED for the candidate to assist with the observance of the Lord's Supper.

Additional reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Building Use Task Force
- Music and Worship
- Outreach
- Personnel
- Property
- Safety Team
- Stewardship and Finance\
- Fellowship

Committees/groups who presented items for action, and those actions taken, included:

- **Building Use Requests:**

1. The Greenbrier Republican Club is requesting to use Fellowship Hall the 1st Thursday of each month to hold their meetings. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for the group to be allowed to use Fellowship Hall.
2. A request was received from Active Southern West Virginia to hold a Line Dancing Class in Fellowship Hall on May 17, May 24, May 31, June 7, June 14 and June 21 (with the possibility of additional dates). Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for the group to be allowed to use Fellowship Hall.

- **Worship and Music:**

1. The committee presented a motion, on behalf of the Sanctuary Choir, to purchase new robes. The 30 robes and stole sets will be purchased with funds that the choir has received as gifts/memorials to the choir/music department – not a budget item. With the motion coming from committee, no second is required, the motion was APPROVED.

- **Outreach:**

1. The committee presented a motion to establish a standing Fife Scholarship Committee be established. Members of the committee will be Amy Ahern, who will serve as moderator; Jennifer Runyon and Nancy Smallenberger. With the motion coming from committee, no second is required; the motion was APPROVED.

- **Personnel:**

1. The committee is recommending that the church enter into a copier rental service agreement with Professional Business Solutions. The motion required no second and was APPROVED.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Binder

- Congregational Care updates

REPORT OF THE CLERK: Nancy Smallenberger

- The next meeting of the Presbytery of WV will be held Saturday, May 20, at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg. A Ruling Elder Commission is needed – no one volunteered to serve.
- A letter was received from the Clerk of Session at the Ronceverte Presbyterian Church requesting the transfer of membership from OSPC to RPC for Patricia Boisvert. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for said transfer.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A request from the Presbyterian Women to hold their Birthday Offering on Sunday, May 21. A motion was made and seconded to hold the offering; with the motion was APPROVED.

The Session's next Stated meeting will be Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 p.m.

There being no other business to be addressed by Session, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Binder.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update April 2023 *UPDATED		
	April Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$16,095.00	\$121,897.00
Other Offerings	\$6,205.00	\$20,210.00
Other Income	\$100.00	\$1,268.00
Total Income	\$22,400.00	\$143,375.00
Expenses	\$37,073.00	\$129,498.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$14,673.00	\$13,377.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update May 2023 Month-to-Date		
	May Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$16,955.00	\$138,852.00
Other Offerings	\$5,121.00	\$25,331.00
Other Income	\$1,175.00	\$2,443.00
Total Income	\$23,251.00	\$166,626.00
Expenses	\$24,895.00	\$154,393.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$1,644.00	\$11,733.00

Friends of Bluestone Special Offering Collection Grand Total:

We collected an additional \$815 during the 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14 worship services to support Friends of Bluestone with facility repairs. This brings our grand total of donations collected for this special offering to \$2,230. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

May Birthdays

05/01 Frances Layton
 05/03 Amelia Monti
 05/04 Mike Leland
 05/04 Bill Satterfield
 05/05 Rhodes Irons
 05/05 Herb Montgomery
 05/06 Sara Irons
 05/07 Stephanie Bachman
 05/07 Michael Meadows
 05/10 Janice Milam
 05/11 Lyn MacCorkle

June Birthdays

06/02 Tim Holbrook
 06/02 Emma McClelland
 06/05 Kaye Rodgers
 06/07 Gordon Campbell
 06/07 Rebecca Kucera
 06/07 Laura Montgomery
 06/08 Henry Hileman
 06/08 Frank Milam
 06/10 Staci Banton
 06/17 David Hofmann
 06/17 Megan Hofmann

05/12 Ves Burford
05/12 Grace Coffindaffer
05/14 Becky Kelso
05/14 Gail Marshall
05/15 Dee Brown
05/16 Carson Banton
05/19 Polly Smith
05/20 Sandi Hofmann
05/21 Jacquelyn Marshall
05/24 Kathy Snyder
05/25 Victoria Monti
05/29 Debbie Taylor

06/17 Katy Montgomery
06/18 Sara Graham
06/18 Lawson Hamilton
06/19 Caroline Bachman La Boissiere
06/27 Christy Rodgers

Scam Emails/Phone Calls Reminder:

This is a reminder to be diligent and watch out for scammers pretending to be the staff of Old Stone Presbyterian Church or of the Presbytery of WV.

In the recent past, a number of people received a phishing email from Gmail accounts pretending to be the General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of WV. The email did not come from an account ending in "wvpresbytery.org".

If you receive an email or phone call similar to this, DO NOT send the requested gift cards, money, or personal information. Old Stone Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of WV will NEVER ask you for gift cards, money, or personal information. Please reach out to a staff member if you receive email requests such as this and would like to verify whether or not it is a scam.
