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Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Report from Patsy and David

David and I were lucky to have the opportunity to travel to Montreat Conference Center to attend the Wee Kirk Conference. Wee Kirk means “small church”. This is a conference designed for “small churches”. It is primarily ministers, music and worship leaders and spouses. It is a lovely conference and this year’s topics were very interesting. I attended the **Creative Worship and Music** sessions and David attended the **Mission** sessions.

Over the next several months, the Worship Committee and I will be incorporating some different hymns and ways to use hymns during worship. For example: last Sunday, we sang the Bible School song “Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man” and this Sunday and the following 2 Sundays we will be singing verses from a hymn that some of you may be familiar with, but I wasn’t. It is called “The Servant Song” or “Let Me Be Your Servant”. We will be singing a verse each Sunday during the time of collection for the Thanksgiving Food Collection. Here are the words to the first verse:

*Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the chance to let you be my servant too.*

Think about the words as you sing them. As we donate to others, we are serving as their servant and maybe one day, that same person may be in a position to share or be our servant.

Here are some other thoughts with which I could relate:

- ⇒ The preacher’s job is to remind us (the congregation and himself) of the things that we need to remember as we go out and serve God.
- ⇒ Incorporate music into liturgies.
- ⇒ During Stewardship Season, people should share personal stories about why the church needs money (remember the Stewardship Season is upon us).
- ⇒ Memorizing verses from the bible can be very engaging
- ⇒ The worship service should aspire to honor God by engaging hearts, building community and it should be a place where we can practice living faithfully.

- ⇒ We need to share leadership responsibilities
 - ⇒ We should minister to one person per week
 - ⇒ Thanksgiving is approximately 20 days away and Christmas is only about 51 days away! Think about that!
 - ⇒ We all need to be open to try new methods and ideas during worship——- stay tuned :)
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While Patsy was attending the “Creative Worship and Music” section of the Wee Kirk Conference at Montreat (short for “mountain retreat”, btw!), I was attending the Missions section of the conference. Our theme was : “1,001 New Worshipping Communities”, which is a mission effort by our Presbyterian denomination, PC(USA), to start at least “one thousand and one” new worshipping communities throughout the U.S.A. and its territories.

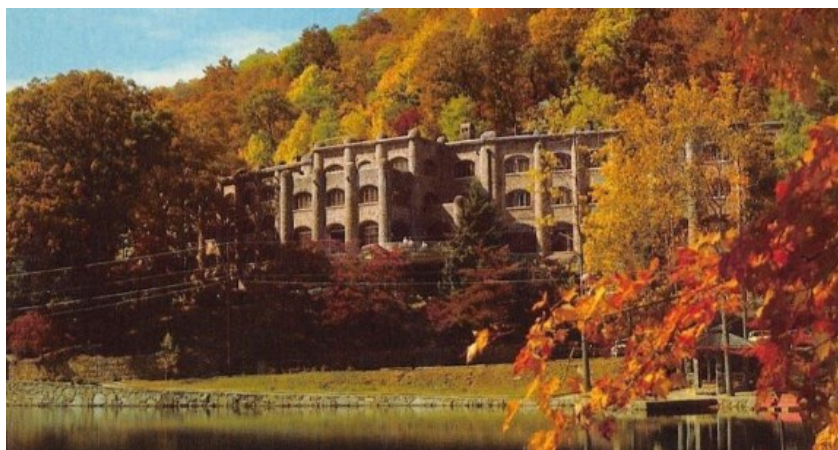
Many things were discussed, but the one concept that most captured my imagination was the idea that in order to bring new members into our worshipping community, we must reach people where they are in our community.

That concept then begs the questions: who are the people in the community that surrounds our church and where are they in life? and what are their needs?

Another related idea was the hard reality that our traditional form of worship may not speak to, or appeal to, the younger generations. More informal music and fellowship oriented worship experiences seem to be well received by the younger folk. An example is nearby: The Wild Goose Church that meets mid-week at Peace Presbyterian Church in Bonsack.

As I mentioned, several other mission ideas were discussed, but these are the ones that spoke to me most clearly.

My sincere hope for our dear Fincastle Presbyterian Church is that we will continue to reach out to our community and meet their needs to worship and serve God.



Assembly Inn at Montreat where the conference was held.

Thank you for this opportunity!

David and Patsy

From the Desk of David

Halloween is now behind us; Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. The Holiday (or Holy Day) Season is upon us. For many of us the holidays are a time for happy gatherings with family and friends; a time of meals shared and gifts exchanged.

However, for many the holidays are a challenge: perhaps a reminder that a loved one is missing from the family circle; or that, while others are at a festive gathering, you have to report for military duty far from home; or simply show up at the job-site and punch a "time clock" Thanksgiving and Christmas might be just another day for many people.

To all of us, whether the holidays give us joy, or "the blues", I would commend to us the spiritual disciplines that were commended to me long ago by an old professor/friend.

For Thanksgiving: be intentional, sit down and count our blessings. Write down those mercies of life for which we are thankful. Remember them. Give thanks to God for them. In the midst of our daily "trials and tribulations", it is easy to forget that for the most part, we are also blessed to be alive, to have our "daily bread", to know the blessings of family and friends. Count our blessings.

During the Advent Season, my old professor/friend would prepare for Christmas by reading and re-reading the "birth stories" of Jesus as told by Matthew and Luke. He would listen intentionally to the great Christmas Carols: "Away in the Manger", "Silent Night, Holy Night", "Joy to the World, etc. He would study the lyrics and allow the beautiful melodies to carry him back to his memories of his childhood or some earlier chapter of his long and full life. He would rejoice in the secular world's display of decorations and Christmas Cards. He would join in the general spirit of giving that goes with this time. For God is the Author of every "good thing! And the Christmas Season is a very good thing.

By God's grace may we enjoy the holy days (the holidays) that are upon us.

Peace in Christ, David

Committee Reports

Session

John Kilby, clerk; David Dickerson, moderator; Sandy Gates, Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey,

- The November/December meeting of session will be held on Thursday, December 1

Worship Committee

Lynne Bolton, Chairman; Committee members— Peggy Davis, Patsy Dickerson, Betty Painter

- Advent Begins on November 27
- Anyone wanting to help decorate the church, we will meet on Saturday, November 26 anytime after 9 am. We will have the greenery, etc.
- Looking Ahead: Lessons and Carols will be held during worship on Sunday, December 4
- Do you know any organist or pianist who is looking for a job? Keep your ears open and let Lynne know if you do.
- November 20th is Christ the King Sunday.



Property Committee

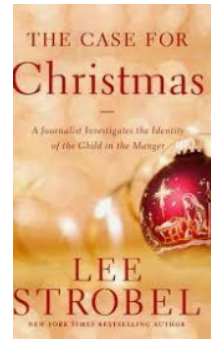
Fred Coots, Chairman; Committee Members—Lyn and Kip Burton, Bo Trumbo, Jim Porter, Mike and Cathy Goad, Paul Phillippe, Debbie Coots, Julia Richardson, Ed and Verna Shuey

- Hopefully everyone has noticed the iron fences around the church. The committee with the help of others, has been busy painting the fences around the church and graveyard. They look beautiful. Be sure to thank those who painted.

Christian Education Committee

Lyn Burton, Chairman; Committee members— Verna Shuey , Patsy Dickerson

- Beginning Monday, November 14 at 10 am, Lyn will be leading a book study/Bible Study in the fellowship hall. The book is “The Case for Christmas” by Lee Strobel. If you are interested, contact Lyn Burton for a book or you can get the book yourself. Hope to see you Monday, November 14!
- Sunday School continues at 9:30 am in the Logan Room. David leads the study of the book of Exodus. Come join the group.



Mission Committee

Paul Phillippe, Chairman; Committee members— Lyn Burton, Debbie Coots



On the first three Sundays in November, we will be collecting canned good and boxed goods for a donation to the Botetourt Food Pantry. Bring your donation to present during each service on November 6, 13 and 20. If you would like to make a donation during the week, put it on the “back porch” near the pumpkins
PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE, AND DO NOT DONATE EXPIRED FOOD. THANKS!

Our church will once again participate in our yearly **Angel Tree Outreach** to provide Christmas gifts to deserving families through Social Services. As we have done the last several years, we will accept donations. If you wish to participate, please put a separate donation check to Fincastle Presbyterian Church in the collection plate or by mail with ANGEL TREE in the comment line on the check. We are asking for donations to be in by Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022.



2 cents a meal collection will be collected beginning in November on Sunday, November 6. The red wagon will be up front and you will be asked to bring your donation up front and put it in the wagon.

Fellowship Committee

Jim Porter, Chairman; Committee members— *John Kilby, John Griffith, Paul Phillippe, Bob Omer, Fred Coots*

- Remember the FELLOSHIP TIME after worship each Sunday. Please sign up on the calendar in the fellowship hall to provide cookies and drink for a Sunday.
- Looking Ahead: Sunday, December 4 after Lessons and Carols. This will be a true pot luck. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks only. Bring a dish or two to share.



Personnel Committee

Bo Trumbo, chairman—Committee Member Lynne Bolton



Welcome to our new secretary/bookkeeper. Her name is Danette Heinlein and she and her husband Tim are new residents in Buchanan. She is a new member at Fincastle United Methodist Church. Danette comes to us with a variety of computer and financial experience. She and Tim have 2 grown girls, 2 great sons-in-law, 1— 3 month old granddaughter and 1 granddaughter to be born in January. Stop by and visit with Danette. She is anxious to learn the congregation. She will be posting her weekly hours each week in the bulletin.

Congregational Care Committee

Cathy Goad, chairman—Committee Member Peggy Davis

November 3—Garland Jones

November 12—Nick DesChamps

November 26—Jim Porter



Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Meg and Bob Omer, Mary Beth Huwe, Laura Holt McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Amy Ward (Family of Sue Porter), Paul Langford (Dot Langford's brother-in-law and Leigh Anne Martin's uncle), Whitney Wolford (friend of the Baileys), Doug Ross, the people who have suffered damage due to the Hurricane Ian and Fiona

Financial Committee

Hal Bailey, chairman and treasurer—Committee Members: *Becky Downs, Mardee Kilby, Debbie Coots*

- Stay tuned for a stewardship letter concerning pledges/ giving. Think prayerfully about your giving to the church.
- The committee has also been making plans for the Budget for 2023.
- Think about how you can serve God through giving of your time and talents.

