

# A LAMPSTAND

## FOR MOUNT AIRY

COVENANT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR SCOTT WILLET

MAY 2023

### A Busy Meeting

Sometimes our regular Session meetings are uneventful. Important still, as we always review the work of the church and pray for everyone in the congregation, but not always noteworthy in terms of any specific decisions that we make. Our last meeting was an exception! Thus this newsletter will have several newsworthy items that are of significance in a lot of different categories.

First, to fulfill a long-term desire and at the request of numerous church members over an extended period of time, we have decided to pave the parking lot! Obviously, that isn't the most important item in terms of our eternal destiny, but in terms of the safety and protection of our members and visitors simply getting into the church building, it is important. We have hesitated in years past to contract that work due to the anticipated high cost, but we recently decided to get a quote for asphalt pavement nonetheless, and were pleasantly surprised that it was much lower than we expected. The total cost is approximately \$22,000, including the full parking lot and the driveway connecting to South Franklin. We have sufficient money in savings, so we are not creating any financial crisis by amending our annual budget, but the Session wanted you to be aware of the cost in the event that anyone would wish to contribute in addition to their regular giving and tithing with the awareness of that major expenditure.

#### Welcome!

To our visitors,  
we welcome you to  
Covenant Reformed  
Presbyterian Church.

Visitors, please take a copy of  
the burgundy colored  
Welcome!

folder located on the foyer  
table next to the bulletins.  
Please fill out a visitor's card  
and either give it to an usher  
or put it in the offering plate.

"But now God has set the members,  
each one of them, in the body  
just as He pleased."  
(1 Cor. 12:18 NKJV)

I should note in that regard, that we function as a church with the concept of simple tithing. We generally don't take special offerings (except on very special occasions). We don't take pledges. We simply expect God's people to be cheerful givers: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) The Old Testament principle remains appropriate: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

Likely you have also seen that we have constructed a pavilion on the concrete pad in our side yard. Our intention has always been for a useful picnic pavilion, one that will benefit our fellowship time each Sunday by being able to enjoy fresh air on the many weeks when the weather is comfortable. It will also be profitable for outreach events, when we invite others to visit and join with us, and for additional times of fellowship for us to enjoy as a church family, events like picnics or ice cream socials.

As with the parking lot, the hesitation in recent years has been the anticipated cost, but the pavilion quote was also lower than expected and it was constructed for us for approximately \$10,000. In addition, we have purchased eight heavy-duty, commercial steel picnic tables with thermoplastic coating, which also had a total price of \$10,000. Needless to say, we have spent a lot of money, but we believe that those expenditures will benefit the overall life of the church. Again, anyone who

is able and wishes to give any additional offerings is welcome to do so. We have adjusted our budget accordingly for this year, and I would emphasize that we have no intention of reducing any of our giving to missions and benevolences outside the church.

There are other matters which the Session has agreed upon. We have scheduled a series of Friday night movies again this year, the last Friday of each month through September. (Look for the schedule of movies in this newsletter.) We are also hoping to schedule a speaker for a special program commemorating Reformation Day at the end of October, scheduling another day of prayer and fasting in conjunction with that program. Those movie nights will have a dual function as they did last year, giving occasion for an enjoyable and relaxed evening out together as a church family as well as a very good opportunity for an outreach event to which you can invite others to come. We will plan to follow-up with those who attend, giving further information about the church and the gospel as we are able. Dinner will be provided by the church each of those nights, and I will be recruiting volunteers each month to do the actual work of meal preparation.

There's more...You may or may not be aware that the church has an active Deacons Fund. That fund is used to provide financial help to people in need, with a priority upon church members but also with a willingness to help those outside the church. (Galatians 6:10) We have been quite active in that ministry over the years. Several people and families contribute regularly to the fund, however we haven't had a separate Deacons Fund offering in some time. The Session decided to resume a specific offering for the Deacons Fund, to be collected after the celebration of the Lord's Supper the first Sunday morning of every month. The intention is to make known the existence and activity of the Deacons Fund, giving opportunity for those wish to contribute to do so. Since we currently have no Deacons, that responsibility to distribute those funds falls to the Elders, and specific requests can be made to any of the Elders. Any two elders generally have the authority to disperse requested funds needed for assistance.

The Session also discussed the whole subject of church security. At this point, our determination is to set up a committee to study the whole issue with consideration of what similar churches are doing to enhance their security and what steps, if any, might be wise for us to consider. Please speak to one of the elders if you are interested in being part of that committee.

Each time we meet as Session we review the whole work of the church and the needs of our members, and receive my report on the work and ministry which the Lord has given to me here. We also receive monthly reports from our faithful Treasurer, Mark Mattson, and we schedule any anticipated guest preachers. The opportunities to interview new members as well as our covenant children preparing to profess their faith remain welcome events—with the great privilege of hearing how God has worked in the lives of His people here. Every story is a unique and personal testimony of God's amazing grace!

For me personally, I delight to labor together with my fellow elders as we exercise our leadership and oversight with a deep sense of mutual respect. We are free to speak with one another and willing to listen as well. Disagreements that might arise are never conflicts! Offense is never intended and never taken. In that context, I often note how our wisdom together is far greater than what any one of us would contribute individually. The addition of recently ordained elder Lane Bryant has also been a great benefit and encouragement.

Please pray for us as a body of elders, a Session, even as we pray for you, knowing that we take seriously our responsibility to "take heed... to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." (Acts 20:28)

Yours with a pastor's heart,

### *Schedule of Preaching*

#### May 21

AM      *Genesis 2:24-25*  
PM      *Matthew 5:43-48*

#### May 28

AM      *Genesis 3:1-7*  
PM      *Matthew 6:1-4*

#### June 4

AM      *Genesis 3:8-13*  
PM      *Matthew 6:5-8*

#### June 11

AM      *Pulpit Supply: Earl Blackburn*  
PM      *Pulpit Supply: Earl Blackburn*

#### June 18

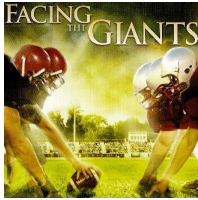
AM      *Genesis 3:14-15*  
PM      *Matthew 6:9*

#### June 25

AM      *Genesis 3:16-23*  
PM      *Matthew 6:9*

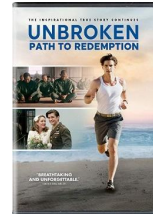
## FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE NIGHT

**May 26: God's Not Dead 2**



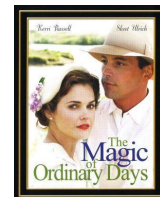
**June 30: Facing the Giants**

**July 28: Unbroken: Path to Redemption**



**August 25: Babe**

**Sept 29: The Magic of Ordinary Days**



**Free dinner at 6:00 p.m.; Movies start at 7:00 p.m.**

**Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church (495 S. Franklin Rd., Mt. Airy)**

**Please let us know if you're coming for dinner: [cshields@vigilantsys.com](mailto:cshields@vigilantsys.com)**

**OR Call Cindy Shields at 336-783-0054**

## Friday Night Movie Night

*We have scheduled again this year a series of movies the last Friday night of each month, as noted in the flier above. Dinner will be provided by the church at 6 pm, followed by the movie at 7. Please take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy an evening out together with church friends.*

*Also, please use these movies as an occasion to reach out and invite others to come with you—friends, neighbors and family.*

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to our weekly Bible study  
each Wednesday evening at 7 pm.

We are studying the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Meeting at the home of Marvin and Susan Kaye, 419 Spring St., Mount Airy

## Men's Reading Group

Each Friday, 9:00 AM  
at the church  
studying the book *The Glorious Body of Christ*  
by R.B. Kuiper

All the men and young men of the church are invited  
for a time of study, prayer and fellowship.

## Treasurer's Report

### Monthly Income

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| January  | \$11,564.08 |
| February | \$12,034.54 |
| March    | \$4,815.00  |
| April    | \$19,108.58 |
| YTD      | \$47,522.20 |

### Monthly Expenses

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| January  | \$10,741.35 |
| February | \$9,202.06  |
| March    | \$13,833.57 |
| April    | \$30,646.73 |
| YTD      | \$64,423.58 |

### Income minus Expenses

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| January  | \$822.73      |
| February | \$2,832.48    |
| March    | (\$9,018.57)  |
| April    | (\$11,538.15) |
| YTD      | (\$16,901.38) |

### Monthly Average Income

\$11,880.55

### Monthly Average Expenses

\$16,105.90

### Monthly Budget

\$14,750.00

## **Deacons Fund Offering**

Beginning in June, we will receive an offering designated for the Deacons Fund following the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month.

The Deacons Fund (currently administered by the Elders) is used to meet specific financial requests of those in need, with a priority given to members of the church but with a willingness also to help those outside the church. (Galatians 6:10) This monthly offering will give everyone who wishes to do so the opportunity to contribute to this fund.

## **Church Directories**

An electronic copy of an updated church directory is being distributed. Please send Pastor Willet any corrections or additions this week, as a hard copy will be printed soon.

## **Security Committee**

As noted in the pastor's letter, the Session has determined to appoint a committee to study the whole issue of security for the church with consideration of what similar churches are doing to enhance their security and what steps, if any, might be wise for us to consider. Please speak to one of the elders if you are interested in being part of that committee.

## **Live Stream and our Website**

Please be aware that a LiveStream is available for all our Sunday morning and afternoon worship services and our Wednesday Bible study, for those who are unable to attend in person.

The website address is: [www.mtairyopc.org](http://www.mtairyopc.org)

The Live Stream is available as a single click on the home page, or directly:

<https://mtairyopc.org/live-stream/>

Recent sermons are available as a single click on the home page, and a full archive of all sermons and worship services is available as a click on the Live Stream page, or directly:

<https://mtairyopc.org/sermon-archive/>

# Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

495 S. Franklin Rd.  
Mount Airy, NC 27030  
336-673-3176 (Church office)  
336-907-0202 (Pastor's phone)

[mtairyopc.org](http://mtairyopc.org)

Pastor Scott Willet: [sswillet@mac.com](mailto:sswillet@mac.com)

## **Sunday Services**

Sunday School Classes  
10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service  
11:00 AM

Fellowship Luncheon  
12:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service  
2:00 PM

## **Other Activities**

Wed. Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism*  
Meeting at the home of Marvin and Susan Kaye  
419 Spring St., Mount Airy

Men's Reading Group  
Friday 9:00 AM  
Meeting at the church

## **Session Meetings**

The Session meets approximately every six weeks, at the conference room of the Vigilant Cyber Systems,  
1326 N. Main Street in Mount Airy.  
Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 1 at 10:00 am.