

A LAMPSTAND

FOR MOUNT AIRY

COVENANT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR SCOTT WILLET

JANUARY 2024

Charm and Renovation

Our church building was originally built as the home of Franklin Heights United Methodist Church. I don't know the exact date, but I suspect it was built not long after the beginning of that church in 1945. When they subsequently moved to their current facility just down the street, the building became home to Faith Baptist Church, who later moved to their new facility on the other side of Franklin Elementary School. (You may remember that new facility burned down 5-1/2 years ago, requiring a completely new building to be re-built.) We purchased the building from Faith Baptist very early in our history, not long after our beginning in 1998. It has surely been a great blessing to our congregation for many years!

I love old church buildings—the character, the charm, the style, and, almost always, the eccentricities and peculiarities. We have all of that! But old buildings have their challenges too! Like foundation water leaks, which have seem to plague us a bit more frequently this year after an absence of several years, especially in the kitchen. The need for renovation is also always present with older buildings, both inside and out. We got a new roof several years ago. Thankfully, we were able to get the parking lot paved last year at a rather reasonable expense, resolving an obvious problem not only for convenience of our congregation but our

safety as well. It would be great to install an additional heating and air conditioning unit for the sanctuary and main floor (so the current system could serve the basement alone), but that would be extremely costly, prohibitively so at this point. We've had thoughts of renovating the upstairs bathrooms for several years, an obviously needed improvement, but as those plans got delayed for a variety of reasons, including the COVID pandemic, it now seems evident that our most pressing current need is in the kitchen. The Session is agreed to focus upon that need this year.

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 don't know the history of any renovations to the original kitchen, but with a patchwork of helpful improvements, labor, and contributions over the years, it seems wise at this point to redesign and renovate the whole room. Because of the water coming in at the foundation, we need to remove the cabinets in order to expose the outside wall so that we can identify where the water is coming in. With that starting point, we can then begin to address the need for more adequate and updated counter space and cabinets, the need for more adequate electrical supply, the need for more adequate plumbing with regard to both the sinks and the dishwashers, the benefit of appliance upgrades where needed, a new floor, and a design which will facilitate improved traffic flow. There is plenty of room in the kitchen, but the space we have is not utilized very efficiently. So there are a lot of good options that would make the kitchen far more useful as we depend upon it every week.

As for myself, I seem to have the habit of doing extensive renovations to kitchens, having completely reworked the kitchens in three of the four homes that Sharon and I have owned over the years. Strange as it might

seem to some, I enjoy both the design challenge and the labor involved in such a successful transformation! In that context, I've been giving a lot of thought recently to possible improvements to the church kitchen. I am eager to get ideas from others also, especially those of you who are actively involved in the kitchen from week to week. Please contact me in the next couple weeks if you have thoughts to share. I am especially interested in any good ideas you might have to address the problems that you experience trying to work in the kitchen; or just an identification of those problems even if you aren't sure how they might be solved.

I anticipate that we can accomplish most of the work ourselves, as all of these projects are well within my own wheelhouse, given enough help and assistance from others. So please speak to me if you are interested and able to help in any way—for a day, a few days, or more, as well as letting me know what experience you might have. My hope is that we would be without the use of the kitchen for at most one Sunday. I don't believe that all this will be too difficult a task to accomplish, and I hope that the Session will be ready to approve a final plan within a couple weeks. I am excited about the possibilities of a much improved kitchen to be of use to us as a congregation for years to come.

Yours with a pastor's heart,

Schedule of Preaching

January 14

AM *Genesis 15:7-20*
PM *Joint Worship at Harvest*

January 21

AM *Genesis 16:1-16*
PM *Matthew 10:34-39*

January 28

AM *Genesis 17:1-8*
PM *Matthew 10:40-42*

February 4

AM *Genesis 17:7-27*
PM *Matthew 11:1-15*

February 11

AM *Genesis 18:1-15*
PM *Matthew 11:16-24*

February 18

AM *Genesis 18:16-33*
PM *Matthew 11:25-30*

February 25

AM *Pulpit Supply*
PM *Pulpit Supply*

Daily Bible Readings

A schedule for daily Bible readings is available on our church website. If you need a schedule to follow as motivation, discipline, and encouragement for your own personal Bible reading, please take advantage of the published schedule. Daily readings are listed for every month for two years, in which time you will read the whole New Testament twice, the Psalms twice, and the whole Old Testament once. Typically, there are two chapters to read each day.

<https://mtairyopc.org/daily-bible-readings>

Treasurer's Report

Monthly Income

November \$21,748.00
December \$30,505.00
Year End \$174,074.36

Monthly Expenses

November \$10,152.34
December \$20,877.99
Year End \$204,339.01

Income minus Expenses

November \$11,595.66
December \$9,627.01
Year End (\$30,264.65)

Monthly Average Income

\$14,506.20

Monthly Average Expenses

\$17,028.25

Monthly Budget

\$14,750.00

Day of Prayer and Fasting

Thursday-Friday, February 1-2

Prayer Meeting: 5:00 PM Friday

Please see Pastor Willet's explanation of fasting in the April 2023 newsletter.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/5mt.mtairyopc.org/2024/01/2023-04-April.pdf>

As it was for a similar event last April, our focus will again be upon evangelism and outreach. The Session has determined to make note of our need to pray for those those who are yet outside the kingdom of God, thinking in terms of our inner circle of family and friends, our broader community, our whole nation with all its current spiritual struggles, and the world at large.

We will end our time of fasting with a prayer meeting together set for Friday, February 2, at 5 pm. We will then break the fast and enjoy a meal together (which will be provided by the church). You are encouraged to consider fasting, but with every freedom to set your own parameters and limits. Please see my April 2023 article for practical suggestions. There will be no sign-up. It is just a commitment you make before the Lord—an intentional commitment to intensify your devotion to prayer.

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.

Women's Fellowship

Meeting at the church
Second Monday of the month
Prayer/Program/Discussion

Next Event

Saturday, February 10

11:30 AM

Luncheon at the home of Charlotte Johnson

Deacons Fund Offering

We 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.
Please give generously as you are able, as we care for one another in love.

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

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/>

Session Actions

Actions of the Session in previous month include:

Elected (for 2024) Scott Willet as Moderator, Mike Shields as Clerk, and Mark Mattson as Treasurer.

Removed Josiah DeGraaf from our membership rolls upon his transfer of membership.

Met with Dale Jackson, a candidate under care of the Presbytery for the gospel ministry.

Approved vacation weeks observed by Pastor Willet, pulpit supply to be determined.

Received monthly Treasurer's Reports and Deacons' Fund Reports, and approved the 2024 budget.

Set our annual congregational meeting for Sunday January 14, 5 pm, at the Harvest meeting place (Crews Methodist Church in Winston-Salem), cancelling our afternoon worship service that day that we might worship together with Harvest at 6 pm.

Reviewed and discussed the various activities and ministries of the church.

Discuss the renovation of the kitchen.

Received a report from the Security Committee and discussed possible recommendations.

The session has an extended season of prayer for all church members and visitors each meeting.

Next meeting date will be February 17, 10 am at the Vigilant Cyber System office building, 1326 N. Main St.

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, February 17 at 10:00 am.