

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 39, Issue 7

July 2022

THE WORK OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It is no surprise that the pandemic, an unprecedented freeze, and subsequent flooding in our building stirred thoughts about the future of Eastminster's ministries. As a result, a Long-Range Planning Committee was approved by the Session and conversations began about resourcing the Committee. Through a Grace Presbytery training event, information was shared about a program entitled Project Regeneration. In a nutshell, Project Regeneration is a consultative service provided by the Presbyterian Foundation, free of charge, for churches faithfully exploring God's guidance for the next chapter in the church's future. Rev. Joseph Moore, Ministry Relations Officer, met with the Committee members. Given the timeliness of the Foundation's ministry and Eastminster's questions concerning the future, the Session voted unanimously to explore how Project Regeneration might assist in the discernment process for the church.

Since the initial meeting in October of 2021, the Committee has been regularly gathering and working diligently with Rev. Moore. Working with our Treasurer and past Treasurer, Paul Grier, Vice President and Financial Analyst for the Foundation, has provided demographic and financial analyses for the Committee and Session. These reports serve as talking points for strategic approaches for living into the future God has planned for the ministries of Eastminster.

Years of experience led the Foundation to recognize seven key discernment options, fully understanding that the creativity of a congregation and the Spirit, can certainly explore other options for the church's future story. The Committee has spent time in prayerful discernment and discussion about the Foundation's information, as well as other possible ministry options. What follows are the key options noted by the Foundation:

- ◆ Age in place, using the resources available to you to stay in your location as long as your fiscal health allows.
- ◆ Share your campus with another congregation or group to help sustain your ministry.
- ◆ Merge with another church to create a new, healthy congregation.
- ◆ Sell your church campus and find a new location that is better suited to your current needs.
- ◆ Reinvent your church with new ministries; this can vary widely depending on your church's situation.
- ◆ Close your current congregation and re-start as another church.
- ◆ Close your church and create an endowment to fund ministries your church supports – forever.

The Committee, leaning on the guidance of the Spirit, shares a consensus on paths that are not options for Eastminster. Now comes the hard work: agreeing on where God wants us to go and how God wants us to get there. It is our hope that you have been and will continue praying for the Committee members as plans are being made to invite the congregation to join your voices in this discernment process.

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Pictures from Vacation Bible School

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Christ's peace,

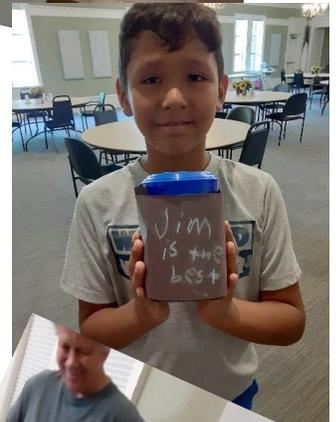
Long Range Planning Committee
Members: Vicki Cook, Elizabeth Kelleher, Tom Pappas, Vicki Thiebaud, Bruce Turner and Sean Turner

Moderator: Pastor Sherry Holloman



Left and below: After reading *Carlos and the Cornfield* and *Mud Pie Annie*, we made blue corn tortillas and edible dirt clods.

Below: We started every day with music. We learned how high and how low our voices would go as well as how to breathe when we sing.



Right: Take a look at our candy community. It didn't last long - WE ATE IT.



Above, and right: We might have enjoyed building the worm habitats most of all.





Congregational Care

What better way to beat the heat than with a Salad luncheon? The theme for the June Congregational Care Potluck, held on

Wednesday, June 15, was a variety of delicious salads! Everything from fancy chicken salads, shrimp pasta salad, watermelon/cantaloupe salad, mango salsa with chips, and cornbread salad. We also had tasty triple berry pie, pineapple cheese cake, pound cake, and a variety of cookies.

We were excited to have 3 guest joins us, Sue Kim (Sunday visitor), Janice Thomas (neighbor of Vicki Gayle), and Dorenda (Ms. Stella's caretaker). Always a delight meeting and visiting with new folks.

The next luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at noon. Vicki Lynn is preparing her wonderful oven baked chili dogs, so bring sides that will go with those, and of course, don't forget a dessert!

If you have not been able to attend, please come and enjoy the fellowship and the good food. Invite a friend or another congregational member that may not have received the word that Eastminster is up and running.

We continue to thank our Flock leaders and the contact they are having with our members. Eastminster is a community of believers that not only wants to share God's message but to know how our congregants are doing. Know that you all are in our prayers.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday, July 13.

Prayers and blessings,
Congregational Care



Creamy Dill Potato Salad

Vicki Lynn prepared this delicious potato salad for the end of year youth group. It was a huge hit...and an all-time new favorite for Audrey!

3 pounds small red potatoes, unpeeled
2 teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup mayonnaise
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sour cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon seasoned salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon celery salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
4 green onions, sliced ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup)
3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh parsley, chopped fine

Place potatoes in a large pot. Cover with water and add 2 teaspoons of salt. Bring water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are soft, about 15- to 20 minutes.

Drain potatoes. You can leave the skins on or peel them. Cut each potato in half or quarters, depending on size. Place potatoes in a large bowl and drizzle with the vinegar.

Add mayonnaise, sour cream, seasoned salt, celery salt, garlic salt, and pepper. Stir well to mix. Stir in green onions, dill and parsley. VLC combines everything, even the green onions, dill and parsley and then mixes into potatoes.

Cover and chill at least 1 hour

VLC added: Athenos Mediterranean Herb Crumbled Feta – about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ cup

Enjoy!



From the beginning to the present, singing has been a part of worship and the Christian community. Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn at the end of the "Last Supper," possibly from Psalm 119 — a Jewish tradition during Passover. They were Jews as were most of the first believers, so they were used to having music in worship and religious gatherings, mostly from the Psalms. Sacred music is music that is from the scriptures, or texts to supplement and interpret the scriptures and ordinarily written for worship.

Most of us find that music reaches and expresses our deepest feelings far more powerfully than words alone. Few of us would want to worship in a church where there was no music. I have attended some congregations where the hymns, songs, anthems were all one style.

Early in my Ministry through Music (which began on August 1, 1958 in my sophomore year in college), I was taught some lessons by experience. One that stood out is that not everyone in the congregation likes or is inspired by every style of music, even if it is sacred. I have tried to use a variety of styles in the anthems, hymns and songs that are selected for worship and that reenforce or supplement the Liturgy for the day. While we recognize the importance of music we do not detract from the centrality of Word and sacrament. On the contrary, music adds immeasurably to the power of Scripture and preaching, prayer, and sacrament. All are selected with the prayer that God will speak to us through the music. Music also has a way of emotionally and historically connecting us with the past.

Think of the high points in the church year such as Christmas and Easter. Can you imagine them without music? In fact, music may well be the first thing that comes to mind when we recall these high moments. What makes you feel "at home" or "not at home" as you worship here or visit in a strange church? Chances are that the kind of

music you hear and are asked to sing has a lot to do with your feelings.

Music is something we both hear and sing when we worship. This is related to the fact that worship is both call and response. The call of God reaches the depths of our hearts with special power through music, and our singing and listening to the instruments. All express with special power the deepest response of our hearts to God. We not only hear the Bible read in our worship, but we also hear it sung. In Handel's *Messiah*, a long succession of Bible verses become unforgettable. Many of the anthems we sing are settings of Scripture.

Think how weakened our preaching would be if it could not be preceded by a hymn of preparation and followed by a hymn of response. Worse yet, suppose the preacher had to preach without any kind of music before or afterward. For that matter, think of the preaching and witnessing done through gospel songs such as *Precious Lord* or *Hallelujah* from *Messiah*. Augustine tells us that when we sing, we pray twice. Rarely does a congregation pray so powerfully as when singing a great prayer hymn such as *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* or *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*. Prayer as praise almost demands to be sung: *Alleluia!*, *Holy! Holy! Holy!*, *I'll Praise My Maker*, *Healing Grace*, or *Great is the Lord* and the multitude of hymns, spirituals, gospel songs, and praise songs our congregation sings.

The inherent power of the sacraments is brought out by music. How much a good baptism hymn adds to holy baptism! What a world of difference it makes when a congregation is receiving Holy Communion and hearing and singing familiar and beloved hymns and songs and choruses. (I do like the silent communions as well where God also

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Tiny But Mighty

Charlotte Turner, Outreach

They say dynamite comes in small packages, and if that's true, this year's VBS participants are tiny but mighty explosions of God-fueled energy! Thanks to Kathy Kreger and the CE and Outreach Committees, our participants enjoyed a fun-filled week.

"Living as Caretakers" was our theme this year, and we learned about all the parts of God's creation and how we should care for it. And even though we all thought we knew the Creation story, there were still some surprises: Michael didn't know sea animals came before land animals, and Victoria was surprised that all the animals came before the people.

On Monday, Michele taught us about the importance of recycling, and we made "trash" collages. Tuesday had us cooking with Vicki Lynn, Vicki Gayle, and AbbyGayle as we learned about caring for the earth and offering God our best. Miranda loved making blue corn tortillas and "edible dirt clods."

We started every day with singing, but on Wednesday, we learned music all day. Sean taught us about the sounds of God's creatures – beautiful individually, but not able to work together. So God told humans to "conduct" this big orchestra – and he let us conduct a bit ourselves. And we learned that we have to take care of each creature – even mosquitos!

On Thursday we learned about the science of being a caretaker. Jim showed us what happens when we forget to take care of Creation. We learned about how plastic hurts animals and why we need to be careful what we throw away. We also learned that water pollution is really hard to clean up. And we got to make earthworm habitats for our worm friends. (Michael -- who named all of his worms "Jeff" -- hopes that taking care of these will show his dad that he can take care of a pet.) Jim also taught us that worms can eat stuff that seems like garbage to us.

Friday was game and craft day. Cheryl and Christine helped us learn a new game and to make Creation Pictures with our fingerprints. And every day of VBS started and finished with Pastor Sherry sharing a story with us and helping us understand that God

made everything and thought it was VERY Good. We got to create our own stories on the felt board and make our own community using CANDY. (Then we ate our community.) Pastor Sherry also showed us pictures from Scotland, and we saw the puffin community that she loved.

Take a look at our Covenant for the week below – it sums things up pretty well. Thank you to everyone who made VBS happen for us. We can't help but look forward to next year.

I am a caretaker of God's creation.

I help care for the world by giving.

I give my time to learn about God and the Bible.

I give my heart by loving those around me, even when it's hard.

I give myself by sharing my talents with others.

I give my gifts and money to share with those in need.

I give my hands by caring for others and protecting the earth.

I give my desire by wanting less and offering more.

I give all of me to help God care for the world.

I am a caretaker of God's creation.

Thank you to all of the volunteers: Sherry Holloman, Sean Turner, Charlotte Turner, Christine Blair, Michele Pappas, Vicki Cook, Vicki Thiebaud, Jim Lee and Cheryl Wood. Thank you, Melissa Whitley, for providing cookies for the week.

Kathy Kreger, CE

Neighborhood Breakfast Update

Our numbers continue to show stability and slow but steady growth.

June 4

6 servers and 30 guests for a total of 36

June 11

5 servers and 30 guests for a total of 35

This summer is already proving to be very hot. For many of our guests, Saturday morning is one of the only times they can get out of the heat. In past years, more people come in for breakfast to get out of the heat and for comradery.

Greater Bethlehem and Christian Stronghold are still committed to helping us the third and fourth Saturdays of every month. Our crew of regulars is doing a great job of meeting our cooking and serving needs. But, we would love it if we could get everybody in church to pick a Saturday this summer and come by and visit. You can help or you can just sit and talk. Either way, you will get a better idea of how exciting and fulfilling this ministry is.

Let me know which Saturday works for you!

Tom Pappas



Soul care through studying

Summer isn't often associated with studying, but it can be an ideal time to dive into God's Word. Just keep in mind: Studying the Bible involves more than merely reading the words. The process begins with a humble spirit to not only gain information but to let Scripture transform you.

I've heard about various practices for Bible study. Some people set aside a special place,

with multiple concordances and commentaries at their fingertips. I thrive on a bit more variety. Comparing a couple of Bible translations and paraphrases proves helpful for my studies.

Renovaré, Richard Foster's institute that aims to help people become more like Jesus, advises: "It is vital to study not only books but also those things around us such as nature, relationships, events and cultural values." What are the most meaningful ways for you to study God's Word?

—Janna Firestone

All we need to know

When a loved one dies, we have questions: What caused the death? When will the funeral be? What form will our grief take? Some deaths also bring spiritual questions: Where was God? Is our loved one with God now?

Paul shared deep thoughts about death with the believers at Corinth. His complex ideas might raise further questions, but here's the key: We don't need to understand everything right away — not all of Paul's theology, or everything about God or all the practical matters around a loved one's death. Here, from 1 Corinthians 15 (NRSV), is what we do know: "Christ has been raised from the dead" (v. 20) — death doesn't have the final say. "All will be made alive in Christ" (v. 22) — a loving promise God offers to all. "The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (v. 26) — in the end, Jesus will destroy all sickness, pain, sorrow, war, poverty, oppression and even death itself. We are in God's loving hands. That's all we need to know.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

The soul as soil

Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant — up to a hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:8).



That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we — or they — realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time — including ourselves."

Dual citizenship

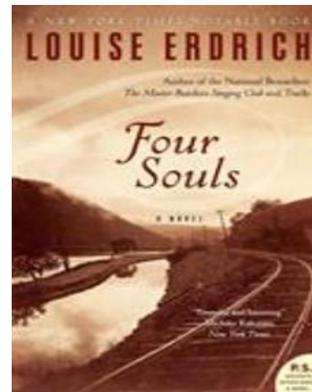
For Christianity and democracy to work, both need responsible citizens. Consider what happens to a republic when its citizens won't run for public office, won't vote, won't work for the common good, duck paying taxes and mistreat others. Now consider what happens when Christians won't volunteer at the church, won't give, won't practice their faith, won't love their neighbors. Both our country and our faith need sincere practitioners. Nationally, we need a citizenry committed to making the ideals of liberty the practices of life in America. Christianity needs followers of Jesus committed to making the ideals of God's kingdom the practices of daily life.

This is not an either-or situation. Christians everywhere are citizens of two countries, one on earth and one in eternity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully come, but it's already in effect. Our two citizenships can neither be fully united nor fully separated. We cannot withdraw from the world and pretend we are somehow dwelling only in the kingdom of God now; nor can we simply embrace the world and assume earthly governments fulfill God's will. Those are extremes, and they are unbiblical.

—from a sermon by Stan Purdum

The Ministry of Quilting and of Mending Hearts

To sew is to pray. ... We mend ... turn things inside out and set things right. We salvage what we can of human garments and piece the rest into blankets. Sometimes our stitches stutter and slow. ... Other times the tension in the stitches might be too tight because of tears, but only we know what emotion went into the making. —Louise Erdrich, *Four Souls*

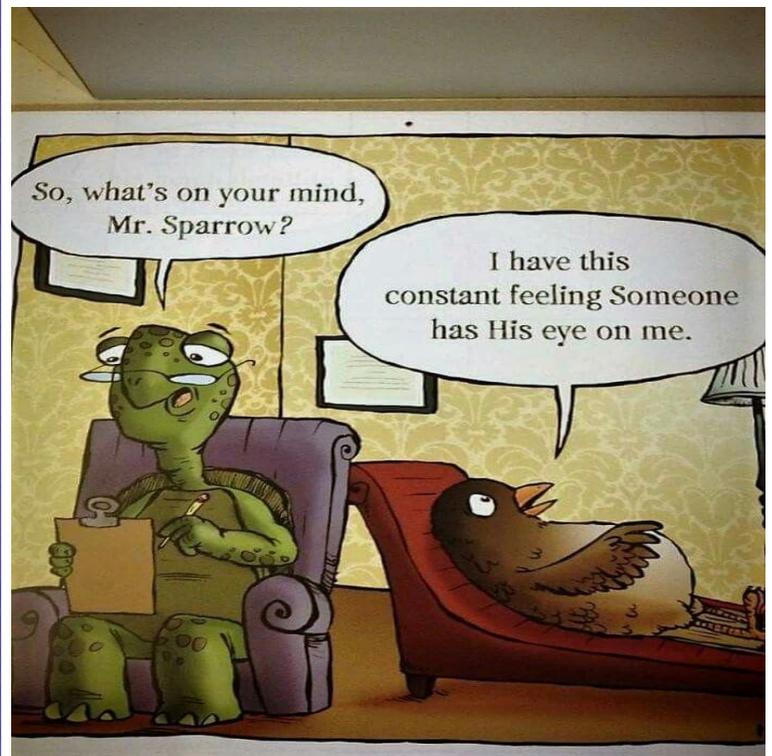
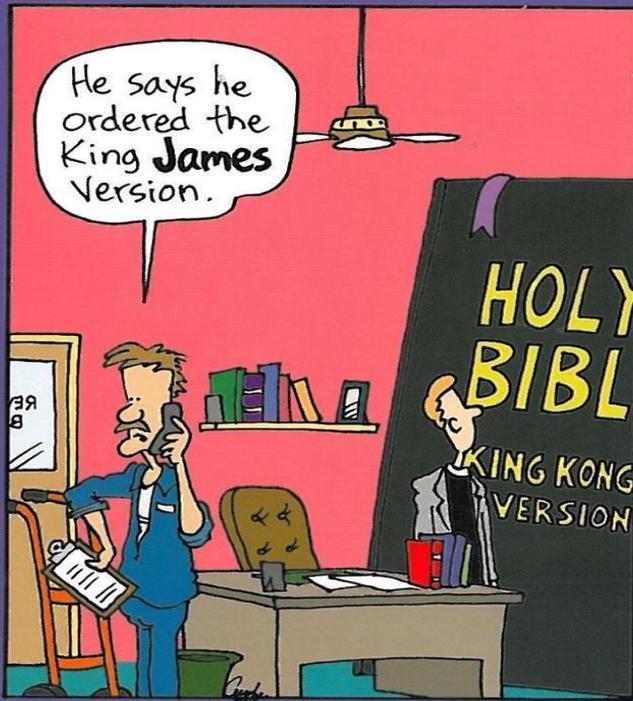


THE Parables OF Jesus

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin

Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)



Scripture Readings for July

1 Rom. 8:12-17	12 Rom. 11:13-24	23 Rom. 15:25-33
2 Rom. 8:18-25	13 Rom. 11:25-36	24 Acts 28:23-31
3 Acts 19:11-20	14 Rom. 12:1-8	25 Rom. 16:1-16
4 Rom. 8:26-30	15 Rom. 12:9-21	26 Rom. 16:17-27
5 Rom. 8:31-39	16 Rom. 13:1-7	27 Acts 1:1-14
6 Rom. 9:1-18	17 Acts 22:30-23:11	28 Acts 1:15-26
7 Rom. 9:19-33	18 Rom. 13:8-14	29 Acts 2:1-21
8 Rom. 10:1-13	19 Rom. 14:1-12	30 Acts 2:22-36
9 Rom. 10:14-21	20 Rom. 14:13-23	31 2 Cor. 9:6-15
10 Acts 21:3-15	21 Rom. 15:1-13	
11 Rom. 11:1-12	22 Rom. 15:14-24	

Notes: Continued from Page 4

speaks to me.) The music makes a difference in how everything else in the service goes.

Make your joyful noise singing. We are lifted and can find our hearts and minds more open to hear clearly and receive fully the good news of the gospel. Then as we leave the church and go into the weekday world, we can do so with God given power if we have the music echoing in our hearts and a tune on our lips.



YOUR INVITATION

Join us in the choir loft starting July 10th at 10:40 a.m. for Summer Choir. We will sing familiar hymns for the anthem, and after we sing, please feel free to go downstairs and sit with your family and friends.

Come help lead in the worship through music!

“In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree. ... If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own.”
—Harry Truman

“A life without love is like a year without summer.”
—Swedish proverb

“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.”
—Joseph Addison

The power of kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart

AMERICA WE SING

Our July 4th celebration will be on Sunday, July 3rd following the worship service. We will have hamburgers and pot luck side dishes in the fellowship hall. Then we will move to the sanctuary for the program.

This year we will sing some of the “God and Country” songs and the choir will sing a new arrangement of *Lift Up Your Voice and Sing* by Sean Turner featuring Melody Davis on the piano. Melody will also be featured on the most requested anthem we sing—the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Come join us as we celebrate our Country’s birthday with song:—*My Country Tis of Thee*, *America the Beautiful* and others—and as we continue to ask God to bless and guide us.

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using the clues R=I and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L

P Z Q N R V M Y L

H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U ;

O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G

Y R V B Q L T L B M V

Y O K L D Z Z N

J F N L Q V M O F N R F D .

M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V

L M L Q F O P B Q O R V L .

PSALM 111:10, NIV

Answer: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10, NIV

A prayer for strength

God of inexhaustible strength and limitless energy, our refuge, strength and very present help in trouble: When even youth faint in weariness and the young fall exhausted, help us wait patiently for you to come to renew our strength, so that we will mount up with wings to soar like eagles, riding on the undercurrents of the wind of your Spirit.

You who need no slumber nor sleep, by your Holy Spirit's power keep us from all evil, safe in Jesus' nail-scarred hands. Help us never weary as we run after you and never faint as we walk in Christ's footsteps, now and forevermore. Amen.



Sunday, July 3 in the Fellowship Hall following worship: Lunch and a Patriotic Program featuring the Eastminster Choir

Sunday, July 31: Back to School Shoe Fitting. Will you volunteer?



Blair Garrett 7/5
 Steve O'Neil 7/9
 Joseph Bacon 7/13
 Ginny Beatty 7/13
 Tim Kreger 7/16

Darlene West 7/20
 Bonnie Lucas 7/21
 Roy Ridley 7/24



Tammy & Dennis Crouse 7/6
 Toni & Joseph Bacon 7/13
 Deidre & Wayne Maples 7/17
 Kellie & Frank Karlen, Jr. 7/18



**Eastminster
 Session**

Betty Crabtree
 Kayla Dixon
 Blair Garrett
 Kathy Kreger
 Jim Lee
 Tom Pappas
 Vicki Thiebaud
 Charlotte Turner
 Sean Turner
 Fred Watkins



Pastor	Sherry Holloman
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree



HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

June 12, 2021

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Sean Turner. (And Thank you Denise and Tony Bennett for the May lunch.)
- ◆ Heard a report from the Christian Education Chair regarding Vacation Bible School 2022.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Moderator updating progress of the Long Range Planning Committee.
- ◆ Approved a motion to hold training for Session members in Realm operations on 17 July.
- ◆ Heard a preliminary report of restarting the Safety and Security Task Force.
- ◆ Heard a report from the House and Property Committee regarding the floor in the nursery. The damage appears to be caused by a broken air conditioner.



Independence
DAY



Special dates

- ◆ Canada Day, July 1, 2022
- ◆ U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2022