



Milden News

4TH Quarter 2013
Oct-Dec

Milden Presbyterian Church
PO Box 31
Sharps, Virginia 22548

Editor's Note:

Sadly, Ellen Hart Pritchett's job requires that she temporarily relocate to Kentucky. As such she had to resign as Clerk of the Session and as editor of this newsletter. So with this edition Dale Fox is assuming the responsibility for the newsletter (temporarily till Ellen Hart returns) while Dave Cordes has assumed the responsibilities of Clerk of Session. We all wish her and Jerry Wayne the very best in Kentucky and look forward to their frequent visits to Mildens and ultimate return to the Northern Neck.

MILDEN NEWS VIA E-MAIL

This issue of Mildens News is being delivered two ways -- by US Postal Mail and, if we have an email address for you, by e-mail. Our hope is that many of the congregation will be willing to continue to get this newsletter electronically rather than by the post office. If we can increase the number of issues we send electronically, we can save scarce church money. If you have a computer and like the electronic newsletter you received, we encourage you to let us know that we can continue electronic delivery rather than by US Mail. If you are willing to help us save money please send an email to adalefox@mildenpresbyterianchurch.org and it will happen.



“Why Church?”

As I am sure you all can see our world is undergoing some dramatic changes in the way we think and do things. In just the last hundred years we have gone from a world populated by pockets of humanity divide by oceans, language, culture, and politics, to a people united under a common sign - www.. (I intend no apocalyptic reference here.) All you have to do is turn on the news and see what is happening around the world. Peoples who have been held under the thumbs of oppressive and restrictive governments are now more aware than ever that there is a better way to live - they see the freedoms others enjoy and are no longer willing to live oppressed lives.

In our own communities, libraries are disappearing, record/music stores are all but gone from our malls and shopping centers. No matter what question you wrestle with, symptom you are experiencing, or item you wish to own, it is all a mouse click (or voice command) away. In fact, the largest unified society on earth goes by the name “FACEBOOK.”

In the face of such a dramatic shift in human culture, the question that churches and religious communities around the globe are facing is - “Why should I go to church?” With the answers to all of life’s questions merely a “BING” away, Christians need to be able to answer this question - with more than “Because God says so.” We would all like to believe in the altruistic notion that people should simply want to go to church because they love God and wish to serve Him. And, the truth is that those who truly feel that way are already in church every Sunday morning (or whichever day they choose for worship.) The rest of the population, those who spend their days and nights searching for the best deals, want to know what church has to offer them that they can’t get online. The most common impressions people have about church are that you have to sit through a long sermon, sing a bunch of old songs, and fork over your money. They just don’t see the value to their precious time and money.

We have to find a way of communicating what church is about and what makes it important. Those of you who utilize electronic communications already have an advantage. The first thing to ask yourself is how often do you mention your church in conversation with others - “I heard a great sermon this week;” - “I learned something interesting in Bible study that I didn’t know;” - “you should hear what someone said in Choir practice this week;” - “The ladies in my circle were so helpful to me;” - “I was going through a tough time and my congregation was there for me.” - you get the idea.

Next, we need to emphasize that church is much more than worship on Sunday morning - most people know that already. What they are often not aware of are things like how much fun activities can be; how much there is to learn that they can’t get by simply reading websites; how good it is to have a group of good

people you can count on when you need help; and despite the fact that we are people who make mistakes sometimes, say or do things we shouldn't, church is generally populated by good people who have much to offer one another. Church is a family - and everyone can use more family. The best thing you could say to someone is, "You have some great talents, I would love it you were part of my church family; we would really be blessed to have someone like you." That, my friends, is evangelism.

People today do not want to hear about their sin, or their need for salvation, or how much Jesus loves them. They want to know that there is a place where they will be valued as a person, that in a rapidly changing world there ARE people they can count on, and just maybe; their life will be a little bit better.

And that, my friends, is why you should go to church.

This fall we are starting a monthly Christian Education/Fellowship/Outreach program. On the third Thursday of each month, starting October 16th at 5:30pm, there will be a program at the church designed to enhance our faith, offer some time for fellowship WITH FOOD, and provide an opportunity for you to ask a friend, family member, or neighbor to go with you. We will not be doing any kind of series, so no one will have the excuse that they are coming in at the middle of something or missed the previous week. If you haven't been to church in a while, this would be a great casual opportunity to come back and see what we're up to.

Let's reintroduce Milden Church to the Sharps and surrounding communities.



CHOIR



Have you noticed all the empty seats in the Choir Loft? We know there are good voices in the congregation – we hear them every Sunday. What we need is to have some of these fine voices move from the pews to the choir loft. So if you can carry any kind of tune, why not support your church with a little help as a choir member? Just contact Kathleen Beane at 804.347.2647 or Kathleen@fidlernet.com.



THE MILDEN LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle met in the home of B.J. Bowdler, Tuesday, September 3rd. It was decided to change the meetings from Tuesday to the first Wednesday of the month. For the first five months the circle will be studying Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* (did Mary really live in a cave?) The first chapter was presented by Janet Cordes featuring a DVD introduction.

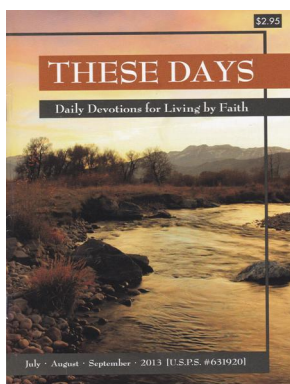
The day circle has dissolved. All ladies are welcome to join the evening circle.

The Women's Fall Gathering, November 2nd is at St. Andrews in Kilmarnock. The Milden Women agreed to help provide pastries and breakfast foods (finger foods only please) for the expected 75 attending ladies. Please volunteer to supply your favorite breakfast dish and tell Janet Cordes.

The next circle meeting will be Wednesday, October 2, at the home of Nancy Davis.

See you there! B. J. Bowdler

DAILY DEVOTIONS



Setting a part of each day aside for a quiet time with the Lord is a fulfilling habit to form. Available at Milden Presbyterian Church are copies of "These Days", which is a quarterly publication of daily bible readings, a short missive and a prayer. All you need to do is pick one up on Sunday (they are free to the congregation). Here is a sample of a "These Days" devotional.

Our Web site, www.mildenpresbyterianchurch.org also contains a link to "The Upper Room" which is another daily devotional publication. Either one, or both, is a great way to begin the day.

Learning to Live with God		Wednesday	2013
Scripture: Acts 2:38-47		14 AUGUST	
GOING TO CHURCH WITH GOD			
<i>And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.</i>			
Acts 2:42 (KJV)			
<p>God invites us to go to church with God. In this highly individualistic age, many people feel that they can have a relationship with God without having a relationship with God's children. We can be better Christians, however, when we share the journey with other Christians.</p> <p>In today's Scripture, we see the high level of fellowship and interaction among early believers. They prayed together, broke bread together, and owned goods together. Not only did they learn to live with God, but they also learned to live with each other in the body of Christ, the church. This is what God desires.</p> <p>We properly worship and serve God when we worship and serve with our brothers and sisters in faith.</p> <p>Action Step: Go to church this Sunday. God will be waiting for you.</p>			
<p><i>Lord, thank you for the church and for the family of faith. May I grow in you in the company of your people. Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Ritchie Robinson, North Sydney, Nova Scotia</i></p>			

MILDEN OUTREACH

Our long serving church secretary Millicent Reed has been independent but is now in need of regular assistance. Betty Acree and Liz Roberts have been helping with a variety of needs as they are able. The Witness and Mission Committee is exploring how we as a church can best help. For the moment we are in need of food donations in the form of:

Thinly sliced deli ham
Thinly sliced Swiss cheese
Boneless baked chicken breast thinly sliced
Thin sliced Pepperidge Farm whole wheat bread
Mott's apple sauce in individual serving sizes.
Frozen broccoli florets
Tetley tea bags
Mini white powdered coated doughnuts

Any and all donations should be placed in, or next to, the refrigerator (as appropriate) in the church kitchen.



17 JULY 2013 SESSION MINUTES (Pending Session approval)

A stated meeting of the Session of Milden Presbyterian Church was held at the Church on July 17th, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. and opened with prayer by Rev. Blasdell. Elders present were Nancy Davis, Dave Cordes, Sterlin Headley, Dale Fox, Willie Clements and Rev. Charles Blasdell. Absent and excused were elders Ellen Hart Pritchett, Mary Beth Barrack, Tim Davis and Kathleen Beane. Rev. Blasdell then presented his Minister's report for the period of March 16-July 17, 2013.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: *Mary Beth Barrack*-no report

Communications: by *Rev. Blasdell* A postal survey to the Church will be completed by Nancy Davis. Correspondence from Ellen Hart Pritchett will be handled as new business.

Hospitality & Congregational Care: *Nancy Davis, Mary Beth Barack, Ellen Hart Pritchett*-Cards sent in regard to the recent 125th celebration will be posted on the bulletin board. The organizational folder containing all information about planning and execution of the 125th celebration event will remain on file for future use. A reception to honor the Pritchetts will be held prior to their move. The next Church wide event will be a fall picnic to be announced at a later date.

Finance and Stewardship: *Sterlin Headley and William Clements*-Sterlin Headley reported that there was \$32,383.56 in the checking account, \$8,412.95 in the special account and \$157,371.00 in the RBC account. We are holding our own even though attendance is down somewhat.

Personnel: *Dale Fox*-no report

Property and Grounds: *Dave Cordes and Tim Davis*-The front door has been repaired. Allison Ace Hardware will be contacted to replace the storm door. Sterlin will check on having the printer serviced.

Worship and Sacraments: *Nancy Davis*- Choir members will be used in the August 4 Communion. This is also the date for special music to be presented. Rev. Bill Arnold will preach for Rev. Blasdel on August 18 and a replacement for August 25th will be announced when booked.

Witness & Mission: *Kathleen Beane* -no report

Yearbook/newsletter: *Kathleen Beane* -no report

Tree of Concern: *Dave Cordes*- Charles and Donna Rice are out of town. Walt Winegar and Peggy Bowdler were visited. The Bridenstines, Pembertons, Crumps and Kempers were all contacted in person. There is general appreciation for Rev. Blasdel's sermons and ministry.

Old Business: Martha Davis will be contacted about status in securing a new vacuum cleaner.

New Business: Ellen Hart Pritchett's resignation as Clerk and Elder effective August 31, 2013. Dave Cordes will serve as acting Clerk until he rotates off Session effective 1/1/14, but will be out of town for the September 18 meeting. Rev. Blasdel will produce the bulletin, and Dale Fox has agreed to handle publication of the newsletter. Ellen will be replaced as Elder at the next regular election this fall.

Elder Willie Clements stated that outreach for new members must become a main objective for the Session and Congregation. A fall retreat will be considered to draw up a plan to accomplish this.

There being no additional business the meeting closed with prayer. Next scheduled meeting will be September 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.



I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

- MARK 11:23 NIV

18 SEPTEMBER 2013 SESSION MINUTES (Pending Session approval)

A stated meeting of the Session of Milden Presbyterian Church was held at the church on 18 September 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Blasdell opened the meeting with prayer. Elders present were: Kathleen Beane, Mary Beth Barrack, Willie Clements, Tim Davis, Dale Fox, and Sterlin Headley. Absent and excused were Elders Dave Cordes and Nancy Davis. One Session seat is vacant. Also present was member Gwen Carneal. In the excused absence of Acting Clerk Dave Cordes, Dale Fox maintained the minutes.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Blasdell presented his Minister's report for the period 17 July thru 18 September 2013. In addition to normal visitations, activities included a planning meeting for World Communion Sunday (6 October) and preparations for a monthly Christian Education Fellowship program (New Business). Rev Blasdell also assumed responsibility for production of the bulletin which will henceforth be printed on Wednesdays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education (*Mary Beth Barrack*): No report.

Communications (*Vacant*): No Report.

Finance and Stewardship (*Sterlin Headley and William Clements*): Sterlin Headley reported a cash and bank account balance of \$44,550.20 consisting of \$36,241.31 in the checking account and \$8,306.63 in the Special Account. The RBC account had a 31 August value of \$157,430.25. This was a loss of \$4,315.17 for the month of August but still a \$14,187.27 increase over the first 2/3 of 2013. The Finance Committee will meet in October to draft the 2014 budget.

Hospitality & Congregational Care (*Nancy Davis, Mary Beth Barack*): Discussions were held on how to best support the effort to assist Mrs. Millicent Reed. It was agreed that this should be a community-led effort rather than a church-led one and that Kathleen Beane would contact Mrs. Liz Roberts to see how the church can best help. It is anticipated that the church would be the repository for donations of food assistance.

Personnel (*Dale Fox*): *No Report*

Property and Grounds (*Dave Cordes and Tim Davis*): Mrs. Carneal reported some maintenance requirements for the manse including repainting of the peeling paint on both doors, the need for a screen door lock and the potential need of trimming of the large tree in the back yard. Sterlin reported on the plans to have a new storm door custom made for the church entrance.

Worship and Sacraments (Nancy Davis): Refreshments will be taken to Campbell Memorial Church in Kilmarnock on World Communion Sunday (6 October) in support of the joint Presbyterian service to be held there at 10:00 am. There will be no regular services or Sunday School at Milden on that day.

Witness & Mission (Kathleen Beane): Perking along. Discussion was conducted on our need for a permanent clerk. Kathleen Beane moved that Dale Fox be elected clerk. Mary Beth Barrack seconded. Dale was elected Clerk of the Session.

Yearbook & Newsletter (Kathleen Beane & Dale Fox): The yearbook for 2014 will be a supplement to the 2013 Yearbook. Newsletter will be quarterly with the next one for the October thru December period.

Tree of Concern (Dave Cordes): No report

Old Business: Rev Blasdell reported that the color printer was not working. Bulletins however can be printed on the office copier..Dale Fox has a color laser printer in excess of his needs which he will donate. We need to ensure that those who normally walk to church are able to get transportation to Campbell Memorial Presbyterian for World Communion Sunday on 6 October.2013.

New Business:

- Rev Blasdell discussed his plans to begin a monthly Christian education, fellowship and evangelical program to begin this fall. It will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at about 5:30 pm. The first program will be in October.
- A nominating committee will be formed to select nominees for the class of 2016 plus a candidate to fill out the remaining two years of Ellen Hart Pritchett's term.
- Budget committee meetings will be conducted this month to develop the 2014 budget.
- After development of the proposed budget, discussions will be held on a 2014 contract for Rev. Blasdell.

There being no additional business, the meeting closed with prayer. Next scheduled meeting will be 20 November 2013 at 7:00 p.m.



Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- October 6 Worldwide Communion Sunday. Milden congregation will join with other Northern Neck Presbyterian Churches at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems, VA for a special service at 10:00 AM. There will be NO services or Sunday School at Milden on this day.

- 16 October Christian Education and Fellowship program at 5:30 PM n Fellowship Hall featuring the movie "Exodus Decoded". Refreshments served.

- 20 November Christian Education and Fellowship program at 5:30 PM n Fellowship Hall

- 1 December Holy Communion

- 24 December Evening Service and Holy Communion at 7:30 PM



Flower Schedule

October

November

December

6	Mary Headley/Donna Rice	3	Emily Wilkerson	1	Advent Wreath
13	Marcia Smith Jones	10	Martha W. Fidler	8	Advent Wreath
20	Mary Beth Barrack	17	Liz Roberts	15	Advent Wreath
27	Acree Family	24	Long Family	22	Poinsettias
				29	Poinsettias



October

2 Dan Dodson
3 B.J. Bowdler
10 Mary Headley
15 Morty Payne
18 Sydney Rigterink
20 Annie Leigh Lawson
27 Corrine Crooks
28 Martha Davis
28 William Rice

November

4 Billy Walker
14 Jamie Smith
16 Ira Glant
17 Rusty Acree
21 Clare Clements
22 Walter Winegar
23 Michael Hinson
28 Donna Rice

December

3 J.R. Fidler
8 Ernie Morris
10 A.D. Davis
10 Emily Gilliland
15 Channing Thompson
19 Dan Roberts
19 Tom Tulidge
29 Don Woleben
31 Ellen Hart Pritchett



If you have a computer you will enjoy looking at the Milden web site www.mildenpresbyterianchurch.org. Here you can find an extensive library of most of the sermons of our pastors and guest pastors over the past four years as well as information on what is going on in our church. There is also a challenging Bible Question series to test your knowledge of scripture.

Most all of Rev. Chaz's sermons are on the site in audio format so you can listen to his message even if you were unable to make it to church.

The web site is updated frequently and fills the information gap between issues of Milden News. If you haven't been checking it weekly you should be.



THE ACCOUNTANT

An accountant dies and goes to Heaven. He is met by St Peter who goes through the usual questionnaire.

"What sort of accountant are you?" says St Peter

"Public Practitioner," is the reply.

"Name?"

He gives his name. St Peter goes through some files and pulls one out.

"Oh, yes. We've been expecting you. You've reached your allotted span," says St Peter.

"How can that be?" says the accountant. "I'm too young to go. I'm only forty-eight"

"No, that's impossible."

"Why do you say that?"

"Well we've been looking at your time sheets and the hours you've charged your clients. By our reckoning you're at least ninety three.