

THE MARP MESSENGER

MOORESVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Volume 56, Issue 7, July 2021

My Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all doing well! First, I want to say “thank you” to everyone for allowing me to be off for two Sundays in June. It was good to get away with Melanie in the first part of June and then with the whole family (minus JG as he is working at summer camp) later in the month. I appreciate Barry and David filling in for me in the service and for all who helped while we were away. Having time away simply confirms that the LORD has called us to be here and that He has great plans in store for us as a church as we strive to reach our community for Jesus!

I also appreciate all that Jewel and everyone else did for Vacation Bible School! It was a great success and there many new faces and families that we hadn't seen before. Several children prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior and that was an incredible thing! It is one of the main reasons that we do Bible School! We are gaining momentum with new members joining, folks talking new member classes, upcoming youth & children's communicants classes for joining the church, and people coming and participating on a regular basis. We are also starting a homeschool co-op in September and this is being organized by Daniela Brown and another lady in our community, Joanna Adkins. The Open House is on Thursday, July 29 at 5:30 pm. Please be in prayer for this as we start this new work for the LORD and that it may be a means of outreach to our community. The letter being sent out to the community is later in the newsletter.

Don't forget about inviting people to church and to church activities! Now that people are starting to get back to normal in their everyday activities, we definitely need to be countering the culture's attempt to discourage church-going and large group activities. Our culture is actively trying to turn people away from God and make us think that we need to depend on the government and the mob mentality for wisdom and direction. **IT IS TIME FOR US TO REMIND PEOPLE ABOUT THE LORD AND HIS LOVE FOR THEM AND PURPOSES FOR THEM IN JESUS CHRIST!** I want to encourage you all to come Wednesday nights (as well as Sundays) and experience the blessings of being together and being grown in our faith as we study the Lord's Word together! And as we work to foster relationships with our friends and neighbors, it is something that we can invite and bring them to as well!

I mean – how else do you think our church is going to grow?

It takes all of us – coming and seeking the LORD together – and in sharing with people that God has put in our lives what He has and is doing in our lives! It is how we BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS & HOW WE ARE TRANSFORMED, EMPOWERED, AND HOW WE IMPACT OUR WORLD FOR JESUS!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Andy

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	WHEN	TIME
Worship Service	Sanctuary (Live Streamed)	Sundays	11:00am
Sunday School	Fellowship Hall	Sundays	10:00am
Lunch After Church	FLC	Sun, July 18	12:00pm
Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary	Tues	1:00pm
Adult, Youth, Child classes	Fellowship Hall & FLC	Wed Evenings	6:00pm
Deacons Meeting	Fellowship Hall	Sun, July 18	12:30pm
Session Meeting	Fellowship Hall	Sun, July 18	6:00pm
Youth Activities	Service Projects	TBA	

Birthdays to Celebrate in July



Brown, Barry	1-Jul
Parker, Shanda	5-Jul
Bush, George W.	6-Jul
Robbins, Marin	10-Jul
Monroe, Olivia	11-Jul
Brown, Nathan	15-Jul



CONGREGATIONAL GIVING AND ONLINE OFFERINGS

Currently, and partially due to the COVID-19 crisis, giving is down and the church continues to need to pay the bills, just like everyone else. So, please make sure you keep up to date on your giving. You can make your offerings in several ways: 1) attend church and make your offering. 2) Mail a check to 659 Carpenter Ave, 28115. 3) Drop your offering in the mail slot that is in the courtyard door to pastor's office, 4) Call a deacon to come pick it up. 5) Make offering online, which is now available, utilizing Pay Pal, accessible on the Church's Website. www.moorevillearp.org

SESSION / DIACONATE HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on Sunday, June 27, 2021, in the evening. The next communion Sunday will be on July 11. The Session talked about the possibility of monthly communion and decided to keep how it is for now until a time in the future when we have more elders. We are receiving 30+ Trinity Hymnals from Back Creek ARP in Charlotte and will be using new hymns some in worship periodically. Frank's vacation from the choir for all 4 Sundays in July was approved but Frank will still send recorded music to use in the services. The Session voted to request the congregation for nominations for elders, deacons, congregational chairman, and treasurer during the month of August. The Session also constituted

themselves as the Nominating Committee. Pastor Andy & Barry will attend the Summer Meeting of First Presbytery at New Perth ARP in Troutman on Tuesday, July 20 at 10:00 am. The May 2021 financial reports were received as information. They also ratified the Deacons decision to move money from our Edward Jones account to savings.

The Diaconate met on Sunday, June 27 after the lunch. They approved the May 2021 Financial Report. They approved moving \$5,000 from the Edward Jones to our savings account to help with expenses and with payroll. Some issues have to be resolved with our custodian and Nate as the Deacon Chair and Barry from the Session will be addressing. They hope to have the dimensions and costs for the pergola for the playground to be done by next month for approval.

B-L-E-S-S OUR NEIGHBORS (AND CO-WORKERS & FRIENDS)

B – begin with prayer, **L** – listen (& ask questions to get to know them), **E**– eat (invite to your home, cookout, or for going out), **S** – serve them in some way, **S** – share what god has done for you and invite to church

The Lord wants us to get to know people to be able to share the hope that we have in Jesus! This is the best and deepest thing that we can share with them! But it takes time and commitment to get to know our neighbors in this way! This is how the Lord wants us to grow the church! Please be in prayer for living in an intentional way like this and for the lord to work through you for his glory! Remember – there are 3 levels of getting to know people: 1) learn their names:2) know things about them – job, where they are from, family members: 3) know something significant they are facing or dealing with



Our next of month Spaghetti dinner will be on **Friday, August 27**. This will be our first supper of the fall. We are looking forward to another successful season and hope to return to normal in how we serve (ie. dining in service). A decision on that will be made and communicated to you all in our August newsletter. Remember, we can only be successful in running the suppers if everyone pitches in to help and donate supplies!



*This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

1 John 5:14

Please pray for our country in this great time of need, and especially for those who have been affected either by illness or economic hardship brought on by this viral pandemic. Pray that the dissent, division and secularism in our country can be healed and that our leaders will be guided by the Lord's will. We particularly want to pray for the following:

Church

Outreach & Evangelism

Wednesday Nights

Men's & Women's Groups

Sunday School, Worship & Fellowship

Children & Youth Ministry

Michael & Laura & Fox Cochran – Missionaries in the UK

Rev. Steve Richardson – ARP Pastor in Ontario

Gilead ARP – Pastor Search

Homebound & those in nursing homes

Linda Arceneaux

Ginny Suitts – Citadel (Genesis)

Lois Salter – home

Carolyn Massey - Wilmington

Margaret Lamberth - Summit

Jackie Clay – Transitional Health Services of Kannapolis

Bobby Brawley – home

Grier & Lois Brown

Nation

President, Governor & local leaders

Healing from COVID-19

Racial Tensions & Shootings of Police Officers

Families impacted by the building collapse in Miami

Military, Law Enforcement & 1st Responders

Doctors & nurses & medical staff

Church – that God would bring revival in our nation

Doctors & nurses & medical staff

Church – that God would bring revival in our nation

Individual Needs

June Lanzi

June's friends

David Parker's co-workers

Debbie Kalinoski's nephew, & her mom

Trinity Sisson

Dixie Stevenson

Unspoken Needs

College Students

Matthew Ward, JG Ward, Olivia Monroe

Town of Mooresville & Community

Those in need in our community

COVID cases in NC would decline

World

World to know Christ!

All ARP Missionaries & Persecuted Christians

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SYNOD MEETING
(DENOMINATIONAL MEETING) ON June 8-10, 2021 at
1st ARP Columbia

The 217th General Synod meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC again. Virtual participation was set up through zoom for those in the Canadian Presbytery, Northeast Presbytery, and Missionaries. Livestream was available for others as well.

Reverend Philip Bunch, Fayetteville ARP Church opened the 217th General Synod meeting with a prayer saying, "He who is in us is greater than he who is in this world."

Moderator Rob Roy McGregor, III called the meeting to order followed by a welcome from Dr. Derek Thomas, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church Columbia. Rev. Rob Patrick of Boyce Memorial ARP Church led the time of worship from Philippians 2:1-11.

Following Opening Worship, we heard the Retiring Moderator's Address which can be found in *The ARP Magazine* in its entirety along with the Moderator's Challenge.

The Special Committee on Net Assets Reallocation

Moderator Malphrus was on the committee along with the Vice Moderator, so Past Moderator McGregor had to moderate this portion of the meeting. The special committee was created and charged by a motion from the 2020 October Synod meeting stating "A reallocation of at least \$3,000,000 from the net assets of Synod boards and agencies to the ARP Retirement Plan Trust Fund be approved." The report included their strategy, considerations, and a list of available funds. These funds were updated since the printing of the Synod Packet but are listed here as reported at Synod. (Funds used for retirement debt are denominational funds accumulated or other restricted funds after the proposed was accomplished. None of the funds designated for missionaries, projects, or Where Needed Most were utilized for this contribution.)

The Special Committee on Restructuring was tasked

with reorganizing the denomination's ministry structure. The committee stated the ARP Church does not like change. After much debate, comments, and questions the recommendations below were approved.

1. That the Committee on Revisions be comprised of Presbytery members from each presbytery of the General Synod.
2. That Synod dissolve its Committee on Worship by December 31, 2021, and that the Committee's Music Conference be moved under the jurisdiction of the Board of Bonclarken.
3. That Synod dissolve Christian Education Ministries as a Board and Agency of the ARPC by July 31, 2022 and that Horizon, Quest, and Family Bible Conference be moved under the authority of a new committee on camps and conferences, and that Appalachia be moved under the authority of the Board of World Witness, and that Camp Joy be incorporated as a separate agency of the ARPC, and that the Adult Quarterly be moved under the authority of the Executive Board's Administrative Committee, and that the committee bring any further necessary recommendations to complete this action to the 2022 stated meeting of the General Synod.
4. That Synod amend the "At Large" portion of the board composition section for the Board of Bonclarken in the Manual of Authorities and Duties to include the following sentence: "At least two of the board members shall be ordained ministers in the ARP Church."
5. That Synod direct its Principal Clerk to make all necessary changes in the Manual of Authorities and Duties to reflect the actions taken in the above recommendations.
6. That Synod affirm the Restructuring Committee's conviction that the Synod needs a fresh start and a renewed vision towards global ministry, evangelism, and church planting as it confronts the ever-changing challenges of the twenty-first century. As a part of this affirmation, Synod will empower the committee to develop a unifying organizational approach and possible organizational structures that will not only address the present work of Outreach North America and World Witness, but

also give direction towards the presentation of the free offer of the gospel and the proclamation of the Lordship of Christ (Vision Committee Report, 2007). Any new organizational structure will be developed with the twin purposes of returning principal authority to Synod's presbyteries (FOG 10.1) and optimizing Synod's historical and biblical commitment to the ministry of the Word & Sacrament (FOG 1.7). The committee will bring its detailed recommendations to the 2022 stated meeting of the General Synod for approval.

Retirement

The Board of Benefits report started with a presentation from Rev. Leo Markwat. "There were 3 principles to guide the board: a clear solution, a simple message as possible, and a strong witness," Markwat said. Adam Bloom explained the remainder of the recommendations which are listed below and were all approved. The slides and webinar from the original presentation are available on ARPchurch.org.

That Synod adopt the Board of Benefits recommended action plan for the ARPC Retirement Plan including the following:

1. That the Plan implements a Hard Freeze effective July 31, 2021.
2. That there will be no change to retiree benefits (those currently collecting pension benefits).
3. That all Active and Vested Terminated employees will be involuntarily terminated from the plan and paid 100% of their Present Value of Accrued Benefits as of July 31, 2021.
4. That Active employees eligible to retire under the plan will either be allowed to stay in the ARPC Retirement Plan or receive a one-time option to take a lump sum.
5. That the Board of Benefits and its officers be authorized to take actions necessary to implement these changes.
6. That effective August 1, 2021, church contributions for minister's retirement will remain at 12% and be directed to the ARPC Defined Contribution

Plan(403(b)). The Board of Benefits recommends all churches participate in the ARPC Defined Contribution Plan. However, if a church decides to secure their own retirement plan for a minister they need to sign and return the form from Central Services acknowledging the risks and responsibilities associated with an individual church plan.

7. That the General Synod provide approximately \$8,500,000 to fund the recommendations of the Board of Benefits as the proposed changes are contingent upon the receipt or commitment of these funds.

(Take note that the Net Allocations Committee has pledged \$6,092,235 as seen in the chart above. Also, one of the motions was to begin a Capital Campaign for the \$2,000,000 if needed.)

Moderator Elect & Vice Moderator Elect

Mr. Bill McKay, an elder at Grace Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, Ontario is the Moderator Elect. Reverend Lee Shelnutt made the motion saying what a dear friend McKay is. McKay is a member of the World Witness Board, Clerk of Session at Grace, and Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery. He is retired from a printing company and travels to Pakistan as a missionary. "He is a man committed to Christ, committed to the word, and the mission of the church," Shelnutt said. "He loves this denomination and is a humble, joyful, fair churchman." Rev. Jeff Kingswood, pastor of Grace Presbyterian gave the second by saying McKay "wants to do what the word of God says. He is obedient to the word. We rejoice and look forward to what the Lord will do through our brother."

Bill McKay, joining Synod by zoom, responded to the election, "I will work faithfully with a humble heart to the best of my abilities to the glory of God. We are on a path God has laid out for us. God has plans through each of us today. Join with me as we work together and do so to reflect God's Glory."

McKay nominated Reverend David Lauten, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, as Vice Moderator Elect. "He is a man of integrity and humility.

He is faithful to his church and a man to step in at a moment's notice," McKay said.

In response, Lauten said, "This is a great privilege in serving together. I am grateful for prayers of wisdom and advice."

Memorials

The only Moderator's Committee this year was Memorials. The first Memorial from First Presbytery was very clear and well written. The concern from the committee was the speed of transitioning women out as deacons. There was lots of debate for both sides therefore the decision was to study it and study it well.

1. First Presbytery's memorial regarding women deacons was referred to a special committee by the moderator for study with a report due back to Synod 2022.
2. (Northeast Presbytery) That General Synod amend the current *Form of Government* to include the requirement that the minimum number of congregations to form an ARP presbytery is five (5) congregations. (THIS WAS NOT APPROVED.)
3. (Northeast Presbytery) That General Synod amend the current *Form of Government* to include the requirement of Greek and Hebrew for ministerial ordination and transfer. (APPROVED)
4. (Virginia Presbytery) That the Theological & Social Concerns Committee prepare a statement regarding personal, financial, and organizational conflicts of interest, which statement can be adopted by the General Synod and its boards, agencies, presbyteries, and congregations. (THIS WAS NOT APPROVED.)
5. (Catawba Presbytery) That General Synod instruct the Moderator to appoint a special committee to examine the size, boundaries and composition of all the presbyteries and, if necessary, make recommendations to the next stated meeting of Synod. (APPROVED)

The World Witness report was presented by Alex Pettett. An additional recommendation was brought forth to lift the hiring freeze so that an additional financial assistant could

be hired. The Christian Education Ministries report was received followed by the Outreach North America report. The hiring freeze for ONA was lifted due to the need to have someone train and coach new church planters.

Reverend Rob Roy McGregor, Jr., had the honor to make the motion to adjourn at 4:30pm.

Approved Motions

- That the Moderator appoint a special committee to examine the judicial case regarding David Harding.
- That the Allocation of Synod Fund Report be moved until after the Board of Benefits report.
- That the Retiring Moderator's Address and the Moderator's Challenge be printed in the minutes of Synod.
- That SCONAR be instructed to prepare a capital funds campaign to meet the current financial crisis while continuing the mission to preach the gospel to the nations.
- That a commission be appointed by the General Synod which shall be composed of the current stated clerk of each presbytery along with the Principal Clerk of the General Synod, and that this commission be tasked to examine both the content and the processes of annual statistical information so as to improve the process. The commission shall put a revised process in place in time for the gathering of information in January of 2022.
- That Synod grant theological and social committee concerns permission to publish drafts of papers for feedback and comments in preparation for its report to the 2022 General Synod.
- That the Committee on Interchurch Relations study the ARP's membership in the World Reformed Fellowship and the current trajectory of the WRF and report back to the 2022 ARP Synod.
- That the General Synod commend Steve Nichols for his faithful service as the director of Planned Giving for the ARP Foundation.
- That the Order of the Day be changed until 10:00pm or until such time as we dispose of Index 32.

- That Recommendation #1 be amended to say, “That the DMF Allocation of 2021 be approved for 2022.”
- That Synod direct the special committee on restructuring to study the feasibility of returning the agencies of synod, excluding Bonclarken and Erskine, to a historic Presbyterian committee structure. The committee shall bring its proposals to the 2022 meeting of Synod.
- That Synod direct its agency boards to perform a biennial (i.e, every other year) competitive compensation analysis for their executive staff and/or directors, with the results to be included in their reports to General Synod.
- That the General Synod direct the Moderator to modify the original task of the Special Committee On Restructuring to include a study on the vision, values, and ministry of the ARP church; and if deemed necessary, to hire an outside consultant to assist them in this process and to report back to the 2022 General Synod.
- To amend Memorial #1 from First Presbytery to, “that the Moderator of Synod be moved to refer items #1, #2, and #3 to a special committee for study to report back to the 2022 ARP General Synod.”
- Based on a recommendation from the recently completed financial audit, World Witness requests approval from the General Synod to hire a financial assistant prior to the hiring freeze being lifted.
- That the employees and staff of Outreach North America be thanked by the General Synod for their work over the last year.
- That the State of Minnesota be added to the bounds of Florida Presbytery.
- Motion to Adjourn by Rev. Dr. Rob Roy McGregor, Jr.

Living Hope Co-op

We are beginning a new homeschool community! Our goal is to provide our children with cooperative learning experiences. We want to give them the joy of learning within a community! We are simply two moms looking to build a Christian learning community. Joanna has been a public school teacher for 12 years and Daniela has been a homeschool mom for 5 years. We believe this group will become a great blessing for many families! Check us out with no obligation and spend one day with us! We meet from 10-2 every Thursday! (see calendar attached) **Our Open House is Thursday, July 29 at 5:30 pm.** Come check us out!

What will a typical day at our co-op look like? We will begin with an assembly where we will pray, say the pledge of Allegiance, and have a student each day who wants to share a short devotion! Our first two classes will be history-science-engineering where we will learn about major inventions that changed the world. We will discover how one invention leads to the next! Then the students will create their own inventions! These will be presented in an assembly for all to learn from and enjoy the kids' ideas! Our other class will be art history with art projects to try out different styles! Daniela and I are very hopeful to create a laid-back, encouraging community of homeschool families! We have full support of an amazing church and will be meeting in the beautiful church buildings of **Mooreville AR Presbyterian** near downtown Mooreville! The church is located at **659 Carpenter Drive, 28115**. Come and see if this group is right for you! We ask that all homeschool parents remain and assist in the learning day! (This is not a drop-off situation:) The cost is \$100 per family for the first 14 weeks.

If you have any questions: Contact Daniella Brown 386-868-7383

Daily Schedule:

9:45 Arrival time

10-10:15 Begin assembly with pledge, prayer, and short devotion

10:15-10:25 Living Hope student-led News

10:25-10:35 Snack and talk

10:35-11:20 Class Session 1

11:20-11:30 Fun Run around the gym or exercise class!

11:35-12:20 Class Session 2

12:25-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:00 Clean up

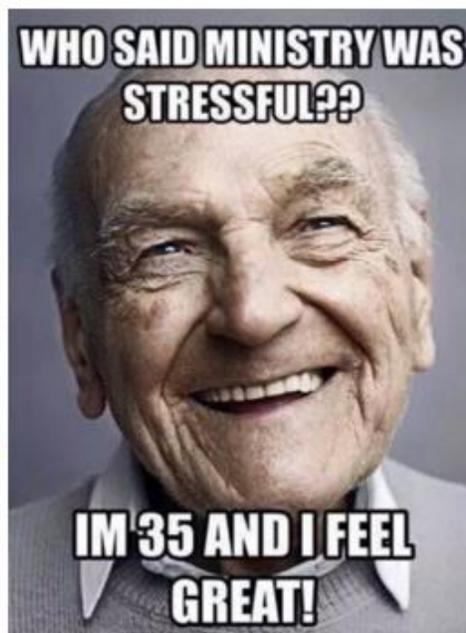
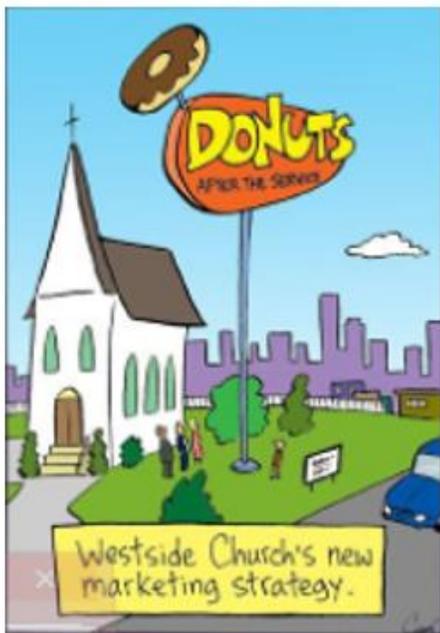
1-2:20 Optional enrichment activity at extra cost (such as pottery or music)

CHURCH HUMOR

Funny Church Bloopers to Make You Smile

- Mr. Bradford was elected and has accepted the office of head deacon. We could not get a better man.
- The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances
- The peace making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals

While he was praying, a man asked God, "How long is 10 million years to you?" God replied, "One second." The next day the man asked God, "God, how much is 10 million dollars to you?" And God replied, "A penny." Then finally the next day the man asked God, "God, can I have one of your pennies?" And God replied, "Just wait a second."



BOTTLE CAPS

Don't forget to bring in your plastic bottle caps to put in the container by the door in the Fellowship Hall. We are well on our way to getting enough plastic caps to make another park bench!

ACCESSING THE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON LINE

Live Stream on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD3cSltgWL-NfNoQMwUWVSA>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrowingstronginGod/

Church Website: www.moorevillearp.org

Contact Us

For Newsletter: Dan Fineran (dfineran3@yahoo.com)

For Prayer List: Andy Ward (fitzward912@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrowingstronginGod/>

Website: <https://moorevillearp.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD3cSltgWL-NfNoQMwUWVSA>



Mooresville ARP Church

MOORESVILLE A.R. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S MISSION IS:

“Transforming people,

Empowering Disciples, and

Impacting our Neighbors and our World”

*Mooreville A.R. Presbyterian Church
659 Carpenter Avenue
Mooreville, North Carolina 28115*

Addressee Label