

Beulah and Monterey eNewsletter July, 2023



BIRTHDAYS

July 4 - Eli Moore
July 5 – Ethan Moore
July 6 – Page Rowe
July 9 – Carol Furr
July 12 – Levi Warner
July 15 – Steven Rogers
July 18 – Pete Atkeson
July 22 – Karen Allen and Mike Humphries
July 23 – Jim Sherman and Kim Bird
July 29 - Julia Blanchard
July 30 – Elizabeth Lohr-Myers

ANNIVERSARIES

July 16 – Joe and Ruby Simmons



Mike and Donna Bedwell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with friends and family at their home in Monterey.

(Yes, Donna is wearing her wedding dress and looked fabulous)



PRAYER LIST – Cheyna Mason and family, Karen Allen, Marlene Reynolds, Mike Armstrong, Bill and Mary Lou Cox, Garland and Lillian Dever, Barbara Hevener, Mike Humphries, Ruby Swecker, Carlton Hull

Please keep Lorraine White in your prayers. She left on July 1 for her annual mission trip to Guatemala.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, July 9 – Former pastor at Stuarts Draft Baptist Church, Mark Davis, will be leading worship in both churches.

Sunday, July 16 – Pastor Chip Hill with Word of Faith Church in Monterey, will be leading worship in both churches.

Wednesday, July 19 – The Session of MPC will meet in the fellowship hall at 7:00.

Sunday, July 23 - 4 cents a meal offering will be collected at MPC, in addition to the regular offering.

Lay Leader, Tim Allen, will be leading worship in both churches.

Sunday, July 30 – 5th Sunday Hymn sing at MPC, followed by a pot luck lunch

Adult Sunday School in Monterey is on hiatus for the remainder of July and all of August. Norma Reynolds will continue to send The Wired Word by email if you would like to receive it. The Wired Word is a weekly lesson on a current topic that includes references for Bible Study and thought provoking questions that can be used for group or individual study. If you aren't on the list and would like to be added, you can reach out to Norma at 1wahoo@htcnet.org.

One of our church family members, **Sandie Stinnett**, is back in Highland from mid-June through mid-July, along with son Todd and his family. While back in Highland she hopes to spend time visiting and catching up with lots of people.

A FUN FACT ABOUT HIGHLAND COUNTY – (I think)

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/population-estimates-characteristics.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

In 2022, seven counties in the United States had median ages at or above 60 and **Highland County, Virginia was one of the seven, with a median age of 60.0**. The other 6 are ; Charlotte County, Florida (60.2); Jefferson County, Washington (60.4); Harding County, New Mexico (60.5); Jeff Davis County, Texas (61.7); Catron County, New Mexico (62.1); and Sumter County, Florida (68.1). Of the counties with resident populations at or above 20,000, Jasper County, South Carolina, and Blaine County, Idaho, had the largest increases in median age between 2021 and 2022, both seeing their median age increase by 1 year to 46.3 and 45.9, respectively. Also notable: Barnstable County, Massachusetts, where the median age increased by 0.7 to 55.6 between 2021 and 2022.

The 2022 census report also gives the median age of the US population to be 38.9, an all-time high.

Does it change how we minister to the community when we know our population is older? Are we welcoming to young families and creatively look for ways, including jobs and housing, for young adults to stay in Highland upon graduating from high school or college? Just some food for thought.....

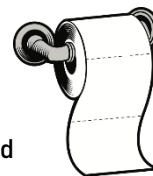


Cash Chambers headed to 4-H camp last week with Ben Hindeman.



Stone Chambers has started his summer job at Highland Children's Center

Our local Food Pantry continues to need paper goods, particularly toilet paper. A table is up in the Fellowship Hall at MPC and all donations are welcome, even one roll! When the table is full, Bucky Reynolds will load up and deliver to the Food Pantry, then we'll continue collecting until the table is again full.



If you see paper goods on sale when you are shopping, consider picking up something extra for those that need help right now. We appreciate your support of this ongoing ministry.



MPC is forming a choir again and all are welcome to join us. Our first practice will be after church on August 20, when we will practice special music, as well as discuss a practice schedule. We are looking for an accompanist and pray is God is calling you, or someone you know, to this ministry.

GRADUATION 2023



Ethan Moore graduates from Highland High School

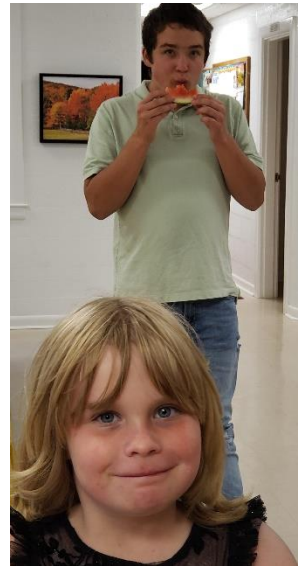


Jack Herold, Holden Chambers and Anna Chambers graduated from Middle School and will be moving to the High School this fall.

Holden and Jack express their joy over Graduating!



A delicious chicken dinner after church on June 4 to celebrate our graduates





CAMP MASSANETTA – 2023 Five excited middle school students, Jack Herold, Holden Chambers, Anna Chambers, Levi Warner and Steven Rogers, along with their chaperone, Amy Frayer, left for Massanetta Springs (Harrisonburg) last week. Hannah Meyerhoeffer was already there working as Student Advocate (Camp Counselor), her summer job.



It looks like they had a lot of fun and we are planning a youth service the end of August so we can all learn about the ways they expanded their faith journey, and perhaps we'll hear a couple of stories about camp shenanigans.





General Presbyter, Bronwen Boswell, provided worship at both churches on June 11. MPC had a small fellowship with refreshments for her after church.

Since visiting our churches, Bronwen has taken a leave of absence from our Presbytery to be the Acting Stated Clerk for the PCUSA for a year. Here is the letter she posted in the July/August Presbytery newsletter:

Dear Friends,

Many of you may have already heard that I am taking a leave of absence beginning in July to be the Acting Stated Clerk for the PCUSA for a year. This is a tremendous honor and will be a lot of hard work. Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson felt the call to go elsewhere and so I will be filling his unexpired term. A new Stated Clerk will be elected at the General Assembly next year in Salt Lake City.

When I was approached to consider applying for the position it was a literal call, on the phone, that opened the possibility that my ministry over the years had prepared me for “such a time as this”. And that call has been confirmed in a variety of ways since my saying yes to even considering the idea! One of the ways I know I can take this call is the wonderful staff of the presbytery and the folks sharing leadership. I told the Coordinating and Planning Council that my biggest fear in taking this call is that the presbytery will be so capable that you will say in a year you don’t need me back. I have been assured that will not be the case.

Howard and I will continue to live in Lexington; he remains the pastor at Buena Vista Presbyterian Church. I will be in Louisville about ten days a month with some other occasional travel and then working remotely from home. (Though, I told the staff I may need to come in and use my presbytery office occasionally). I will be periodically checking in with the staff, so I stay aware of the goings on while I’m away. The presbytery is in good hands. Nancy, Kim, Heather and Donna are ready to help as always and will be able to send you to the appropriate folks who are taking over some of my work. We are blessed! Have a wonderful summer. I am grateful for your prayers. We can do this!

Blessings,
Bronwen



Look for information on how the process works in the Presbyterian Church to find a minister, and where our search committee is on searching for the right person for both congregations, in the August newsletter. Mike Bedwell and Julia Blanchard, the Clerks of Session at both churches, will give an update for us then.

Until then, we have been blessed by those that have filled our pulpits. Remember – we are the church, not the minister and not the building. We are the active body of Christ!