



From the Pastor

April 2018

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. Ephesians 1:16

I believe that I understand more fully the Apostle Paul's feelings for the church in Ephesus, the longer I am at Madison. Easter Sunday marked 28 years of our journey together through many good and some not-so-good times. I want to thank each one of you for your support and your challenges to me, and give God thanks for all the saints who have shared their lives in our community.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session held its Stated Meeting on March 13, 2018

Pastor's report: John presented a written report of his activities for the month which included a request for vacation from June 24-July 8. These vacation dates were approved by session. The following ministers were approved to supply the pulpit during his leave (2): April 29-Allan McConnell; May 6-Gordon Lindsey; July 1 David Garth; July 8-Wayne Bernardo. Session approved a called meeting to be held after worship and before the retreat on May 18 for the purpose of receiving Emily Woodward into membership by profession of faith on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Treasurer's Report

The February financial report totals for income and spending were as follows:

	YTD (actual)	YTD (budget)
Income	\$27,346	\$20,830
Expense	\$17,247	\$21,546

AREA REPORTS:

Administration

Finance: Annual Financial Review was completed by Sam Strahan and Audrey Sarate with Carol Johnson. Allan McLearen, church treasurer, was present to answer questions and facilitate the process. The form provided by Presbytery for small churches was used. There were no problems found and four recommendations made. Overall, there were no procedural problems with financial activities.

Building and Grounds: There was some wind damage to the roof of the Fellowship Hall that has been repaired. Mowers are needed for summer.

CE: Breakfast Buzz will be March 16. Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are moving along. Easter Sunday will include baskets for the children.

Outreach: An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for April 1.

PW: Spring gathering will be May 10 at 6:00 pm.

Green: Roadside cleanup on Sat March 10 was successful with 9 helpers. Earth Care Congregation Notebook is in the Tack Room. Earth Day service will be April 22. Team is still planning for church trips.

Old Business Spring Retreat will be on March 18 and our annual Elders' Dinner on April 15th at noon at Pig and Steak.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held at 7 pm, Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Madison Presbyterian Church

Pastor: John Storey

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Church Administrator: Carol Johnson

Phone Number: 540-948-6972

E-mail: madisonpresb@verizon.net

Website: MadisonPresbyterian.com





Green Team News

When the Green Team met in February we decided we want to know about your ideas, knowledge, or any creative talent expressing Earth Care.

Below is a poem celebrating some of the wonders of the earth written many years ago by Jane Lamar and Mary King's father when he was a teen at camp.

**I stand beside a sparkling stream
To wait a while and then to dream
And then to cast a longing gaze
Over the mountains wrapped in haze.**

**Like a tigress at her prey...
These mountains seem a part to play
At other times when all is still
They give a calm relaxing thrill.**

**But words cannot express the sight
One must see it for their own delight
Formed thus the God of creation
Made these hills an inspiration.**

H. Scott Denniston

We encourage you to submit stories, poems, songs, inspiration etc. to be printed in the newsletter each month.

Since our last church newsletter, the Green Team has received word from the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Environmental Ministries Program that Madison Presbyterian Church has been officially certified as a first year Earth Care Congregation (ECC) for 2018! This means that we have adopted the “Earth Care Pledge” to participate in actions that support Earth Care, in each of the four required areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

As we reported earlier this year, the application involved completing an audit form showing the particular ways in which our church qualifies for the certification. Examples included everything from recycling some of our waste and having roadside cleanups, to having a Breakfast Buzz on the topic of agriculture in Madison County, to saving energy by having CFL lighting and double-pane windows.

Now that we are certified as an ECC, we will have the opportunity to apply for recertification every year, through continuing to encourage our church to participate in Earth Care in new ways. On Palm Sunday we arranged for the church to use Eco-Palms, harvested in ways that protect the rainforests where they grow and provide fair trade income for the growers and harvesters. Other new ideas for this year include: Green Minutes during morning worship, 2 or 3 field trips this summer, Breakfast Buzz on Light Pollution this fall, maybe even considering rain barrels for watering our flower beds. All ideas are welcome.

On April 22nd we will observe Earth Day at morning worship. Our pastor will be on vacation, and the Green Team will be in charge of planning the worship service and providing leadership for the service. Please contact anyone on the team if you would like to be involved in planning or leading Earth Day worship, or would like to join our team. We are: Jill Quinley, Bettie Berry, Mary and Frank King, Rives Wetsel, Berta Storey and Tom Rees, elder rep.

Berta Storey
Green Team Leader





In the John's Gospel we read "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). And in the First Letter of John we read "...let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

This year the Stewardship Team invites us to *Love One Another* in our relationships with each other, with our church and with the wider community. We are also called to *Love One Another* through our actions – the ways that we live, work, play, care for our earth and all of God's people, and share our gifts.

Please plan to join in the activities of our Stewardship Team as we explore this theme together over the coming months. At the end of April, be looking for sign-up sheets for the Stewardship Picnic, which will be a little earlier this year, Sunday May 20 after worship. Make plans now to bring a friend and show them what loving one another in a Christian community is all about.

Berta Storey



Breakfast Buzz

April 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for breakfast.

Our speakers will be the owners
of Bonanno's Madison Inn
Restaurant.

April Foods of the Month

Toiletries and Cleaning Supplies: Dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, cleanser, deodorant, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, feminine hygiene products etc.

Please bring in your donations and place them in the container provided in the Narthex. Donations are then given to Madison Social Services for distribution to those in Need. Thank you!

