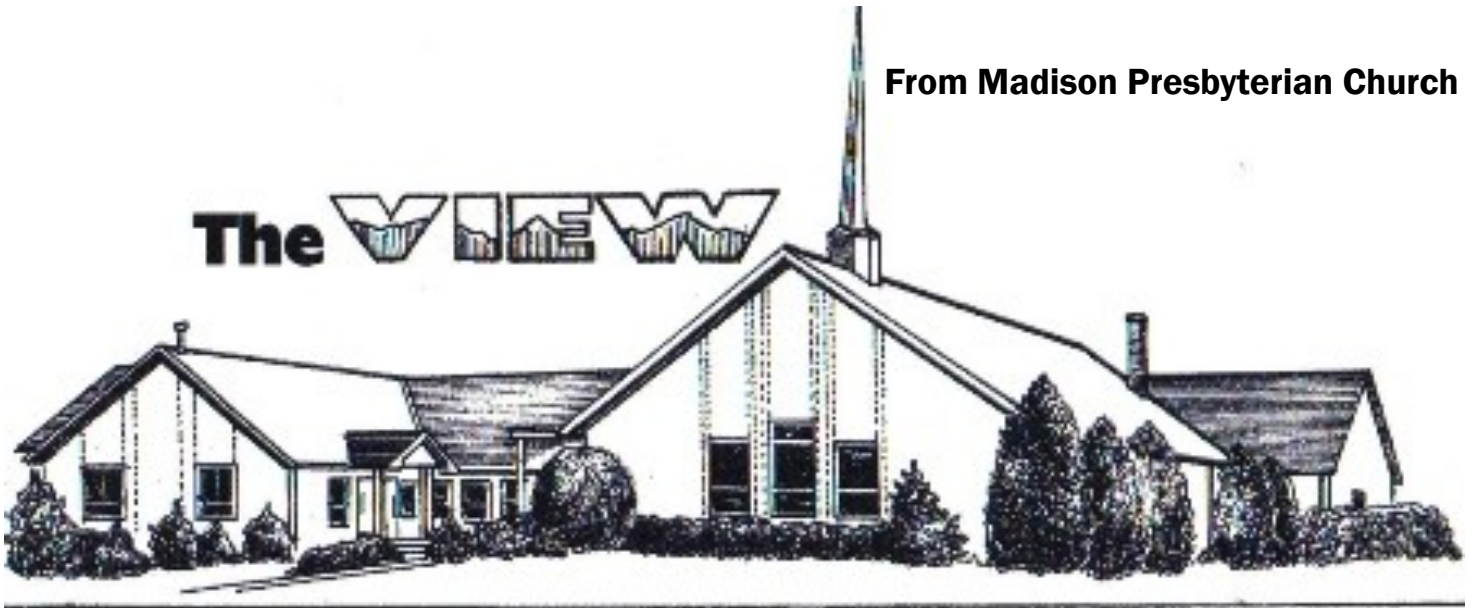


**From Madison Presbyterian Church**



**From the Pastor**

**August 2018**

On Sunday, July 22, we received our special offering for the work of MESA. A total of \$859 was contributed! Thanks are extended especially to all who volunteer at MESA! Here are some other ways to support the ministry/mission of MESA:

Donate money. It's used to help restock the food pantry, provide limited financial assistance to clients, and provide upkeep for Barbara's House.

Volunteer in the Thrift Shop at the cash register or sorting donations.

Help in the Food Pantry by picking up food from local grocery stores, assisting clients, or hauling trash.

Carry electronics and other items MESA cannot sell to Goodwill.

Volunteer a few hours a week as a mentor for the FIT Committee.

Take inventory at Barbara's House when clients move in/out – about two hours for a move in/out.

Clean the vacated apartment, usually takes four to eight hours for a team of volunteers. There are many other jobs and all it takes is a phone call to MESA to find out where to use your talents.

The MESA phone number is 540-948-4427.  
Friend MESA on Facebook.

## Roof Repairs

In early August, the roof of both the main church building and Fellowship Hall will be replaced following approval by Session at their June meeting for the \$33,200 expenditure. The Finance Team recommended drawing money from the "Building and Property" investment fund held at Edward Jones. This fund was set up many years ago in preparation for such large projects as they became necessary and will be gradually replaced as extra money becomes available through gifts or general giving in the future.

Sam Strahan, Finance Team Leader

## Green Team News

The Green Team welcomed Jack Hobbs, Madison County Administrator, to its July meeting, to discuss the transfer station and recycling in the county. We discussed the do's and don'ts of recycling, the need for clearer signage at the transfer station, and what to do with materials such as solvents, motor oil, auto batteries and the like, which are not accepted at the transfer station. We decided to spend some more time researching this and related topics, with more information to be shared in the near future. We are also planning some field trips in the fall, and a Breakfast Buzz on Light Pollution. So be watching the Green Team Bulletin Board and upcoming newsletters.

Berta Storey  
Green Team Leader

## 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](mailto:madisonpresb@verizon.net)

Website: [madisonpresbyterian.com](http://madisonpresbyterian.com)



## Planters planted by the children at VBS



Forwarded by Presbytery:

Please read this important information from Cindy Corell about the situation in Haiti

[Cindy posted the following on Facebook:]

Dispatch from the Dominican Republic. My last resort would be to leave Haiti, but it was best for the people there who care for me.

As you know, troubles have come to Haiti in anticipation and following an announcement from the government that fuel prices would rise from 38 to 47 percent. This announcement was expected and is in line with a series of fuel price hikes. Haiti has subsidized the high price of fuel since the early 2000s after receiving subsidies from Venezuela, Haiti's source of fuel.

But since 2013 with the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez who created the subsidy program known as PetroCaribe, and severe economic changes to Venezuela, Haiti and other countries have faced even more dire challenges in paying for fuel shipments and past debts.

According to Haiti President Jovenel Moise's administration, beginning last fall, the government would raise the price of fuel and stop the subsidies. Each time the price was hiked, protests followed.

But this time, the hike was exorbitant, even for Haiti. The rise in fuel prices would intensify the already sharp inflation. Food costs are extreme already. The most poor would be put into more misery. And this time, the protests were most violent. Protestors blocked roads into Port-au-Prince beginning on Thursday. More burning tires, roadblocks came on Friday, then violently erupted and more damage was done throughout Port-au-Prince and in other cities, including Montrouis, Arcahaie, Croix-des-Bouquets, Tabarre, Delmas, Petionville. The violence intensified on Saturday.

Protestors broke into supermarkets, burned businesses and vehicles and attacked luxury hotels. By Saturday evening, the government backed off the fuel price hikes, restoring prices to what they had been. But the roadblocks and violent protests continued on Sunday and into Monday morning.

About me [Cindy]

I left Port-au-Prince on Thursday with friend and colleague Mark Hare, who lives with his family in the Dominican Republic but remains committed to supporting the agricultural work in Haiti whenever opportunities arise. We went to Papaye, where one of our largest agricultural organizations is based to visit on-going programs there.

At that time, we suspected the protests, as they often do, would calm by Saturday. We planned to return to Port-au-Prince on Saturday, and on Sunday, he would return to the Dominican Republic. But it became clear on Friday night that we would have to make other plans.

We decided that Mark would return to the DR on a bus leaving from Hinche, turning west at Mirebalais and avoiding the dangerous protests around the capital city. I would stay with the family where we stayed over the weekend until I could return to my home in Port-au-Prince.

But on Saturday afternoon, Nadia, who lives at my house, called to tell me to stay where I was, not to return to our home.

"Delimart is burning," she yelled on the phone.

That was all I needed to hear. As badly as I want to be with my Haitian family, to see our home and neighborhood for myself, I would become another worry for our people there. I would be another mouth to feed, another person to watch over. Digicel, a major cellular internet provider, went out on Saturday afternoon, so I had little access to what was going on. By Saturday night, Mark and I decided it would be best if I come with him to the DR, much to the surprise of his delightful wife!

Even on the road to Mirabalais, located across the mountains from Port-au-Prince, the bus had to traverse past several broken roadblocks and still smoldering tires.

It's been a tough weekend being so far from where I was called. I am staying in contact with friends and family in Port-au-Prince. They call and write often still to make sure I am eating. (In places like Haiti, to ask if you have eaten is another way to say, "I love you.")

From all I can tell, this is not an ordinary protest. In my five years living here, I've not seen anything so violent. My heart hurts for all of those in Haiti, even for those making the protest and doing so much damage.

It is a desperately poor country. Its government is rife with corruption. Everyone in Haiti – and I mean even those we would consider the most poor – is helping feed someone else. If not for family and friends and neighbors, no one would make any progress.

As much as we believe that it is we foreigners, missionaries, NGOs, international governments that are making positive changes in Haiti, it simply is not true. Haitians are helping Haitians. Haitians are helping us. By calling and begging stubborn me to stay away from our home, Nadia is helping me. She is loving me, while she worries about her child and her own family.

In sad fact, it often is we who come here with noble plans that in part are holding Haiti back. When we come with our preconceived notions about Haiti and Haitians, that we as foreigners know more about bringing positive change to Haiti than the Haitians do. When we come with plans we designed in our own countries with other foreigners.

What I have seen over these past few years is that so often Haitians will defer to foreigners because we have convinced them that we know best. Or, in other cases, we attempt to make changes, fail and still do not listen to the people of Haiti and listen to their concerns and/or ideas.

When we were coming into the DR on the bus, we stopped at a checkpoint and Dominican military asked us to disembark while they checked our documents. A Haitian man and woman were discussing the violence in their country. The woman said there is no hope for Haiti. What a sad statement. She said the only hope in Haiti is from God, that the people of Haiti cannot make changes. A Haitian friend disagreed, and they mustn't give up hope.

I said that a problem in Haiti, in addition to the corrupt government, is that so many foreigners come to "help," but do not listen to the people. She listened and nodded.

This weekend filled with strife and violent and deaths is a prominent example of fear and frustration and anger manifesting in the loudest of voices that the people of Haiti need their voices heard – by their government, by other governments, by foreigners, by "helpers".

So what do they need?

They need protection at the voting booths so everyone who is eligible feels safe and secure marking their ballots, seeking fair and democratically chosen elections.

They need a strong and fair government that will protect the country's environment while mining for the gold, silver and other minerals beneath the ground and make sure the proceeds stay in Haiti for improve it and provide jobs.

They need investment in Haiti through fair wage jobs.

They need to be able to invest in the beauty of this country to invite in tourists to spend their money in local businesses, then go home and spread the word about a remarkable country whose very existence came at the sacrifice to battle their masters for freedom from slavery, thereby inciting freedom for the world.

What can you do? Read more. Learn more. Love Haiti. Pray for Haiti. Come back when Haiti is secure again – and this time, listen to the people of Haiti.

Through all this violence and unrest, this is what they are crying for.

Listen. Respect. And honor the people of this country. Love Haiti.

What has happened is not over, we know. A fire has been sparked among the people of Haiti and the rising cost of living amid already dire poverty must be alleviated. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance have active programs working alongside the people of Haiti, listening, accompanying and offer resources designed to bring sustaining change.

In my work, and in my life, I believe that when Jesus promised each of us an abundant life, Jesus was clearly suggesting we share from our bounty to add to others'. This is what the people of Haiti do. Even in their financial poverty, they give.

Thanks to each of you for loving, caring and giving.

## PW Circle Meetings Resume September 19

As you plan your calendar for the Fall, please remember that PW Circle meetings begin again in September. We will use the Horizons book that is published by Presbyterian Church, (USA) as our study guide.

The study will follow God's promise, "*I am with you*", starting in Genesis and continuing through the Gospels. The study will not to be a detailed review of any book of the Bible, but will focus on the promise itself and how it speaks to our own circumstances.

Our first meeting will be September 19 in the Tack Room, and Nancy Preston has offered to lead that discussion. Other meetings will be on the **second Wednesday** of each month.

Copies of the study guide are available in the PW room behind the sanctuary. If all copies are taken we will order more. We welcome any and all in our congregation to join this monthly gathering to enjoy fellowship and a time to think about our faith.

Please contact Mary Haight, Madison Moderator of Presbyterian Women, if you have questions...and please join us on September 19.

## August 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!



## **August Mowing Schedule**

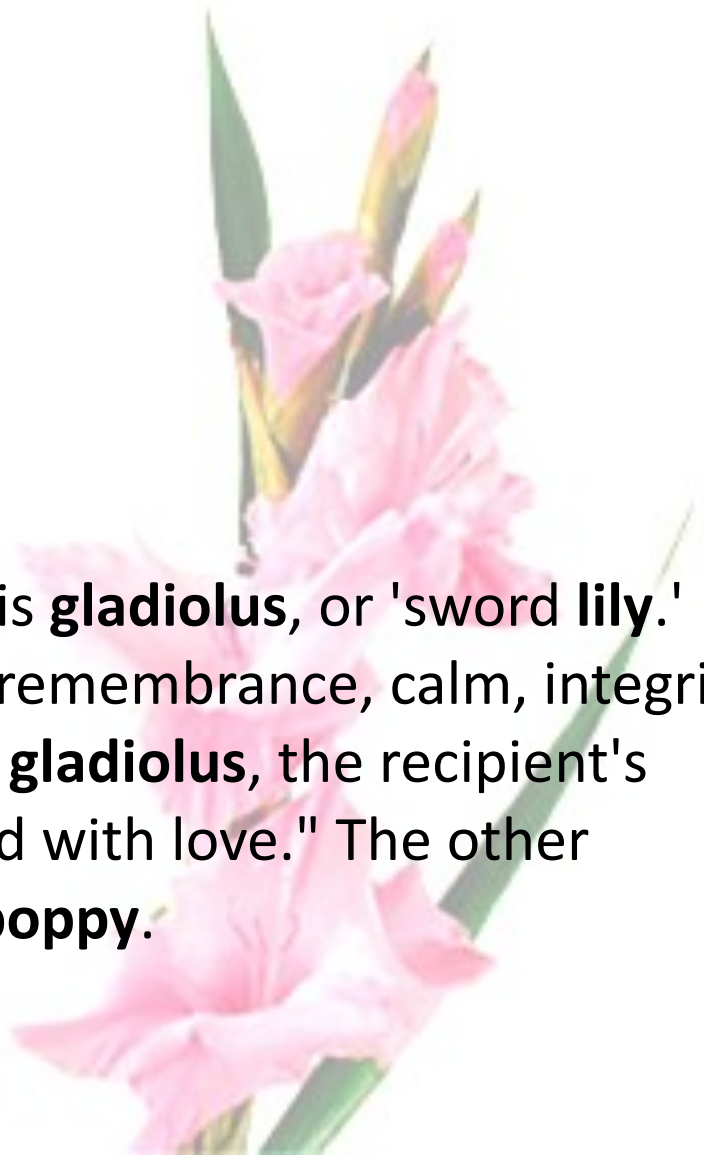
**August 2-4 Allan McLearen**

**9-11 Sam Strahan**

**16-18 Paul Hankla**

**23-25 Allan McLearen**





August's birth flower is **gladiolus**, or 'sword lily.'  
**Gladiolus** represents remembrance, calm, integrity,  
and infatuation. With **gladiolus**, the recipient's  
heart is being "pierced with love." The other  
August flower is the **poppy**.

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Have something you want  
published in our  
Newsletter? Please  
contact me by email:

gc3c3.carrall@gmail.com  
or phone 540-948-9922.  
George Carrall

