



Birthdays

- 1st Ellis Morris
Brad Jarvis
- 2nd John Neal Scott
- 13th Lindsey Davis
- 18th Carrie VanNess
- 19th Brian Jarvis
- 20th Chris Cartwright
- 22nd Raynelle Ankney
- 24th John Alan Martin, Jr.
- 25th Billy Cummings
Gayle Cummings
- 28th Hilda Morris

EFFINGER YOUTH GROUP UPDATES



FUN THINGS ARE BEING PLANNED

Please stay tuned and or contact Marnie Caldwell

The Effinger Ruritan's will meet at CPC on 17th for their monthly meeting. Our YOUTH will be serving the meal. Menu and items needed will be announced later. Please mark your calendar.



A Note from Pastor, Rev. Kevin Channell...

Dear Friends,

On this first Christmas as the pastor of Collierstown Presbyterian Church, I would like to wish each of you a very merry Christmas, and I look forward to what 2019 will bring. As I reflect over these past ten months, I stand in awe of the Holy Spirit's presence as we gather for worship, minister to our community, love, laugh, and cry together. God truly is in this place.

I have also come to know many of your joys and disappointments, the moments of loving warmth and laughter as well as moments of deep grief and sadness. 2018 has been like many of the previous years; one that has been filled with both the wonderful and not so wonderful experiences of life.

I recently came across a story that I would like to share with you. Wes Seeliger, a Methodist minister, told of one of his family events at Christmas. They were making a Christmas manger scene, and everybody was contributing, putting in the animals and the statues of Mary and Joseph and the little baby. His five-year-old boy, Scott, suddenly ran back into his room and brought out a Tyrannosaurus Rex to put at the manger. That's a big dinosaur. He placed it overlooking Mary and Joseph and the baby. He looked so menacing, so terrifying in that manger.

Seeliger said, "I was tempted to try to tell Scott, 'Look, that dinosaur is out of date. He lived millions of years before Christ was born. He wasn't around during Christ's time.'" He also was tempted to tell him that it didn't look good in the manger; it wasn't good for the decorative qualities of it all. Then he said, "I caught myself because I realized that he had picked up on a truth of Christmas. For Christmas came to help us face the dinosaurs which life places before us; those menacing terrors that seem to be so strong, so powerful. Christmas came to defeat them."

As you gather with your families this Christmas, share the joys and sorrows of this past year. There will be new family members or friends that share this Christmas with us. There will also be empty chairs at the dinner table, and maybe unopened presents. The spirits of those departed will surround us and embrace us in new and comforting ways.

May this Christmas grant you a respite, a time to relax, to breath to celebrate what God has done and anticipate what God will bring. May the Holy Spirit of the holy-day fill your hearts with love, peace and the knowledge of God's saving Grace.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor Kevin and Molly

CANCELLATIONS: In the event of bad weather causing any cancellations of church activities you will be contacted by your ELDER SHEPHERD. Please make sure your elder and or church office has your correct contact information.

Collierstown Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

6th:

Installation and Ordination of new class of session members

13th:

End of year Committee reports due (copy ready format; Session Meeting)

20th:

Annual Reports will be distributed,

27th:

Annual Report Congregational Meeting

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The PW collected a total of \$328 that was donated to the Thank Offering taken in November. This amount surpasses the previous year's gift by \$78 and will be used to provide proper nutrition, housing, and education for families in this country and around the world. Submitted by: Debbie McCormick, PW Special Offerings Coordinator

NOTE FROM TAMMY HAMILTON:

Please join Presbyterian Women as they meet Jan. 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The January meeting is the time to dedicate 2019 mission giving. It will also be a time to welcome a new moderator and dinner chairman as Mary Jarvis steps down from several years of committed service and leadership. Will one of you, among the women of our congregation, consider sharing your leadership skills, to continue our valuable mission work in our community and abroad?

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT:

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO SPONSOR BLANKET SUNDAY

January 20, 2019 is "Blanket Sunday" at Collierstown Presbyterian Church. For over seventeen years the CPC Presbyterian Women have set aside a Sunday in January to encourage our church family to donate funds to purchase blankets for distribution by Church World Service to needy people around the world. Blankets serve many purposes for those in need. Often they are used to shelter a homeless family, they become a way of transporting a family's belongings when a move becomes necessary, and of course they provide warmth when the temperatures drop. Ten dollars will provide one blanket to an individual or family.

Ten dollars is a significant sum of money but when viewed in light of how it is often spent, it's easy to see how little it takes to make such an important provision. Many of us will spend ten dollars for two large bags of potato chips or two specialty drinks at a coffee shop. We willingly spend ten dollars for the admission ticket to a first run movie and a second ten for the popcorn and drink to enjoy during the show. Ten dollars is gone when it comes to purchasing a large pizza or a fast food meal.

As we begin a new year let's resolve to put our money with our witness and give ten dollars to buy a blanket or two or three or . . .? The 2017 goal was to buy thirty blankets and we collected enough donations to purchase seventy!! Our 2018 goal was set at seventy-five blankets and enough donations were received to purchase ninety blankets. This year we are setting the 2019 goal at ninety-five blankets. We are committed to doing amazing things with the donations that will be collected. Offering envelopes are available in the church sanctuary for members to start placing the money they are saving for their gift. On Sunday, January 20 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service the donation envelopes will be collected and our offering dedicated for the purchase of blankets that Church World Service will distribute to those in need. We give because we care and we want to help others. Your support is needed and is most appreciated!