

# The SPOTLIGHT

## Bridgewater Presbyterian Church

January  
2023

Address: 110 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812  
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On Facebook & YouTube as  
Bridgewater Presbyterian Church



## BPC SESSION & STAFF 2023

**-Building & Grounds** seeks to preserve and maintain the physical structure and property of Bridgewater Presbyterian Church.

**Carroll Chewning –  
Merrill Simon -**

**-Christian Education** aims to guide — through education — the men, women, and children of BPC in the journey to know Christ.

**Joe Crockett –**

**-Mission** seeks to provide leadership for the congregation to make contributions of its time, talents, and money to be shared with others in our community and around the world who need physical and spiritual nourishment; *and*

**-Outreach** (presently combined with Mission) reaches out to members and others with the goal of increasing attendance and gaining new members.

**Brett Johnson -**

**-Member Care** strives to foster fellowship among the Church family and supports those members throughout life's changing needs.

**Pam Bailey**

**-Resource** ensures that the financial and personnel requirements of the church are met, using time and talents of the congregation as well as a fulltime staff. The Committee maintains job descriptions and the operations manual.

**Gretchen Collins -**

**-Spiritual Life** is committed to providing meaningful worship opportunities where, through music, scripture and examining God's word, spiritual growth is fostered and a message of hope and grace is shared, focusing on our relationship with God and others.

**Linda West -**

**-Clerk: Bev Carver -**

**-Moderator: Rev. Kate Rascoe, Transitional Pastor**

Music Director: **Lacey Johnson -**

Disbursing Treasurer: **Bev Carver -**

Acting Receiving Treasurer: **Dana Eichlin —**

Church Secretary/Recording Treasurer/Custodian:

**Sally Smith —** [bridgewaterpresbychurch@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewaterpresbychurch@gmail.com)

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☞  
Next Session  
meeting is  
Thursday,  
January 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.  
☞

*Transitional  
Pastor:*

Rev.  
**Kate  
Rascoe**

*To Know Christ and to Make Him Known*

Member Care



**Aiden Lee Carter, son of Katherin & Michael Carter** was born January He was 7lbs 15oz and 20 inches long. Bryce is his big brother.

We express our sympathy to **Eric Gardner** on the death of his *farmor* (grandmother), Mary Jean Gardner. She was 96 and lived in New York.



*Sometime this month....* I hope to release an updated church directory. Now is a good time to share a new photo. Send it to me in an email. If you prefer us take one, contact Pam Bailey  
-Sally

**New Addresses & Contact Info:**

- ~ **Jessica Eichlin** has a new job with the state of West Virginia as a Historian, working in the Historic Preservation Unit. Congratulations Jessica! New address:
- ~ **David Rees**
- ~ **Steve Humphreys** cell phone number is

Spiritual Life

**Welcome Mike Bowen back to the pulpit!**

Mike Bowen will be preaching on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> while Pastor Kate is away. Mike and his wife, Kathy (who is Darlene Newman's niece), reside in Bridgewater. Mike and Kathy are members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg.

**We express our appreciation to...**

- ~ The Choir, director Lacey, and pianist Alaina for the inspirational cantata;
- ~ Everyone who read and lit the Advent Wreath and those who created (and watered) it;
- ~ George & Carolyn Anderson for providing bread for Communion & George for playing the organ on Christmas Eve;
- ~ Pastor Kate for a healing Longest Night Service, the serene Christmas Eve Worship, and joyful Love Feast on Christmas Day;
- ~ All who decorated the church and to those who shared poinsettias. Did you see the nativity in the front yard? Did you notice the numerous wreaths on the railings and doors? Did you admire the Chrismon Tree? Did the candles in the windows and the luminaries on Christmas Eve delight you? Did you wonder who put all the candles in the holders for Christmas Eve? If so, find out who did it and say thank you!



Worship on January 8<sup>th</sup> will include Communion plus ordination and installation of new Elders. If you cannot attend worship and would like the elements brought to your home, reach out to Pastor Kate.

Christian Education

ADULT Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Teaching
8	Betsy Glendye
15	<b>Pending</b>
22	
29	

Will discuss/choose our next topic/book on January 8

**Sundays at 9:30**

Learning about Jesus' early ministry

CHILDREN Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Leader & Aide
8	Judy Rees & ??
15	Judy Rees & Gretchen Collins
22	Mary Kay Adams & ??
29	Betsy Glendye & Gretchen Collins

## Mission &amp; Outreach



**INDOOR YARD SALE**  
Returns Winter 2023!  
Start saving items  
to share;  
date to be determined.

Recent  
Special Offering  
Totals:

Christmas Joy  
Offering  
**\$675**

**Save the Date:**

~ Souper Bowl of Caring ~  
~ 2¢-a-Meal Offering ~  
~ Soup & Sandwich Lunch ~  
**Sunday, February 12**

*The team is in the huddle discussing  
details & challenges.  
Watch for the Snap!*

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known



**The Christmas Parade** was fun and very well attended! We want to thank these folks for making the BPC entry happen:

Carroll Chewning  
Tommy Glendye  
Steve Humphreys  
Betsy Glendye  
Jon DeVier-Scott  
Gretchen Collins  
Pam Bailey

**Results of Congregational Meeting held Nov. 13, 2022:**

**Pam Bailey, Bev Carver, and Linda West** were elected to serve on the Session as the Elder Class of 2025. Pam will be ordained and all three will be installed during worship on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Keep page one of this newsletter handy so you have their contact information and committee responsibilities.



We thank retiring elders Mary Kay Adams, Betsy Glendye, Emily Heatwole for their faithful leadership. Gretchen Collins, Mary DeVier-Scott, and Dana Eichlin were elected as the next Nominating Committee.

*A Few Items from Sally in the Church Office:*

- ⇒ Giving Statements for 2022 will be, by law, mailed by January 31<sup>st</sup>. PLEASE, check it against your own records right away. It is much easier to correct an error now than on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact me if you have any questions.
- ⇒ If you like the blue weekly envelopes and want to continue using them I've altered some unused ones, bundled them by the dozen, and put them near the bookcase in the Fellowship Hall. Just remember to put your name on the envelope if you insert cash. There are generic 'welcome' envelopes in the pews, too, just write your name on it.
- ⇒ SNOW— that four-letter word I dislike. **If Rockingham County Schools are closed or late due to weather, the church office is also closed/open late.**
- ⇒ Pastor Kate will be away January 15/16. She is taking study leave January 23<sup>rd</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you experience a pastoral emergency during her absence, contact Sally (during church office hours) or Bev Carver, Clerk of Session.



To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

### Birthdays

Lauren West  
Jane Crockett  
Alex McElroy  
Charlette McQuilkin  
MJ Chewning  
Carolyn Anderson  
Lacey Johnson  
Jyl Gamble



All Church Chat with Pastor Kate

*"Models of Ministry"*  
**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**  
Light snacks provided

### Men Meet for Breakfast

All males are invited to breakfast at Bob-a-Rea's on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of each month at 8:30 a.m.

All ages and guests are welcome. Our next date:

**January 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**

If you need a ride, or can provide one, contact  
Carroll Chewning

### Book Group's Next Read

"West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. They will gather for discussion on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Beth Smith.



### Meeting for Ice Cream & Fellowship

Where: Smiley's *(of course!)*  
When: **Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 3:00 p.m.**

Who: Everyone!  
Bring friends!



### VPAS Café in Bridgewater

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where: Houff Community Center at Bridgewater Retirement Comm. (Blue Ridge Room)

Who: anyone age 60+

What: programs, lunch and exercise; do all or some  
*New programs each month.*

### Registration is required:

Call VPAS at 540-615-5341 and check online at

[www.vpas.info/calendar](http://www.vpas.info/calendar)



### Our Building as a Blessing

A reminder that two groups & one member use our building during the week:

- **TOPS** meets every Tuesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and

- **Friends Café** (formerly *Memory Café*) gathers Tuesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Ginny Joseph

- **Katie McElroy** gives piano lessons on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00.

For everyone's safety and privacy, whenever possible do not come to the building during their designated times.



### Backpacks

Our little corner of the kitchen is stocked at the present time, but the supply can deplete quickly. **THANK YOU** to all who faithfully and regularly donate to this special ministry to very vulnerable children

### Worship at White Birch

Everyone is welcome to join in worship with the residents of White Birch. We gather in the dining room at 1:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the odd months. Contact Charlette McQuilkin if you are interested in providing leadership, sharing music or reading. Judy Rees is leading and George Anderson is playing the piano on January 8<sup>th</sup>



**The Choir** resumes practice on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Check the kiosk for the 2023 Flower Calendar

	<b>Ushering and Greeting</b> share duties with one at each door	<b>Acolyte/ Bell Ringer</b>	<b>Lay Leader</b>	<b>Highlight /Flowers</b>
<b>8</b>	David & Judy Rees	Hagan E.	Larry Elkins	Communion/ACC after worship
<b>15</b>	Steve & Pat Humphreys	McKinley S	Charlette McQuilkin	Guest: Mike Bowen
<b>22</b>	Tommy & Betsy Glendye	Emory J	MJ Chewning	
<b>29</b>	Emily Heatwole & Gracie Florence	Phoenix J	Carroll Chewning	Guest: Mike Bowen

Resource

**Memorial Fund Challenge:** *Bravo! You did it!*

In 2021 and 2022 you raised \$30,051.<sup>00</sup>, which put us over the top. Congratulations! The challenge is now complete. YAY!

You helped us recoup some of our past expenditures and prepare for the future, thus ensuring our financial stability. The Session is most grateful for your generosity and concern for our church. *Thank you!*

**Stewardship Update:**

For 2023, we have received 27 commitment cards, with pledges totaling \$103,174 (Compare to 2022: 25 pledges for \$102,752)

THANK YOU!



**Finance Reports: prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer**



<i>Account Balances</i> as of Nov. 30, 2022	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Money Market</i>	<i>Payroll</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Ed. Jones</i> (for stock gifts)
	\$51,007.15	\$50,900.90	\$1,227.19	\$1,156.71	\$17.90

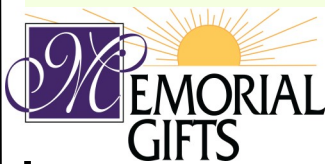


<b>Totals as of 11/30/2022</b>	
Income	\$120,104.02
Expense	\$114,766.44
Difference	\$ 5,337.58



**Fund Balances as of , November 30, 2022**

- Youth Event Fund: \$4,793.26  
(monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$1,188.38  
(monies reside in Operating Account)
- Memorial Fund: \$46,107.22  
(monies reside in Money Market)



In 2022, the following persons were remembered by loved ones through donations to Bridgewater Presbyterian Church. We are honored to celebrate these saints, and thank the donors for sharing in our missions and ministries.

Miriam Eichlin                      Dave Nalker                      John Oldman  
 Laurence & Angelene Newman                      Harry & Elizabeth Anderson

Another  
Year  
for  
God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,  
 in working or in waiting, another year with thee...  
 Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
 another year of proving thy presence all the days.  
 Another year of service, of witness for thy love;  
 another year of training for holier work above.  
 Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
 on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

Written by  
 Frances Ridley Havergal,  
 English poet & hymnwriter  
 (two in our hymnal!)  
 Read more about her at:

[Frances Ridley Havergal - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Ridley_Havergal)

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known



We are saddened by the death of long-time member Janet Sonifrank on December 14, 2022. Please keep Ed, their children, her sisters and the entire family in your prayers.

Since there was no public memorial, her sister, Gracie Florence, penned this tribute and asked that it be shared in this publication.

December 15, 2022

**A Tribute to a Beloved Sister and Best Friend**  
by Gracie Florence



Janet died yesterday morning. The family had all come together with hospice care so she could enjoy the Christmas season. She slipped away early in the day, having remarked on Monday, "I don't want to be a burden."

It was decided by Ed and the family to have a private celebration down by the river as this was Janet's special place. Kitty, Bill and I will join in on this gathering. In time, Janet's ashes will be joined with Ed's in a special handcrafted wooden box created by Ed and Lee. December 26, 2022 would have been Janet's and Ed's seventy-first wedding anniversary.

We are all so grateful for the gifts God had given Janet. What joy she brought to the church in the Sunday school class, on the session and on the building and grounds committee. The church signs, new entrance, kiosk and Presbytery banner reflect her superb touch. Janet's motto was "form follows function." That is, "it must be solid, useful, and beautiful."

The DAR restoration of the Lincoln Cemetery shows her artistic gift in the bronze memorial plaque. It was her creation depicting the outline of each gravestone and the name of the departed. Janet also employed her artistic, creative gifts during her time employed by the Department of the Navy as an interior designer.

Janet and Ed designed and built a welcoming home. She knew the art of hospitality and everyone in her family felt comfortable and at home. Meals were planned well in advance of any gathering, especially the Fourth of July. Even the dogs were welcomed. What a lovely person she was and what a wonderful, full life she had. When our mom died on Christmas forty years ago, Janet's comment was, "that was a special time to go." We can all agree, Advent, too, was a special time to go. -Gracie

**A Note of Appreciation from the Sonifrank Family**

We want to thank you for your earnest and loving prayers of healing and comfort for Janet (our wife, mom, grandmom, sister). We know you cared deeply for her as she did for you, her church family. We miss her deeply but find solace in knowing she is home with her Lord and Savior.

Her legacy lies with the loved ones she has left behind. She is survived by her husband Eddie, who lovingly and selflessly took care of her throughout her illness. She also leaves her four children, Carla (Dale), Robin (Larry), Jenny (Bill), and Lee (Edita), 13 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and her sisters Grace Ann (Bill) and Kitty. God will preserve his remnant.

Please continue to keep our family in your prayers as we learn to navigate this world without our beloved and that we keep the faith that we will, in His time, find our way home, too.

Love,  
Carla

**Prayer for Epiphany Star Words\***

*God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you.*

*It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts.*

*Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.*

\***Star Words** were received in worship on January 1. If you would like a Star to provide perspective and opportunity to reflect, please contact Pastor Kate.





# December Celebrations & Fellowship



**Cone Trees!**  
Alex McElroy & Bryce Carter;  
Phoenix Johnson



**Poinsettia placement crew:**  
Gracie Florence,  
Judy Rees,  
Emily Heatwole,  
Betsy Glendye



**Baptisms**  
Jacob, Dani & Jackson  
Simon with Pastor  
Kate (Nov. 27)



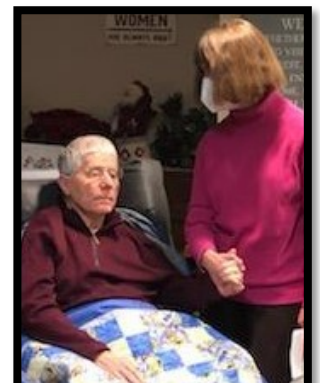
Pastor Kate with  
Ashely, Andrew &  
Ardyn Armstrong  
(Dec. 18)




*All Smiles at Smiley's & Massanetta Springs*

**Caroling with/to Sam & Nancy Dagen are:**  
the Crocketts,  
the Johnson family,  
Luke Morgan,  
the McElroy family,  
Mary Kay Adams

Far right:  
Gary &  
Mary Kay



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2023!	2 Office closed	3	4	5	6 EPIPHANY	7
<i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 8 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Communion &amp; Officer Installation/Ordination</i> 11:30 All Church Chat 1:30 White Birch	9	10 11:30 Friends Café 4:30 TOPS	11 7:00 Choir	12 3:00 Meet at Smiley's 	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Guest: Mike Bowen	16 MLK DAY	17 4:30 TOPS	18 7:00 Choir	19 6:30 Session	20	21 8:30 AM Men eat at Bob-a-Rea's
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23 Pastor Kate away thru Feb 3 7:00 Book Group	24 4:30 TOPS	25 7:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Guest: Mike Bowen	30 Newsletter deadline	31 4:30 TOPS	FEBRUARY 1 7:00 Choir	2	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 All Church Chat	6	7 4:30 TOPS	8 7:00 Choir	9	10	11

## A Note from Pastor Kate

### Transition Update:

The New Year brings new opportunities for involvement in the congregation's transitional discernment. I continue to work with the Session on their hopes and goals. This has involved strengthening leadership skills, and a focus on congregational care. We are clarifying processes and procedures, and hope to make BPC's finances more transparent. In a congregation this size, we have the gift of being able to gather and dream together. **You are strongly encouraged to bring your heart and voice to the All Church Chats.** They are opportunities for us all to become more aware of the search process, BPC's strengths and needs, and to talk openly about our hopes.

### Upcoming ACC's (after worship):

- Jan. 8 - on Ministry styles and models; snacks & beverages provided
- Feb. 5 - Leadership Competencies
- Mar. 5 - Resources Needed for a Search

Save the Dates!

Always, if you have questions or thoughts, I'm happy to chat. +*Pastor Kate*