

*highlights***Memorial Funds****Submitted by Dianne Haberland**

At the September Session meeting, we had a great discussion about what we should do with the church Memorial Funds that total \$19,500. Yes, \$19,500! We talked about the wonderful people who were no longer with us, and the gifts they had given us and our community. We talked about ways we could honor our friends and loved ones.

Everyone loves and admires the memorial gardens. Jennie Hill Robinson, Ann Somerville, Shirley Newman, and Nancy Crowder used their talents to turn a small piece of lawn into a beautiful sanctuary. The central stone was given in honor of Dot Browning, and benches were given in memory of Fred Sherman, Leroy Crowder, and Joyce Palmer. Jennie and Ann continue to maintain and nurture the garden in memory of all our church friends and family who are no longer with us. Occasionally, you can see flowers that have been left in memory of someone. A few years ago, memorial finds were used to purchase and install a new sound system in the sanctuary in memory of Fred Sherman. What a perfect gift to honor Fred.

Cheryl Lewis' father was honored by using funds to replace the door to the Sunday school wing and to turn the men's room in the east room into a handicapped bathroom. Cheryl's dad was in the hardware business, and she thought this was a perfect gift.

A scholarship was been given to the OPC preschool in honor of Eleanor Vasquez and Jean Berkman, the founding members of the preschool.

In our discussion, we realized that we wanted to do more, and we wanted to reach out to our community in honor of church members. In keeping with Matthew 25, we decided that each month we would memorialize church members with gifts given to local organizations or groups.

In September, we voted to give a scholarship to Shady Grove Academy in downtown Orange in memory of Pat Stewart. Pat loved giving all people a helping hand.

In October, we voted to honor Joyce and Syd Palmer by donating to the Orange Art Center. Funds will be used for their outreach programs, which include children and handicapped adults.

Let us know what you think. We have many more people to honor. Do you have a suggestion? Come to the session meeting and pray with us. We would love to talk to you. Please let the Clerk of Session know you will be coming, so you can be on the agenda.





## Pastor's Ponderings



Friends,

When I heard that there has been some confusion about the financial reports in the monthly newsletters, I immediately wanted to help clarify some things.

First and foremost, I want you to know that despite the struggles we have faced over the past year and a half, the church is in a healthy financial situation. Here is a breakdown of our October income and expenses.

October 2021 income:

Undesignated: \$4,850

Loose cash: \$41.00

Total: \$4,891

October Expenses: \$8,379.22

Difference: \$3,487.35

While that looks like a scary number, it is important to know that our total yearly income is at \$74,631.81 and we have a total surplus of \$3,225.83.

We also have a healthy General fund. Here is the breakdown of that:

General Fund: \$30,503.54

Five-cents Meal Fund Balance: \$337.69

Community Outreach Fund Balance: \$1,267.50

Music Fund Balance: \$135.42

Anniversary Celebration Fund Balance: \$350.00

Memorial Fund Balance: \$696.65

Mission Trip Fund Balance: \$318.13

Preschool Scholarship Fund Balance: \$9,175.53

Food Co-op Balance: \$421.12

Benevolence Fund Pass Through Balance: \$264.00

Total Fund Balance: \$43,469.58

We also have over \$600,000 total in our various endowment funds.

These are a lot of numbers, and if you're like me, numbers make your head spin. So, bottom line is we are in a healthy position going into 2022. I am also happy to report that total pledges for 2022 have already exceeded total pledges for 2021.

This past year and a half have been full of struggle, but God is faithful still. We are not the church we were pre-pandemic, but we are still God's church in the world. God is not finished working with and through us yet. I pray that we will all continue to be faithful to God's call in our lives in 2022 and beyond.

Blessings,

*Pastor Rebekah*



**2010** Session moved and seconded to approve the following motion: “It is moved that the congregation of Orange Presbyterian Church shall not exercise its right to purchase the adjacent property, 188 West Main Street (the ‘Willis House’) from F. W. Sherman Jr., Benjamin A. Sherman and F. W. Sherman for a price of \$250,000.” It was approved.

August 26, it was moved and approved to have the Brooking Street house demolished for a sum not to exceed \$5,000. It was also moved and approved that Craig Jacobs be allowed to remove metal roofing and siding and interior fixtures at no cost from the Brooking Street house before demolition.

The Christmas Bazaar earned \$6,000 which was split between three organizations: Orange County Habit for Humanity, Sheltering Arms and the CEC.

**2011** In June, it was moved that the Session give the Presbyterian Women permission to do a cookbook as a fundraiser with proceeds to be determined at a later date.

It was recommended, and approved, in November that the Session approve the participation of OPC in the CROP walk which was held on Saturday, January 14th. There were approximately 180 walkers and more than \$7,000 was raised.

Lynne Clements met with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and was endorsed as an Inquirer. (This is the first step toward ordination as a Teaching Elder.)

**2012** The theme for Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 30 - August 3 was “Clean Water for all God’s Children.” OPC promoted the purchase of a Living Waters for the World Clean Water System as part of the VBS offering. The goal was to raise \$2,500 to purchase a clean water filter system and an additional \$1,000 to help with funding for the installation of the system in the Appalachia region of the US, Eastern Tennessee or Kentucky.

As of November 29th, \$2,800 had been raised for the Clean Water Fund. Living Waters communicated that our donation was used in part to give three families clean water in Tennessee, and an upgrade to another family’s water system that was tainted by mining in the area.

**2013** A CROP walk was held on Saturday, March 9th.

The Session voted at a called meeting to endorse Lynne Clements as a candidate for ministry. It was moved, seconded and approved. Lynne met with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry on June 25th and Pat Stewart went with Lynne to represent the congregation.

There was a church picnic and gleaning at the Haberland Farm in October. Grelen Tree Care’s bid to remove the pine tree outside the sanctuary for \$5,125.00 was accepted. The money came from the Hamilton Fund/Capital Improvement Fund.

**2014** With reluctance, the Session moved to receive Lynne Clements’ letter of resignation as a member of the Session as of August 31st. Lynne had accepted the position of Director of Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville. The motion was approved.

The plan submitted for the hardscaping of the memorial garden by Grelen Nursery was approved for \$2,401. It was approved that the funds come from the Bailey Fund.

**2015** The Pastoral relationship between OPC and Rev. Denise Hall was dissolved. It was voted in September to accept Rev. Liz Hume Adam as our interim pastor.

**2016** The Property Committee approved the use of up to \$1,000 of Memorial Funds to purchase and install three stone benches in the Memorial Garden.

**2017** Mission and Outreach reported that OPC partnered with First Presbyterian Church in Orange, TX to provide them with \$3,070 in financial aid to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

It was recommended and approved that a covenant group be formed to work on the church's history and a celebration for the 175th anniversary.

**2018** In January, Rev. Liz Hume Adam gave her final address as Pastor of OPC. She left early because she was called to another church.

The redesigned OPC Website went live in May. Web team members included Jeff Norberg, Melanie Rose, Ralph Graves and May Saxton.

In October, a motion was made and approved to change from live to artificial roping for Christmas decorating in the sanctuary.

At the 173rd OPC anniversary celebration on November 11, we celebrated Evelyn Hill Scott, Marjorie Elizabeth Bartley Clements, Irwin Sherman and Peggy Sue Bartley Fitch, who have each been members of OPC for 70 plus years.

**2019** On May 5, 2019, Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley was elected to receive a call to become full-time pastor of OPC. Her Installation Service was on July 20th.

There was a send-off in May for Rev. Richard Knox and his wife Nan, after serving as our supply pastor for much of the past year.

OPC chose to become a Matthew 25 Congregation, becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

**2020** March was the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic for Orange County. OPC closed its doors and became creative about continuing to serve the members of this church. Session meetings were online and so were worship services.

July brought the reopening of the Blessing Box and Chelsea Holt as the Music Facilitator.

OPC held a drive thru communion service in October. \$50 gift cards were purchased for Habitat for Humanity families instead of the traditional Thanksgiving baskets. November 8, 2020 was the 175th anniversary of Orange Presbyterian Church. A celebration had been in the works for several years, but was sadly canceled due to Covid-19.

New pastor at Orange Presbyterian



Saturday, July 20, the Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley was installed as the pastor of Orange Presbyterian Church (OPC). The Rev. Tucker-Motley received her master of divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She comes to Orange with her husband, Cameron, and three young sons. "OPC is a loving congregation that has a heart for the community. I am so excited to see where the Spirit moves us together," she said. May Saxton, OPC Clerk of Session, added, "After a year and a half of searching, we were extremely pleased to extend a call to Rebekah. We feel the Spirit led us to this match. Our church family is very much looking forward to having Rebekah and her family as part of our ministry community." The installation service officiants included the Rev. Charles Tucker, the Rev. Tucker-Motley's father; former OPC interim pastor the Rev. Liz Hulme Adam; and former congregation member the Rev. Lynne Clements. OPC worship services begin at 11 a.m. Sunday morning. Pictured, front row, left to right: the Rev. Charles Tucker, OPC Elder May Saxton, the Rev. Liz Hulme Adam, the Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley and the Rev. Diane Prevary. Back row: the Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook, OPC elders Bucky Hill and Steve Hicks, the Rev. Lynne Clements and the Rev. Walter Canter.