

# Stone Chippings

This month's newsletter article is being written from Montreat, North Carolina where I'm a part of the faculty for the annual Music and Worship conference sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM). PAM was formed in 1970 and has organized and presented the summer Worship & Music Conference at Montreat every year since then. I don't have the exact numbers for 2018 yet, but in 2017, over the two weeks, this conference had over 1500 registered participants, approximately 1000 adults and 500 children/youth.

These weeks have included amazing sermons, rich worship, the opportunity to learn lots of new hymns, and conversations with church members and leaders from across the country.

While I've been in Montreat, the biennial gathering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been happening- the 223rd General Assembly (2018).

"The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries (in 2018, 538 voting commissioners). Half of the commissioners will be Elders, half will be Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

The General Assembly reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church... [and it] presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies."<sup>1</sup>

In a few days, I hope to have a bulletin insert that will tell you more about the work and worship of the General Assembly this past year (it is currently being written by people who attended) but if you have any questions about GA or about Montreat, I hope that you will ask.

As I ponder where I've been these recent days and what's been going on in our denomination and the world, the words of one of the hymns we've sung came to mind. "There is now a new Creation," by David Gambrell:<sup>2</sup>

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.  
Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone.  
Now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.  
Come and join the celebration; come and join the happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.  
There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!*

**Peace to you,**

**Rev. Anna**

<sup>1</sup> <https://ga-pcusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Whos-in-the-Room-Key-People-and-Roles.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> "There is Now a New Creation" by David Gambrell. Published in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, Hymn No. 774.



On the first Sunday of each month we invite any child or youth who has a birthday in that month to bring coins to place in the birthday bank during the Time for the Young Church— one coin per year. When the bank is full it is emptied and the proceeds are donated to mission. **Happy birthday!**

July 1	Benjamin Snyder, Ryan Meadows, Coriann Nemcik, Bill Snyder	July 6	Molly Hileman, Pat Bashen Susie Harkness
July 7	Anita Snyder	July 8	John Lehman
July 10	Helen Chesser, Yvette Yarid	July 11	John Marshall
July 13	Pat Boisvert	July 14	Ron Kirk
July 15	Stuart Brown	July 16	Zack Hileman, Tom Greenstreet
July 19	Lou Ella Lewis	July 22	Dena Williams, Joan Montgomery
July 26	Joanne Jolliffe, Jim Coleman	July 28	Kurt Blankenship
July 31	Betsy Hudgins		

### Summer Sunday School

All children's Sunday School classes will take a break for summer. We will begin class again in September! The only adult class meeting throughout the summer is Chuck Lewis' class that will continue to study The Present Word in the Session Room. Please watch for information concerning new education opportunities for the fall!



**Greetings from the Sunday School Class** led by Chuck Lewis.  
Great News! We are offering our Bible Study during the summer months. In July we continue our study of Justice in the New Testament.

Our featured scriptures come from Matthew and Luke where Jesus calls for justice and mercy. What would you consider an unforgivable debt is just one of our discussion questions. Our background scriptures come from Genesis, 2 Chronicles, Colossians, Numbers, Romans, 1 Thessalonians, Deuteronomy, Acts, Psalms, John, and Mark. Please come and learn with us at 10:00 AM on Sundays in the Conference Room.

### SAVE THE DATE!

PYC will enjoy an outing after worship on August 19<sup>th</sup> to Douthat State Park. Look for more information as we get closer to the date!

### Celebration of the United States!



We are happy to announce that on the evening of July 5, at 6:30 pm we're hosting a Celebration of the United States through word and songs, for the community and churches, "A Reflection of Life, Liberty and Love for God and Country". It will, weather permitting, be held outdoors, in front of the education building and lawn with full choir and accompanying instruments. The program will also include readings and a chance for the community to sing together. All of it for one purpose: a chance to be together and to celebrate-where we have been and where we can go. Bring a chair and a picnic to enjoy while you join us in celebration!



### How to Pray for PYC Mission Trip

PYC departs for Houston on July 21<sup>st</sup>. As God's faithful people, we believe that prayer is an essential tool for building our relationship with God. Please consider holding our youth and the adult leaders in prayer.

Suggestion of things to pray for...

- The Community
  - Leaders                      Service Organizations
  - Teenagers                  Churches Serving Houston and Dickinson
  - Homeowners that we will serve
- Dickinson Community Church, who will host our group
- Safety
- God's Presence and Guidance
- PYC
  - Unity
  - Boldness to serve in new ways
  - Opportunities for Respectful Service
  - Humility
  - Spiritual Growth
  - Energy

Thank you for participating in the youth mission trip with your prayers!

Old Stone Presbyterian Church

Jul 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	2 7pm - Choir Practice	3 10am - Bulletin Deadline	4 Office Closed 9am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Comfort Care	5 6:30pm - Patriotic Sing	6	7
8 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	9 7pm - Choir Practice	10 10am - Bulletin Deadline 7pm - Trustees' Meeting	11 6pm - Session	12	13	14
15 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	16 7pm - Choir Practice	17 10am - Bulletin Deadline	18 6pm - Committee Night	19 10am - Newsletter	20 Mission Trip Departs	21
22 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	23 7pm - Choir Practice	24 10am - Bulletin Deadline	25	26	27	28
29 Mission Trip Returns 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship	30 7pm - Choir Practice	31 10am - Bulletin Deadline	1 9am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Comfort Care 6pm - NO Session Meeting	2	3	4