



**The Clifton Messenger**  
**Clifton Presbyterian Church**  
<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

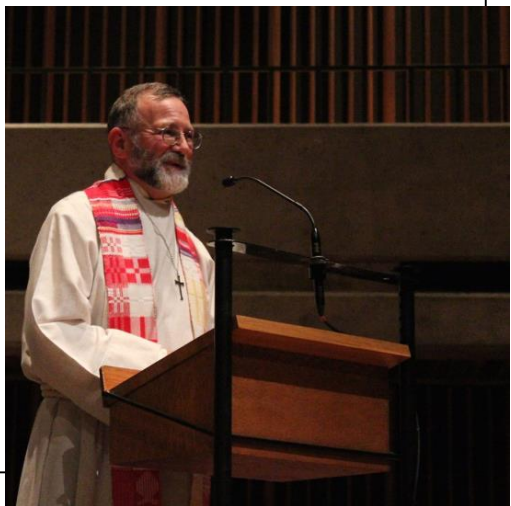
**Vol. 2: Issue 1** **January 2020**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Happy New Year.** It is hard to imagine that year 2020 is upon us, but it is here and everything is moving along as fast as ever. The months ahead are going to be full and busy for all of us as we face the many possibilities for ministry and mission in our midst. The key to a great year is to find your place in service. Let us make this a memorable year here at Clifton.

Christian Unity Sunday  
January 19

**On Sunday, January 19 we will be celebrating Christian Unity Sunday** here at Clifton.



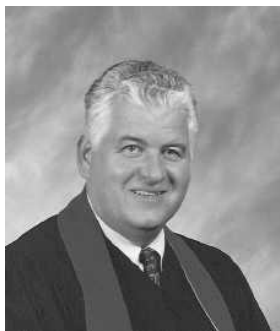
We are very pleased and honored to welcome to our church and pulpit on this Sunday The Rev. Jeffery Allen who is the Executive Director of the West Virginia Council of Churches. Jeffrey S. Allen is a United Methodist pastor currently appointed to the West Virginia Council of Churches as the Executive Director. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from West Virginia University and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University. He previously served as Project Director for the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition between 2008 and 2012, as the Community and Families Development Director at Community Development Outreach Ministries (CDOM) for thirteen years, and also served the Keystone and Northfork United Methodist Churches in McDowell County, West Virginia, the College Hill United Methodist Church in Waco, Kentucky, and as interim pastor at Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church in Charleston, West Virginia.

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## Office Ramblings

Well we survived the rush of the Advent and Christmas season, and we made it through another New Year's Eve. Now we are facing and moving into 2020 full force ahead. Often this time of year we are asking ourselves, where did last year go? It sure did fly right on by us. Now, just get ready!



What a great Advent and Christmas time we had here at Clifton. The Advent Bible Studies may have been small in number, but the interaction and sharing was unequaled. Now to get ready for the next Bible Study time. Uncertain when it will start just yet, but the plans are for at least during Lent.

I want to thank each person who shared in lighting a candle during Advent. The choir started the season with the first lighting, and then each week a different family in the church gave and shared with us. Thank you so very much to all of you who shared.

A big thank-you also goes to all who were a part of the Christmas Eve Service. I believe that we are all greatly touched by the gifts shared with us that night. What giving by **Jim Miller** who brought us to worship with *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

**Catherine Wade** sang so perfectly, *O Holy Night* that many were touched. Then **Andrew Blake** lead us into *Silent Night* with a violin solo that was indicative of what the season can mean. With **Julie Gillian's** musical leadership, and the readings by various folks in the church to **Donna Nickel-Yost's** family reading and lighting the Christ Candle, all that one can say is *what a night of worship*.

I would also have to thank **Carol** and **Alice** and **Lynne** for the reception work. Everyone enjoyed the true joy of the evening.



Now that the new year is here it is time to start thinking about some of the special events about to take place here at the church. Read in this newsletter edition of some the activities. We are going to have a busy time. Just look at what is ahead—Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Christian Unity Sunday and Week, and the huge community MLK Celebration—and that is just January.



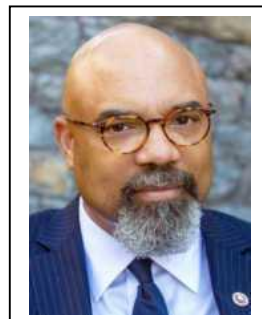
On Monday, January 20, people will gather at the County Courthouse to start the march from there to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church where they will gather for a community meal and afternoon of special activity honoring the memory of Dr. King and his message as to changing the world.

The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Joseph N. Evans, the Dean of Morehouse School of Religion and the Senior Pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. He has served as an adjunct instructor of homiletics at The Divinity School, Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

All of the events start at 11:00am with the beginning of the march from the courthouse to the church. After the free lunch the events take place in the church sanctuary starting at 12:30 pm.

Not only is this a grand event of the community coming together, but it is a time for each of us to reflect on the message of who we are as a people. This is also an opportunity to participate in the largest MLK celebration in the State of West Virginia.

Dr. Larry Davis from our church is on the planning committee of this annual event, and he would encourage all to come to some part of this day. If it is too far and cold for you to walk, come and eat lunch and go to the program.



The Rev. Dr.  
Joseph N. Evans  
Keynote Speaker at Lewisburg  
MLK Event

## SESSION NEWS and NOTES

By R. Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church met December 8 for the stated December meeting in the Conference Room of the church. Those in attendance were moderator, Laryetta Ellis; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: **Kereshmeh Kashefian, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Carol Hoover, Venetta Wright and Houston Arbuckle**, clerk of session. **Larry Davis, Teresa Bostic and James Meadows** were excused. The newly elected session members were examined and approved by the session.

Following the approval of the 2020 session members, the session received the November financial report. The General fund showed an excess income of \$1,835.16. The General now has a balance of \$192,784.17. The Memorial fund received \$80.00 from park donations. This left a balance of 45,744.48. The Stone Soup fund had a balance \$3,569.07.

Worship attendance for our Thanksgiving Dinner was 48. Clifton will celebrate the Lord's Supper on January 12th—Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

**Jim Miller**, Chair of the Property Committee reported that Mike Reed had been hired to help **Buddy Baker** with church maintenance.

**Suzy Meadows**, Co-Chair of the Education and Congregation Care Committee reported members of Clifton's Choir were planning Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins; the Christian Education Committee is considering having a "Matthew 25" study early in 2020 and the committees recommend giving each of the Osteopathic students who has helped in the nurse a \$10 gift card. This was approved by the session.

**Carol Hoover**, Chair of the Fellowship Committee reported the fellowship programs during 2019 were very successful and thank all who helped.

Stewardship and Finance Committee, Chaired by **James Meadows** reported that Clifton will receive the "Joy Offering" on December 22nd.

**Venetta Wright**, Chair of The Worship Committee reported the Worship Committee had planned the Thanksgiving meal; Advent Decorating; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; and the 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Intinction Communion Service. She also reported that we would use "wee people", Poinsettias, and the Advent Wreath in the sanctuary again this year. The Worship Committee

also considered Super Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 2, 2020 and Lenten Lunches.

**Larry Davis**, Chair of the Mission Committee reported a "Helping Hands" tree would be in the narthex on December 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Donations placed on the tree will be used by public school officials to help meet the needs of students.

**Kereshmeh Kashefian**, Chair of the Outreach Committee reported on the cards she sent for the Session. She also reported on Clifton's web page and face book page. You can now donate at Clifton's web page.

**Houston Arbuckle**, Chair of the Crossroads Committee reported the committee invited Rich Cardot, pastor of a parish consisting of Belington, Beverly, Tygart's Valley, and Mill Creek Presbyterian churches, to speak to the members of our area churches who are interested in the parish concept. The session agreed to pay traveling expenses. The details have not yet been worked out.

As a connectional church Ron Miller feels it is important to stay involved with other churches. He has invited of Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director at West Virginia Council of Churches, to be the speaker at Clifton for Christian Unity Sunday (January 19, 2020) and hopes to invite Ed Thompson, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of WV to lead worship a Clifton in the near future. He also announced that he plans to in the office at Clifton at least half a day each week.

In Old Business, the session approved the "active roll" of Clifton with 71 active members. The session also approved a list of "others" (G-1.0404—Book of Order: Other Participants—Persons who are not members of, or who may have ceased active participation in, the Presbyterian Church (USA) are welcome and my participate in the life and worship of this church and receive its pastoral care and instruction.) There are 55 persons on our list of "Other Participants".

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and Laryetta Ellis adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

**(For More Session News  
Concerning the Annual Meeting  
and new Elders on page 4.)**

*The Clifton Carolers*



*The Clifton Carolers were making spirits bright at Frankie and Melvin Bostic's house during their last stop on their musical tour of the Greater Maxwelton Area.*

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, two carloads of jolly men, women, and children continued our church's tradition of home-delivered carol singing for Christmas. **Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, and Larry Davis** were in one car, and in the other were **Heather, Andrew, Brandt, and John Blake**. In the photo above, all are visible except for John who was exploring the Bostic living room. Bells were jingling, voices were melodious, and occasionally a big blue kazoo was heard.

*Jeff & Annie Jeffus' promotion of Carnegie Hall*



Annie & Jeff Jeffus seen here from Carnegie's 2001 *Fantasy in the Islands* where they served as co-chairs

Lewisburg's Carnegie Hall has announced that Clifton's own **Jeff and Annie Jeffus** will be honored at the Fantasy in Black and White event when the fundraiser returns after a 10-year hiatus this Spring. Jeff and Annie have been described as loyal and generous supporters of Carnegie Hall as well as many other local organizations such as not only this church but GVT, the Family Refuge Center and Hospice.

*New Elder Ordained*

On December 29th **Lynne Bostic** was ordained as a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA and all four elected elders were installed for the term of 2020-2021. This service of Ordination and Installation was the last time for Larryetta Ellis to serve as our moderator. She is retiring and returning to Georgia. Along with her duties as pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, she has served as our moderator during the entire time we have been without a pastor. We will miss her and her efforts to thaw our stiff bodies and sometimes our minds. Susan Sharp Campbell will be our moderator beginning in January



**2019 Annual Congregational Meeting**

The 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, was held following the morning worship service on Sunday, December 8, 2019. At this meeting **Jim Miller, R. Houston Arbuckle, and Dr. Larry Davis** were elected for another two year term to the session; **Lynne Bostic** was also elected to the session for this term (2020-2021). **Jim Miller** was elected for a three year term as one of our three trustees. **Buddy Baker, Alice Roth, and Steve Malcolm** were elected to the 2020 Nominating Committee from the congregation, along with session members **Larry Davis and Suzy Meadows**.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Frankie Bostic, Melvin Bostic, Sue Wyman, Carolyn Arbuckle, Buddy Baker, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Becky Godby, Jennifer Skaggs, Sue Larson, Larryetta Ellis, Crossroads Committee, Earl Roth, Clifton Presbyterian, Edgewood Presbyterian, & Spring Creek Presbyterian Church**



# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year	2 Church Office: 9:00am-1:00pm	3	4
5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas Worship Comm Mts	6 Epiphany	7	8	9 Church Office: 9:00am-1:00pm Circle 4 Meeting 7:00pm at Church	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord Sunday  Session Meets	13	14	15 Circle #1 will not meet until March	16 Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm	17	18 Start of Week for Christian Unity Jan. 18-24
19 Christian Unity Sunday Special Guest: Jeff Allen, WVCC (See Pg. 1 for more info)	20 Lewisburg's MLK Celebration (See Pg. 2 for More Info)	21	22	23 Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Church Office 9:00am-1:00pm	31	



Coming February 2020

**February 2**

Cents-ability Offering  
Souper Bowl of Caring

**February 23**

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Special Guest: The Rev. Ed Thompson, General Presbyter of WV Presbytery

**February 26**

Ash Wednesday

*-----More News in Next Newsletter-----*

See you at the Church



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