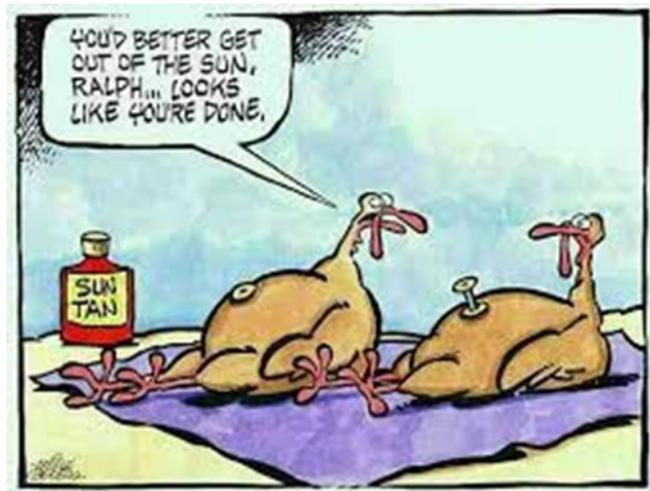


The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

November 2019

FROM THE PASTOR



Each year we get a turkey with one of those buttons that tells you when the thing's done, but ours never works. We cook the turkey and cook the turkey, but it won't pop out. So, we insert a meat thermometer and that tells us "Tom" is ready to eat.

We rely on so many gizmos and gadgets. Remotes now turn on everything from the TV to the car. People can operate their grill from their phone miles away or turn on the washer and dryer from the office. My grandmother made the best turkey I've ever eaten, and she didn't have a "done" button to tell her when it was ready. Are we too reliant on these things?

A recent study by the Barna Group asked people in their twenties some questions. One interesting result among many, pointed out that the individuals surveyed felt higher stress levels over the possibility of losing their cell phone for an indefinite period than losing a job. What about the chronic nihilism spreading among people? What about the rampant mistrust and disrespect? If you look around, one could ascertain that we're done.

However, there is another way for us. Rather than getting swept away by rumor, innuendo, propaganda and speculation maybe we should be absorbed in The Way – The Way of thankfulness, The Way of life now and everlasting, The Way of peace and hope of grace and mercy. Maybe the antidote for our "doneness" is not found in our little boxes or in the latest fad or at the ball game, but maybe the cure is who He has said He is.

We bring all our expertise, and all our collective wisdom together to find solutions to social, economic and political challenges while ignoring the One who has "done" it.

Don't get burned by the hype that surrounds us - it is seemingly relentless - but rather count your blessings, look for reasons to be thankful. One reason I discover I'm not done, is because God's not finished with me yet.

How about you?

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,
Pastor Darren

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 10, 2019



THANKFUL ADVENT BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 24

9:30 a.m. ♦ Centre

We will have a delicious breakfast, time for fellowship and Advent devotion material and some potential service opportunities available.



Looking forward to seeing everyone as we thankfully begin another Advent season.

Kaye Borgstedt

YOUTH AND PRIMETIMERS FELLOWSHIP MEAL

All Primetimers are invited to join the youth of First Presbyterian on Sunday, November 3, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Centre for food, fun, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Sarah Coggins (534-0088) by October 31.



GROWING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

Two breakout sessions will be offered from October 30 through November 20 at 6:15 p.m.

- ♦ A study by Max Lucado entitled "Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope Is Here." Contact Kaye Borgstedt if you want a book; they are \$10.
- ♦ Pastor Bess will lead a study on the Letter to Philippi.

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, South Carolina, has cared for abused, abandoned, and neglected children since 1875. Our annual offering for this ministry will be received on **Sunday, November 24**. Through the generosity of countless individuals and churches, Thornwell has been and continues to be a place of hope and healing for thousands of children.

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

If you wish to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary during the Advent Season, your order must be received by **Monday, November 4th**. Envelopes are in the pew racks, or information may be sent to the church office. *Orders cannot be accepted by telephone.* Poinsettias are \$15.00 each. (Please make checks payable to the church.)



NOVEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 1:** Tuesday, November 12 11:30 a.m.
Centre
- Circles 2 & 4:** Tuesday, November 12 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room
- Circle 3:** Monday, November 11 6:00 p.m.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, November 5. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception

Desk in Woodard Commons.

ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITY

If you would be interested in helping with Christmas pageant costumes, please contact Kaye Borgstedt or Sarah Coggins. This is a one time limited commitment. We have supplies and you can work at home.

COME HELP US DECORATE!

The church sanctuary and grounds will be decorated for Advent and Christmas on Monday, November 25, at 9:30 a.m. Please join us!



OUR FATHER'S CLOSET CIRCLE ONE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This year The Ladies of Circle One celebrate 16 years of their community outreach coat ministry. It is a ministry which First Presbyterian members and community friends have diligently supported by collecting and donating coats and jackets to *Our Father's Closet*. Our community outreach has distributed over 4200 coats through 22 community schools, agencies, and charities in the last 15 years.



We are grateful for our new coat dry cleaning partner this year, *L & S Cleaners!* The next time you need a laundry service, please be sure to stop in and thank our friends at *L & S Cleaners*, in the Piggly Wiggly Shopping Center, for their helpful partnership with our coat ministry.

Each coat is cleaned and bagged separately and includes a reminder bookmark* and blessing for the person who receives the coat. In collecting, cleaning and delivering coats, our ministry hopes that fewer people will experience the physical chill of winter. Moreover, through the kindness of all who make this ministry possible, *Our Father's Closet* sends a warm message of Jesus' love.

Please place your donated coats in our **COAT ROOM** on the 2nd level of the Fellowship Hall or in the tub located in the side hall just outside the bathrooms of the Centre. Circle #1 Ladies and *L & S Cleaners* will take it from there.

This year, we still need children's (especially boys) coats and jackets: sizes 6-7 through 16-18 and X Large/XX large adults coats.

The main distribution of coats is mid-November; however, coat donations are accepted year round. We appreciate the prayers and support of our church family for *Our Father's Closet*. We thank God for His blessings and continued guidance on this community outreach but especially for those receiving coats through this ministry.

(One side of Bookmark) *

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. + JOHN 15:12
MAY GOD'S GRACE BE UPON THIS COAT . . .

Embracing, comforting, and warming while reminding you of the secure love of Jesus Christ.

Giving Thanks



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

"I know the plans I have for you, declares our Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future filled with hope."

Trusting in these two verses and many more Biblical such assurances, how can we not give thanks to God? And not just on Thanksgiving.

"You are my God, and I will give you Thanks; You are my God, and I will exalt You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever." Psalm 118:28-29. In Psalm 100:4, we find "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to His name." There are many more Old Testament verses about giving and being thankful to God. The New Testament, also, has many such references. Jesus gave thanks as He "broke the bread and served the wine." As an aside, if He could give thanks knowing what was coming, how can we not? Back to New Testament scripture, 2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul was giving final instructions for living when he said, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

Regardless of your current circumstances are you approaching life with "an attitude of gratitude"? Are you daily giving thanks to God knowing "every good

and perfect gift is from Him alone" (James 1:17)? Are you looking for what God is trying to teach you during the not so good times instead of "Why me, Lord?" Are you able to see and thank Him for the benefits you receive from the good and not so good times?

Are you, once again regardless of your current life situation, "anticipating blessings"? How can you practice anticipating blessings? Are you facing the "future filled with hope"?

Hallelujah and Praise God! We know our God is a God of love, grace and mercy. Let us BE THANKFUL!

THOUGHT



How are you radiating God's light?

PRAYER: God, help us praise you for being with us on our mountaintops and in our valleys. Thank you for being our rock and refuge. Thank you for sheltering us and being our protector. Thank you for loving us as we are and helping us become who you want us to be. Help us share your love everywhere. Amen.

Serving and Praising God together,
Kaye
Christian Education Coordinator

THANKSGIVING BOXES



We will provide Thanksgiving Boxes again this year to help those less fortunate in our community have a happy Thanksgiving.

We are once again asking you to donate the items to fill a box or more than one box. Through your generosity, last year we were able to fill and distribute 117 boxes. Please find below the list of items for each box. Each box costs roughly \$50 to fill, depending on where you shop. The Evangelism Unit includes a gift certificate of \$15 in each box. They are designated to be used for a ham or turkey.

- We begin assembling boxes as soon as donations are made but we can't complete it until the last day. Therefore, we are asking that all donations be made by GTF on **Wednesday, November 20th**. Distribution will occur on Sunday, November 24th. This is a time consuming process; therefore, it is imperative that you complete your donations prior to Friday, November 22nd, if you cannot meet the Wednesday deadline. Thank you for your cooperation and your generosity.
- As in the past, we are asking for volunteers to help with distribution. We will begin distribution immediately after worship on Sunday, November 24th.
- Also, as in the past, *if you are unable* to purchase the items for the boxes, the committee will do the shopping for you. Make checks payable to the church with a designation to the Thanksgiving Box ministry. Remember to have your donation in by Wednesday, November 20th.

There will be copies of the list of items to purchase in the McLees Gallery and in the Centre. There will also be a form in the Centre that you can use for tax purposes to show your donation.

Thank you once again for your support.

Evangelism Unit
Thanksgiving Box Ministry
Elise and Gerald Myers—Co Chairs
682-3721

- Meat – 1 can (beef stew, Vienna, etc.)
- Seafood – 2 cans (tuna, salmon, etc.)
- Vegetables – 2 cans (large)
- Pork & beans – 1 large can
- Dried beans – 1 package
- Soup – 1 large can
- Fruit – 2 cans
- Cranberry sauce – 1 can
- Cooking oil – liter or quart
- Dessert – Jell-O, pudding, brownie mix, cake mix
- Evaporated milk – 1 large can
- Cereal – 1 large box
- Grits – 2 lbs. (quick)
- Peanut butter – 1 jar (plastic)
- Jelly – 1 jar (plastic)
- Dessert cookies (Oreo, Choc Chip, etc.)
- Crackers – 1 box (saltines, Ritz, cheese)
- Spaghetti sauce – 1 jar (plastic or can)
- Dry macaroni noodles – 1 medium box
- Spaghetti noodles – 1 medium box
- Box meal (hamburger helper, etc.)
- Rice – 2 lbs. bag
- Stuffing – 1 box
- Sugar – 4 or 5 lbs.
- Flour – 5 lbs.
- Salt – 1 box
- Corn meal
- Jiffy cornbread mix – 2 boxes

Optional: a stuffed animal

PLEASE HAVE FOOD ITEMS IN THE CENTRE BY 6:00 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 20TH.



MEET OUR MISSIONARIES



Jeffrey and Sissie D'Jernes
sissie_djernes@sil.org

The launch of the dialect adaptation of the NT from Arop dialect to Lokep dialect went very well for Jeff and the Arop-Lokep team members, and I hope to attach a power point report he did on that, because the visuals are always great. Anyway, he survived even though he had to do a lot of his own cooking (did lose 5 pounds), and arrived back home on July 7th.

I did a lot of medical and food supply preparation and paperwork to get Jeff ready to go, and have been working along on the Arop-Lokep grammar and dictionary here at home since he went, and when he returned. I mistakenly thought it would be a quieter study time for me here while Jeff was gone, that I would finish several craft projects in addition to lots of work on the grammar and dictionary.

We are both learning how to do this type of schedule....

We both had way more responsibility in the day to day than when we are in one place and share that. We also tried text/talk daily on WhatsApp to keep up with each other, and answer questions. (I had questions about paying bills and buying a suit for him (for a July wedding), and he had cooking, washing and dictionary questions for me.) The App worked wonderfully but with us being 15 time zones apart, it was challenging.

We also got so excited this year about being able to garden, that we got a little enthusiastic and I was trying to keep up with two gardens and some peach trees that were all being challenged by deer, raccoon, Japanese beetles and squirrels. It got really busy around here with that plus pickling and freezing things from the gardens.

Jeff returned home July 7th, and after getting over jet lag, we went to a family wedding for one lovely weekend, and next weekend we'll go to Pawley's Island to visit my family. It has been nice to now feel rested and refreshed and like we can carry on a normal conversation and schedule.

Jeff is still working on all the financial reporting about the project, but things are going well on that front.

We can now receive emails from our Long Island, PNG co-worker, and that is an exciting new development! (Jeff took over a solar plus satellite connective type system to set up and it is working. This means that they can keep in touch, and work better on the adaptation, and I can ask an occasional dictionary question....YEAH!)

Jeff's next trips back to PNG will likely not be as long, so we're not scared off by the separation times, but I'm reminding myself now not to take on as much gardening next year. And I'm really appreciating our time together.

Pray for our co-workers to find their work doable as well, they have a number of challenges to face....community support in the checking of the work particularly.

Blessings,

Sissie



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; supper will be after the pageant.



All children three years old thru fifth grade are invited to participate. Children of the church, choir children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews are all welcome. **The only practice will be on Sunday, December 8, during Children's Church.**

Kaye Borgstedt

UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Taylor Marcus
and
Miles Cooper

October 26, 2019

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

Shelby and I are so blessed to be a part of the family of First Presbyterian Church. We have been overwhelmed by the love and support provided to us since Shelby had his heart attack and subsequent heart surgery in September. We appreciate all of the cards, calls, texts, and emails. Your thoughtfulness did much to lift our spirits during this difficult time in our lives. We also felt the many prayers offered on our behalf and knew that God was ever present with us during this storm.

I also want to thank those that have provided meals for us during Shelby's recovery. We have some wonderful cooks and very generous families in our congregation! What a loving way to serve as the hands of Christ!

We have missed you all and hope to be back at church very soon.

In His love,
Delle

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 James Shepherd	11/16 Annie Blair Davis
11/02 Emma Cuttino	Chloe Bess
11/04 Kim Wolfe	Caleb Bess
11/05 Shirley Salley	11/17 Aaron Bruner
Dean Flansburg	11/18 Faye Bull
11/07 Janet Brailsford	Carol Felder
11/08 Vivian Hutto	Andy Trimmier
Lisa Boltin	11/19 Virgil Simpson
Joni Thackston	Wayne Lorick
Tripp Wingard	11/20 Ramsey Albergotti
Erin Axson	11/21 Emily Shirer
11/09 Nancy Runager	11/22 Billy Kelley
Mary Margaret	11/23 Howard Shirer
Dempsey	Al Thomas Hughes
11/11 Gale Hightower	11/25 Phyllis Wilson
11/12 Carol Bess	Kurt von Besser
11/13 Keith Byers	11/28 Lewis Lanier
Jeffrey Axson	John Colston
Maggie Hughes	Strickland
11/14 Emmaline	11/29 George Ware
Dangerfield	Evan Campbell
	Abby Thackston
	11/30 Catherine Cuttino

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

November 3	Smith
November 10	Coggins
November 17	Sterling
November 24	Nexsen

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS-NOVEMBER

2-3 YEAR-OLD CLASS: Leslie Lovelace

PRESCHOOL

November 3	Catherine and Ava Cuttino
November 10	Kaye Borgstedt
November 17	Jane Jeffords
November 24	Thankful Advent Breakfast

ELEMENTARY

November 3	Melissa and Tripp Plummer
November 10	Jane Holladay
November 17	Kathryn and Josh Nexsen
November 24	Thankful Advent Breakfast

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



NOVEMBER 2019

MEMORIALS

Given in Memory of

Kim Wood Reed

Given By

Mrs. Kathie Goodwin
Circle 3

GENERAL FUND 2019

For month ending Sept. 30, 2019	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$39,864.93	\$356,362.69
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$ <u>43,356.09</u> *	\$ <u>348,898.54</u> **
	(\$ 3,491.16)	\$ 7,464.15

* Includes 3rd quarter transfer to Missions of \$5,000.

** Includes 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter total of \$15,000 transfer to Missions account.